

•A Review of Our Online Sessions During Lockdown•

January – March 2021













OUR AIM:

In response to the January 2021 lockdown being announced, we decided to put all of our efforts into keeping children active from home until the lockdown was eased and students were allowed back to school. We knew this was going to be a very testing time for families and we were determined to continue to engage young people, offer free and accessible football/fitness sessions and ultimately encourage physical activity.











With our high intensity online sessions, we were offering a chance to develop and improve football based skills from home, to improve physical fitness, and importantly helping to create a structure as the days and weeks of isolation passed. We decided to lead our campaign with the hashtag #stayactive with the intention of inspiring young people to see beyond the limitations of the lockdown, to stay engaged and to stay physically active.











DESIGNING OUR ONLINE SESSIONS:

We ran two sessions per day, a morning session for beginners and an afternoon session for more advanced players. Each session was 30-minutes long and consisted of a 5-minute warm up, 15-minutes on a specific skill, 5-minutes of ball-control and the final 5-minutes for strength and conditioning. It was important we kept to this structure to maximise the 30-minutes, to ensure consistency with each session, but also to keep each session dynamic and fast moving. In order to take part, all you needed was a football and four markers, either cones, socks, tins or even toys!



The platform we used to host our online sessions was Facebook Live. This allowed for:

- Easy and Free access to anyone and everyone
 - No subscriptions or a signing up process
- Each session would remain active for 24hrs!

PRIZES!

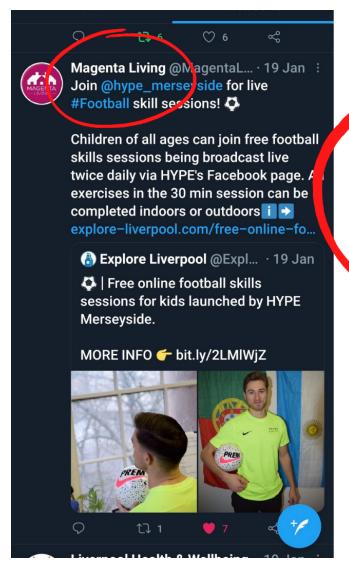
Finally, as a little incentive to encourage participation, we concluded each session with a <u>football quiz</u>, with the first person to answer correctly (and to have participated in the whole session) receiving a prize, either:

- Nike Football!
- Nike HYPE Football Kit!

Check out some of our prize winners below:



ONLINE INTERACTIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS







MEDIA COVERAGE:

Liverpool Business News

Free online football skills classes for kids

LBN Free online football skills classes for kids **▽** ② □ 4 Day (00000

Wirral view

How to keep your kids busy during lockdown



Wirral Globe

Online footie skills sessions for kids

Online footie skills sessions for kids

dren at a grassroots level. In the initiative's first week, the team welcomed more than 2500 participants across 10 secsions. Sessions are recorded live at HYPE Merseyside's HQ in the Grand Entrance Building at Birkenhead Park, with daily sessions remaining online until the following morning.



Matthew Houghton sails: "We know so many parents who are guggling the pressures of working and we wanted to create something that would benefit the well-still b

Liverpool Echo Safe way to practice football for free



The Guide Liverpool

You can get free online football coaching for the kids thanks to HYPE Merseyside

☐ Visit the coverage



Capital Liverpool

HYPE Merseyside Launches Online Football Skills Sessions



BBC Radio Merseyside

HYPE Merseyside Launches Online Football Skills Sessions



HYPE Merseyside online football skills sessions get kids moving

HYPE Merseyside Launches Online Football Skills Sessions











TOTAL REACH 590.9K



Full Coverage Report Below:



REVIEWING OUR ONLINE ACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENTS:





In conclusion, over the eight-weeks we delivered 80 Facebook Live classes, totalling at 40 hours of online training, engaging a total of 872 players! Considering the response we have had from children/parents and the numbers we were engaging and interacting with, it is fair to say we are proud of the effort we have put in to make this lockdown a little less lonely and more active for our young people. Even if a session was only reaching one person, it would still be worth all of the effort. You never know what circumstances families have found themselves in during these testing times, and that 30-minute session could be the only time in the day where the child is receiving encouragement, praise and stimulation.

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8
No. Views	2550	2169	2640	2865	2455	2301	2480	2648
No. Players	68	97	129	142	86	114	98	138



CHALLENGES / OBSTACLES

As we began our sessions it became apparent that some children were desperate to join in but did not have a football, so we took it upon ourselves to personally deliver footballs to all of those who were without.

A challenge we had to overcome was working within the limited space from which the sessions were conducted. Considering the children tuning in would be at home, it was important that we designed our sessions to be accessible and possible for all to take part. With such limited space, we decided to focus our sessions around ball mastery and ball control, getting as many touches on the ball as possible, working on both feet and improving coordination and footwork.

As a coach, you use feedback to improve each session. The challenge with our Facebook Live sessions was that I was unable to see the participants and therefore could not assess their skill level or ability. By designating the morning sessions to 'Beginners' and the afternoon sessions to 'Advanced' we were able partially solve this problem. Coaching the online sessions also challenged me in improving my communication, as whether I was being watched on a laptop or a phone, I had to make sure my instructions were crystal clear and intuitive to follow to avoid confusion and to keep the children engaged.

THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT & MOVING FOREWARDS

These past 8-weeks of online sessions have provided us with the opportunity to cast our net further, to develop our online presence, to reach more people and spread the awareness of what HYPE can offer the community. Through our publicity, ranging from radio interviews and newspaper articles, HYPE is continuing to build a reputation as an important influence and key player in the local community, supporting young people and creating opportunities. It is already clear that the interactions and engagements we have made during these past 8-weeks will carry forwards into our camps and opportunities moving forwards.











THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:





