

BRITISH WATER SKI & WAKEBOARD FEDERATION LIMITED (BWSW)

UPDATED COVID - 19 GUIDANCE (ENGLAND ONLY)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Following the publication of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021 which come into effect on 29 March 2021 and were amended with effect from 17 May 2021, the UK Government has issued updated guidance in relation to the return to grassroots sport in England.

1.2 The updated guidance published on 16 May 2021 can be found here:

- (a) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers>;

1.3 The guidance makes clear that:

- (a) sporting activities are permitted despite wider restrictions because of the benefits of sport and physical activity for people's physical and mental wellbeing;
- (b) if people act irresponsibly when participating in sport (including when socialising before and after activity) they jeopardize public health and undermine the case for safe sport to take place;
- (c) national governing bodies should ensure that clubs/operators are running their activities safely, and should take action to address any issues, including putting in place additional measures or suspending participants and clubs which do not adhere to guidance.
- (d) ***If there are serious or consistent concerns with a particular sport which the NGB cannot or does not address, the NGB's approval may be revoked so that the sport cannot take place***

1.4 Consequently, it is imperative that all participants in the sport follow the government guidelines and this guidance.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 In assessing the risk of participation and providing guidance as to how to mitigate those risks, we have assessed the transmission risks posed by attending at sites and participating in sporting activity including those risks which government guidance has highlighted which are:

- (a) ***Droplet transmission:*** The risk associated with each action in an activity based on duration and proximity of participants;
- (b) ***Fomite transmission:*** The risk associated with the direct contact between participants during the sport, and equipment and surfaces used in the delivery and participation of the sport;
- (c) ***Population:*** The number of participants likely to take part in the proposed activity plus known risk factors of participants with underlying health conditions or high risk groups who wish to participate.

Clubs/operators should bear the above in mind at all times in operating their sites in accordance with their own operational plans and COVID-19 risk assessment which should be completed in line with guidance from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/risk-assessment.htm>.

- 2.2 The fact that many disciplines of our sport are capable of being carried out with significant social distancing does not detract from the need to adhere to the core principles of excellent hygiene standards and procedures, reducing contact points, social distancing and staggering of participant bookings to reduce the number of people on site. These are all fundamental to ensuring risk of transmission is reduced.

3. NHS TEST AND TRACE INFORMATION

- 3.1 The requirements of NHS Test and Trace have changed and been updated. Clubs/operators must:

- (a) ask all customers and visitors to their sites who are 16 years of age or over to provide their name and contact details;
- (b) keep a record of all staff working on their premises and shift times on a given day and their contact details;
- (c) keep these records of customers, visitors and staff for 21 days and provide data to NHS Test and Trace if requested;
- (d) display an official NHS QR code poster, so that customers and visitors can 'check in' using this option as an alternative to providing their contact details;
- (e) adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation.

- 3.2 Clubs/operators should ensure that:

- (a) participants do not attend if they have any health conditions which would put them at increased risk;

- (b) all participants and attendees on site are aware of COVID-19 symptoms and the need to self-assess before attending.
- (c) no-one should leave home if they are under an obligation to self-isolate;
- (d) no-one should leave home if they or someone they live with, have symptoms of COVID-19 currently recognised as any of the following:
 - (i) a high temperature
 - (ii) a new, continuous cough
 - (iii) a loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste.
- (e) any participant or other attendee reporting symptoms does not attend and is directed to follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation;
- (f) participants are strongly advised to comply with public health restrictions and avoid high-risk behaviour outside the sports setting to reduce the risk to their fellow participants when they do attend;
- (g) participants continue to adhere to legal gathering limits before and after sporting activities, act responsibly and limit transmission risk wherever possible.

4. ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER SPORTING ACTIVITY

- 4.1 Clubs/operators should put in place measures to limit transmission risk from non-sporting activity, including:
 - (a) use of on- line booking systems with prebooked activity and financial transactions on line;
 - (b) ensuring that 2 metre social distancing is maintained (where not possible one metre plus mitigation measures must be implemented) this includes ensuring that participants maintain social distancing throughout including during warming up and when participating in sporting activity;
 - (c) limiting the time spent congregating at the site before and after activity. Participants should arrive ski/ride and leave straight after they have finished;
 - (d) discouraging the use of changing rooms as these are areas of increased risk of transmission. Participants should be encouraged to shower and change at home. However, where they are used the time spent in them should be minimised and gathering and social distancing rules and indoor capacity limits observed;
 - (e) observing legal capacity limits for indoor spaces which should be well ventilated;

- (f) ensuring that participants adhere to legal gathering limits. Social interaction before and after participation should only take place in separate and distinct groups consisting of up to 30 people outside and 6 people or two households inside;
 - (g) ensuring that any spectators on site adhere to legal gathering limits and social distancing requirements.
- 4.2 It cannot be emphasised strongly enough that social interaction before and after participating in any sport should be extremely limited and only take place in line with legal gathering limits and other relevant restrictions. Observing the rules during participation in the sport but then disregarding them after (e.g. by socialising in breach of the wider restrictions) is unlawful, irresponsible and jeopardizes both public health and the case for safe sport to continue.
- 4.3 ***The Government expects national governing bodies including BWSW to remind participants of the necessity to follow the social interaction rules and consider sanctions within the sport if not followed.***
- 4.4 Participants and clubs/ operators should be aware of travel guidance.
- (a) always check that it is safe to travel before setting out to take part in sport;
 - (b) for more information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN SPORTING ACTIVITY

- 5.1 In order to reduce the risk of transmission, clubs/ operators should continue to ensure that:
- (a) social distancing is maintained on the jetty/ queue at the cable so that at least 2 metres distance is maintained at all times between participants waiting to enter the water;
 - (b) participants with underlying health conditions or high-risk groups who wish to participate should be discouraged from participating;
 - (c) participants should stay within their skill level and comfort zone avoiding unnecessary risk of injury;
 - (d) participants who have finished on the water should be able to leave the water/ jetty without contact with any other participant;
 - (e) only the boat driver is in the boat with no observer unless **one** observer is required for safety reasons (e.g. for jump and tricks). Where there is an observer in the boat, both the observer and the boat driver should wear a face covering given that they will be less than 2 metres apart (unless both the observer and the boat driver are from the same household);

- (f) the sharing of equipment (unless between members of the same household) should be discouraged. If equipment is shared it must be disinfected between use by different participants (e.g. handles on the cable);
- (g) there should be no sharing of wetsuits (unless between members of the same households);
- (h) where there is a change of boat driver the points of contact on the boat must be wiped down with disinfectant/ antiviral spray.

5.2 Once participation in sporting activity has finished, participants must adhere to the guidance in paragraph 4.

6. CHANGING ROOMS /HYGIENE

6.1 Changing rooms are an area of increased transmission risk and whilst they can be opened, their use should be discouraged. Participants should be encouraged to shower and change at home. However, where they are open, the time spent in them should be minimised and gathering and social distancing rules and indoor capacity limits observed.

6.2 Government guidance on COVID-19 hygiene measures should be followed including:

- (a) taking steps to ensure that all water systems, for example showers and sinks, are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimise the risk of legionella and other diseases associated with water;
- (b) introducing enhanced cleaning of all facilities regularly throughout during the day and at the end of the day;
- (c) providing cleaning materials and hand sanitiser for customers to use at touch points;
- (d) providing additional signposting in these areas to maintain social distancing and adhere to the relevant gathering limits.

6.3 Government guidance on cleaning toilet facilities, signage concerning the importance of handwashing and provision of cleaning products must be followed.

7. INJURY/MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

7.1 Injuries and medical emergencies should still be treated, as participant safety is of the utmost importance. Subject to the necessary closer contact with the person requiring assistance, all aspects of hygiene should be vigorously observed.

Document amended 26 May 2021.