



Marsh House Sports &
Community Centre
Marsh House Avenue
TS23 3HB

Tel: 01642 988 009

COVID-19 Update 19th March 2020

Dear Members, Parents & Carers,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your amazing support during what is undoubtedly a testing time for all of us. Jo has spoken to quite a number of you in the few days and to say your kind words and gestures have lifted our spirits is an understatement.

Sadly, we have taken the difficult decision to suspend all recreational sessions from the end of this week. Our last recreational sessions will be this Saturday – 21st March.

Now that the government has closed schools, it feels like the right thing to do.

We are now one week into the 8 week block. No further block booking payments will be requested and the remaining 7 weeks of sessions that are covered by the recent payment will be honoured when we resume recreational sessions.

We are also suspending our pay & play playgroups until further notice.

As I'm sure you probably already realise, Velocity Trampoline & Gymnastics Club is a not-for-profit organisation, which employs a number of coaches. Many of our coaches have families to support and rely on their wage from Velocity to do so.

We are doing what we can to raise the relevant funds from the government to cover our bills and still pay as many staff as possible – to protect them and their families and allow us to have a club to come back to when this horrendous episode passes.

With no income, our reserves, which were intended for our refurbishment, will be depleted within just three weeks and we are fearful that this will not be long enough. In addition, depletion of those reserves will make it unlikely that we could draw down the £120,000 Sport England funding refurbishment money already offered. We are therefore asking all our members to leave their pre-authorisations in place ready for when we resume, and not to cancel their preauthorisation. We will pick up the block of sessions where we have left off when we resume normal business.

If everyone cancels their sessions there's a chance there will not be a club to come back to – and I'm sure none of us want that to happen.

In order to pay our staff who rely on their Velocity salary, and safeguard the long term future of the club, we are asking for the financial support of our participants whilst recreational classes are suspended. Just £10 every 4 weeks from each of our members would make a huge difference to the club as we have over 500 different people attending recreational classes. The £10 support payments are **optional** and would start on the week beginning 6th April. Anyone unable/unwilling to provide the £10 support payments please reply to this email to prevent the payment – your place in classes will not be affected whether you pay the £10 support payment or not.

If you have recently cancelled your class booking because of Coronavirus and would like to reinstate it now to help us secure our future, please email Jo at joanne_rear@velocitysports.org.uk giving the child's name,



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and the activity and class day and time you would like to put back into – this will trigger a payment for the current block and secure your space for the remaining 7 weeks of the block when we resume classes. This will also trigger the 4-weekly £10 support payment (starting April 6th) unless you tell us otherwise in your email.

Unfortunately, we are cancelling our Easter Celebrations and Easter Egg Hunt – we hope to pick up where we leave off and run it when everything resumes! Our tradition annual Easter Raffle will also not take place this year.

While the schools are closed we are also considering offering recreational sessions too (capacity dependent) at some point during the shut down. To help us determine demand, if you are interested in your child attending these, please email classes@velocitysports.org.uk with the subject heading 'CV small group rec sessions'.

Anyone showing, or living with someone showing any symptoms of COVID-19 MUST stay away from the club. Obviously we cannot guarantee to run any sessions throughout this ordeal and will need to continuously adapt our provision based on government.

There are a few other things that you can do to help us in the meantime:

- Please return any sponsorship money you have raised to club this week (please place in a sealed envelope). If you don't want to come into club, just pop it though our black mailbox on the wall by our front door.
- We still have our fundraising clothing collection running. If you have a bag of unwanted clothes, curtains, shoes bags etc, please bring it into club before the end of March. Either leave it in the foyer or under the overhang on the right of the front door and we will bring it inside.

If you do any online shopping, please use [easyfundraising.com](https://www.easyfundraising.com). This is an easy way to raise funds for the club, with absolutely no cost to yourselves. Shopping through there can raise money at no cost to you at all, but will really help us stay afloat during this uncertain time.

We are listed as Velocity Sports in the choose a good cause section on the main page. The instructions are very easy to follow but if you need any help, please just ask.

Please, please sign up, it honestly won't cost you a single penny.

Don't forget to join our closed Facebook members page "Velocity Members Group" to stay up to date with things going on behind the scenes.

Finally, thank you once again for your support – it really does mean a lot to us. Velocity is an amazing team and we would hate to lose it! Please, stay safe, wash your hands and socially distance yourself – and if you need to self-isolate or need any help with anything, please let us know and if we can help, we will.

Thank you & best wishes

The Velocity Team!