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WEALDSTONE and Sutton in dramatic draw



Wealdstone drew with Sutton United in dramatic fashion after fighting back from two down on Tuesday evening Picture: MontImage Media

Fans to return in December

SUPPORTERS BACK AT GAMES FROM START OF THE MONTH



Fans will be back soon

Picture: MontImage Media

FOOTBALL and rugby bosses welcomed the Government's decision to allow a limited number of spectators back into venues in lower-risk areas when the second national lockdown ends next week.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has outlined plans for a return to a regionalised tier system from December 2 to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Outdoor venues in tier one areas – those considered lowest risk – will be permitted to admit up to 4,000 spectators to an event or allow 50 per cent capacity, whichever is lower.

Outdoor venues in tier two would be permitted to admit up to 2,000 fans or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is lower, while the caps were 2,000 and 1,000 respectively for indoor venues in tiers one and two.

The Football Association welcomed both announcements, saying in a statement: "We are very pleased that organised sports, which include Steps 3-6 of the National League System, Tiers 3-6 of the Women's Football Pyramid and competitive grassroots football, can look forward to resuming from December 2."

"We are also delighted to see the beginning of the safe return of fans in stadiums for elite sports events and confirmation that spectators at non-elite sports will be able to attend events in line with Covid-secure guidance for each tier."

"We will continue our ongoing dialogue with Government to clarify the details and next steps, and provide further updates in due course."

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: "I'm confident that sports will take every step to ensure their fans are safe, and fans will play their part and look out for each other."

Stones draw with Sutton

By Ryan Gray

CRAIG Eastmond snatched a last-gasp point for Sutton in an entertaining 3-3 draw at fellow National League high-flyers Wealdstone, after the Stones had come from two goals down to take the lead.

Isaac Olaofe and Omar Bugiel had the visitors in a commanding position after just 11 minutes, before a Ross Lafayette brace levelled the tie.

Jacob Mendy had the Stones on course to take all three points, but Eastmond nicked a point in stoppage time.

Sutton made a quick start to the game, with Olaofe celebrating his 21st birthday in style as the on-loan Millwall striker opened the scoring for in only the fourth minute when he slotted home from close range.

The Us moved 2-0 ahead after 11 minutes in fortuitous fashion as Wealdstone goalkeeper Harry Isted's clearance ricocheted off Bugiel and ended up in the net.

Stones were behind until half-time, but halved the deficit soon after the restart, when Ross Lafayette headed home in the 47th minute after Kundai Benyu's cross

was headed back across goal by Danny Parish.

Lafayette grabbed his second to level for the hosts in 67th minute following an extended period of attacking football from the home side.

That attacking continued and Stones went close to taking the lead in the 82nd minute with Harry Beautyman's header crashing back off the crossbar, but they would not have to wait long before they put themselves ahead.

Mendy found the net with a sensational long range effort just six minutes later and with only two minutes left on the clock, it looked as if it was the winning goal.

However, Eastmond stabbed home from a corner in the fifth minute of stoppage time to force Wealdstone to settle for a point, keeping them in the playoff positions in fourth.

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