

BAA President Michael McGrath confirmed a Time frame of events are as below:

“The Competitions Committee requested a site visit of BAA September 9th, due to reports noting that parts of the field surface are lifting and that the field markings are not clearly visible. Which was surprising as BAA had hosted the U23 League and Cup competition without issue when it was the only field available for BFA football as other fields turned over to cricket. I met with them at BAA and informed them that new field equipment was on order and that the constant rain is moving the field infill covering the lines. I told them we make an effort to blow the lines clear before games and that the loose lines had been removed to prevent a trip hazard. I did note that rain had fallen every day since cup match which prevented the brushing and gluing of the field.

I received an email 11.24am:

Following a recent discussion between the President of the BRA and members of the BFA Executive, and subsequent review during the Competitions Committee’s site visit with yourself, several issues have been identified that require urgent attention.

While it was noted that some of these matters may be resolved fairly quickly, we must emphasize their importance ahead of the upcoming league campaign.

The specific concerns are as follows:

- Sections of the surrounding perimeter gate are broken and located dangerously close to the playing area.
- Goal nets are in poor condition, with multiple holes compromising their integrity.
- Goal posts are not securely anchored, which is a direct violation of the Laws of the Game and presents a significant risk of injury.
- The playing surface shows patches of unevenness due to damaged field markings (18-yard box, penalty spot, etc.).

We kindly request that you provide us with a plan of action to address these issues, including a timeline for completion. This will allow us to ensure that all concerns are rectified in advance of the start of the league campaign.

The BFA then put out an email at 2.39pm stating:

Please be advised that, due to issues at Goose Gosling Field which must be rectified before any matches can be scheduled there, the Dudley Eve Match Day 5 fixtures originally scheduled for **Saturday, September 13th** have been moved to **Sunday, September 14th** at **Devonshire Recreation Club (DRC)**:

The only correspondence with the BFA between these emails was requesting clarification on: Sections of the surrounding perimeter gate are broken and located dangerously close to the playing

area. As when the BFA did their sight visit they could not inform me what this issue was and keeping in mind the fence has been in the same position for over 15 years it seemed difficult to work out why it was located dangerously close to the playing area.

Due to the statement in the BFA Email: Please be advised that, due to issues at Goose Gosling Field which must be rectified before any matches can be scheduled there. BAA understood that as all aspects needed to be rectified and as supplies had not arrived the field complaints could not be rectified, hence the BFA were notified that Goose Gosling Field was not available for the 1st two weeks of the season.

The first week of the season went ahead and drew many headlines for the violence that occurred including players and spectators at NVCC's Bernards Park. This was a shock to the island as well as BAA's board.

The BAA Board reflected on these events, the events in the community and with request from our staff not to work BFA games decided to withdraw BAA's Goose Gosling Field from hosting BFA games at this time.

Thursday night I sent an email to David Sabir to inform him of BAA's boards decision that:

I am writing to inform you and the BFA that the violence that has occurred both on and off the field of play since the beginning of

the season along with the increased gun violence of the last few months has been a cause of extreme alarm.

As a result, BAA staff have been requesting not to work BFA games due to these issues as they no longer feel safe in an increasingly tense atmosphere these games attract.

The board of BAA have reflected on these issues and have decided to remove GGF as a BFA senior football venue at this time.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but the safety of staff, club members and patrons must be first in our minds.

Yours Sincerely

Mike McGrath
BAA President