

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?

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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Part C

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Questions on ‘Sport in Numbers’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Answer the following questions.

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<p>In which month could professional sport in England return?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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?

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Teacher Answers

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

Questions on 'Football returns'

PART A

A1. Answer the following quick-fire questions.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

What is the first football league to kick off again after being suspended due to COVID-19?	The K-League in South Korea
When would the league have started if the COVID-19 lockdown hadn't occurred?	29 February
When did it start?	Friday 8 May
Which four football leagues continued playing throughout the pandemic?	Those in Belarus, Burundi, Tajikistan and Nicaragua

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

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Jeonbuk Motors.

Developed response

- The reigning champions, Jeonbuk Motors, beat Suwon Bluewings 1-0 with a goal scored just six minutes from time.

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

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- As First News went to press, Germany's Bundesliga was due to restart on Saturday 16 May.

Development

- However, two players at one second division club have tested positive for COVID-19, so the entire Dynamo Dresden squad and coaching staff have been ordered to self-isolate for two weeks.

PART B

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

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- South Korea's government managed to keep the number of infections in the country down by following World Health Organization's advice and operating a large-scale system of testing for the virus.

Development

- Furthermore, the 1,100 K-League players and staff all tested negative for COVID-19. This enabled South Korea's government to make the decision that it was safe to start the K-League season.

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

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

• It is not a case of “business as usual” because several changes have been made in how the season has to proceed. 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.

Development

• Furthermore, there are rules in place for if anyone is found to have the virus. If that happens, then the entire team associated with the infected person will not be allowed to play for two weeks.

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

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

• It is likely that Lee Dong-Gook’s age is mentioned because at 41 years old, he is relatively old for a professional football player. However, he is scoring goals and is in fact a record scorer in K League 1.

Development

• The mention of his age implies that he has had a long, successful career and it is nice to hear of a success story.

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

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

• It is significant that the entire Dynamo Dresden team has been ordered to self-isolate for two weeks because Germany’s Bundesliga is due to restart on Saturday 16 May.

Development

• This has implications because if Dynamo Dresden is unable to play, it will put the team at a disadvantage in the league. Or procedures will have to be put in place for the team to catch up with missed matches. This could become very complicated to organise if teams are continually having to self-isolate or if more than one team is in self-isolating at a time. It shows that the return to football is going to be quite difficult to negotiate.

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

READING SKILL — Identify benefits of text organisation and presentation

Possible answer**Starting point**

• The main picture shows a K-League match being played in South Korea. The picture is taken from a long shot camera angle so the empty stands are clearly visible in the picture. This supports the assertion that it’s “not business as usual” because you would expect to see spectators in the stands, especially at the start of a season.

Development

• Furthermore, the inset picture shows a group of players wearing protective face masks. This supports the information in the text about how coaches and substitutes have to wear face masks during matches. We are not used to seeing such pictures in sport news, so they are effective in highlighting how things will be very different as football starts to return.

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.

READING SKILL — Develop personal ideas from reading news stories

Possible answer

Rudolf-Harbig-Stadion,
Dresden,
Germany
May 2020

Dear Mr Seifert,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the decision to restart the Bundesliga on Saturday 16 May. As you are aware, my team, Dynamo Dresden, will be unable to play as the entire squad has to self-isolate for two weeks. As this is now the case, the start date **MUST** be delayed.

If the Bundesliga starts as planned, it will not be a fair competition. Dynamo Dresden will be at a disadvantage not only because we will miss matches, but also because we will not even be able to train. Therefore, even if the matches are rescheduled for our return, it will be unfair because our players will not be match fit. It is also probable that we will have to play matches close together without the rest days that other teams will have benefitted from. This could lead to poor performance, bad results and even injuries.

Starting the Bundesliga now will make a mockery of the competition. A team could win by default just because all of their players manage to avoid contracting COVID-19 and they don't have to self-isolate at any point. Do you want a team to win through default? If not... then you need to think again. A two-week delay is nothing in the grand scheme of things. It will enable Dynamo Dresden to regroup and other teams to check that their players have remained COVID-19 free. You know it makes sense.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours sincerely,

A concerned Dynamo Dresden player

Questions on 'Sport in Numbers'

PART A

A1. Answer the following questions:

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

<p>In which month will cycling's Vuelta a España (Tour of Spain) begin?</p>	<p>Starting point • October Development • However, the stages in Portugal and the Netherlands have been cancelled. Organisers say the route will have to be modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>In which month could professional sport in England return?</p>	<p>Starting point • June Development • However, this is the earliest possible date and it depends on how low the COVID-19 infection rate is, and whether coaches and athletes are happy to return.</p>

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

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer**Expected response**

800 professional tennis players will benefit from a new fund set up to support those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The **£5** million fund will be split between male and female players. Professional tennis is suspended until **13** July at the earliest.

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

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- It might be deemed surprising because many people assume that professional tennis players are rich.

Development

- However, although some professional tennis players are very wealthy, the lower ranking or younger players rely on their match fees to make a living. They won't have money from winning big tournaments or sponsorship deals. Therefore, they need to be supported while they are unable to play.

PART C**C1. What is the purpose of 'Sport in Numbers' and how does it appeal to readers?**

READING SKILL — Understand writer's intent

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The purpose of 'Sport in Numbers' is to inform readers of key sporting facts and figures.

Development

- The large circles containing a number make the section visually appealing and they serve to pique the interest of readers because they have to read on to find out what each number relates to. The reader gets to read about a range of sports, so there is likely to be something to appeal to everybody. Furthermore, the information is concise so easy to access.