



Rochdale Harriers & AC
Est. 1894

13th September 2020

Dear Parent

The coaching team and myself have been working hard over the last couple of weeks trying to put in place the measures required to ensure a safe return to training for our junior athletes. This has involved securing access to Kingsway Park Athletics Arena; updating risk assessments and implementing procedures to ensure that we can operate in a "Covid-19 secure environment"; understanding the demand for training and ensuring that we have the appropriate coaching resources to provide these sessions in accordance with UK Athletics guidance and Government regulations. I would like to express my thanks to the coaching team for their efforts.

We held a test session on 8th September, with senior athletes, to identify any problems with the set up at Kingsway and our procedures. This identified a couple of issues, which we felt that we would be able to resolve in liaison with Kingsway Park High School. I wrote to the school on 9th September and received a response on 11th September.

Outside of school hours the sports facilities are operated by a third party organisation, historically this has been Link4Life, but since August 2019 School Lettings Solutions have managed the facility on behalf of the school. However, in August of this year I was notified that School Lettings Solutions had ceased trading. I contacted the school and they stated that they were tendering for a new company to manage the facility out of school hours, but as an interim measure Rochdale Harriers would be given access to the track, but that they would not be able to provide any indoor facilities and there would be no staff on site.

The main issue raised in my correspondence with the school was the ability to use the floodlights, as without this, evening autumn and winter training becomes impossible. Unfortunately, the controls for the lights are located inside the sports centre reception and without onsite management of the facility it is not possible turn the lights on and off when required.

This means that for the time being, we are unable to provide training for junior athletes. I am very sorry that this is the case and I appreciate that many of your sons and daughters are very eager to return to training, but circumstances out of our control mean that that this is not possible at the moment. I hope you will forgive my lengthy correspondence, but I wanted provide you with a full explanation of the position that we are in and the work that we have done to try and bring back junior training.

I will continue to liaise with the school and monitor and changes to UK Athletics guidance and Government regulations, in consultation with coaches and the committee and advise you of any changes to the situation.

Yours faithfully

Nick Barton
Chairman, Rochdale Harriers & AC