

SPORT



FOOTBALL matches in South Korea resumed last week – the first league to kick off again after being suspended due to COVID-19.

The K-League season was meant to start on 29 February but it was delayed due to the spread of the new coronavirus. South Korea's government followed World Health Organization advice, operating a large-scale system of testing for the virus. This has helped them keep the number of infections down, and so the authorities allowed the football league to start on Friday 8 May.

But it's not a case of "business as usual". Matches are played in empty stadiums, players' temperatures are checked and coaches and substitutes wear face masks. Big goal celebrations are banned and players are warned not to talk to each other or to the referee up close. Pre-recorded crowd noise is being played through speakers inside the stadium to create a bit of atmosphere.

There are 1,100 K-League players and staff, and they have all

tested negative for COVID-19. However, if anyone is found to have the virus, the entire team will not be allowed to play for two weeks.

The first match of the season saw the reigning champions, Jeonbuk Motors, beat Suwon Bluewings 1-0 with a goal scored just six minutes from time by Lee Dong-Gook, who is aged 41.

As First News went to press, Germany's Bundesliga was due to restart on Saturday 16 May, despite two players at one second division club testing positive for COVID-19. The entire Dynamo Dresden squad and coaching staff have been ordered to self-isolate for two weeks.

Only four football leagues have continued playing throughout the pandemic: those in Belarus, Burundi, Tajikistan and Nicaragua.

SPORT IN NUMBERS

20 October is when cycling's Vuelta a España (Tour of Spain) will begin, but stages in Portugal and the Netherlands have been cancelled. Organisers say the route will have to be modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2019 race was won by Primož Roglič of Slovenia (below).



1 June is when professional sport in England could return. The UK Government has announced this is the earliest possible date sporting events such as rugby union (above) could resume. But it depends on how low the COVID-19 infection rate is, and whether athletes and coaches are happy to return.

800 professional tennis players will benefit from a new fund set up to support those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although many tennis pros are very wealthy, hundreds rely on their match fees to make a living. The £5 million fund will be split between male and female players. Professional tennis is suspended until 13 July at the earliest.



Questions on – Sport: ‘Football returns’ and ‘Sport in Numbers’



GLOSSARY	<p>K-League – South Korea’s professional association football league including the first division K League 1 and the second division K League 2</p> <p>Lee Dong-Gook – A South Korean professional footballer who plays as a striker for Jeonbuk Motors. He is a record scorer in K League 1</p> <p>Bundesliga — A professional association football league in Germany</p>
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Questions on ‘Football returns’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Answer the following quick-fire questions.

What is the first football league to kick off again after being suspended due to COVID-19?	
When would the league have started if the COVID-19 lockdown hadn’t occurred?	
When did it start?	
Which four football leagues continued playing throughout the pandemic?	

A2. Which team won the first match of the season?

A3. When is Germany’s Bundesliga due to restart?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. What has enabled the South Korean authorities to allow their football league to start back already?

B2. Although the league has started, why is it not a case of “business as usual”?

B3. Suggest why Lee Dong-Gook’s age is mentioned.

B4. Why is it significant that in Germany, the entire Dynamo Dresden football squad has been ordered to self-isolate for two weeks?

Part C

C1. Comment on the choice of pictures. How do they support the article?

Part D: Writing task

Imagine that you play for Dynamo Dresden and have been told to self-isolate for two weeks because two players in your squad have tested positive for COVID-19. Write a letter to the German Football League asking them to delay the start date for the Bundesliga so that your team doesn’t miss out. Use persuasive techniques to get your point across.

Questions on ‘Sport in Numbers’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Answer the following questions.

In which month will cycling’s Vuelta a España (Tour of Spain) begin?	
In which month could professional sport in England return?	

A2. Fill the gaps with the appropriate numbers in order to complete the information.

..... professional tennis players will benefit from a new fund set up to support those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The £ million fund will be split between male and female players. Professional tennis is suspended until July at the earliest.

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why might it be deemed surprising that some professional tennis players need to be supported with a fund?

Part C

C1. What is the purpose of ‘Sport in Numbers’ and how does it appeal to readers?

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