

PHASED RETURN GUIDANCE FOR SNOWSPORT VENUES

23rd September 2020

This guidance might
be updated in due course

Introduction

This guidance document has been developed in adherence to government guidelines as outlined by the government on 9th July 2020 and can be put in place immediately unless otherwise stated. All Snowsport England guidance will be updated as per government guidelines when they are made available or as soon as possible thereafter.

These guidelines apply to England only and are based on those detailing the use of Return to Sport activity, and exercise. [More details are available here](#). We recommend that you always stay up to date with government guidance. Government guidance supersedes all advice given by the governing body and must always be followed.

The safety and wellbeing of all snowsport users, coaches and the wider community is at the heart of any guidance that Snowsport England is distributing.

We know that snowsport enthusiasts, athletes, coaches and Snowsport venues will be keen to resume activity as soon as it is safe and appropriate for them to do so. Snowsport England recognises that wish BUT at the same time wants to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the snowsport community, facility providers and the wider community is considered as the first priority.

The guidance that follows provides sport specific advice to help engage snowsport users. **It is important to say that any return to activity must take account of local conditions and any risk assessment for normal activities should be undertaken as well as ensuring that all government guidance around Covid-19 is taken into account.** It is the responsibility of each snowsport user, athlete, coach and facility to make that assessment based on their local environment.

This guidance has been published on the understanding that it is an interpretation of government guidance relevant to all snowsport activity. It is likely to change at short notice, in which case we will publish updates through the [Snowsport England](#) and social media channels.

Any measures that venues put in place to enable snowsport activity to resume need to be capable of being flexed or changed quickly if tighter movement/social distancing is reintroduced in the future or when the restrictions are further relaxed.

All parties should note the [disclaimer](#) at the end of this piece. Please also read our other guidance documents:

1. Guidance for Snowsport Athletes – Phased return to activity
2. Guidance for Snowsport Instructors/Coaches – Phased return to activity
3. Guidance for Affiliated Snowsport Clubs
4. Health and Safety Guidance: Return to Activity
5. Covid Secure Environment

[NEW] Local Lockdowns

- **[NEW]** With local restrictions being used across the country in differing ways it is vital to be aware of how any local restrictions can impact your ability to operate. All local restrictions take precedent over any of this guidance.

Before opening

- Opening snowsport facilities is at the discretion and consent of the facility owner, provider or contractor.
- The slope operator (Committee, Facilities Owner, Manager) has completed all relevant plans, procedures and risk assessment – updated for Covid-19.
- All risk assessments are up-to-date and have Covid-19 restriction added.
- You have clarified with your insurance around re-opening.
- Deep Cleans have taken place of all 'open' areas of the facility and equipment.
- All staff and volunteers have been fully briefed.

Facilities

- Outdoor slopes only should be open currently but indoor snowsport facilities being able to open from 25th July 2020. Indoor facilities should follow the guidance from the Government [here](#).
- Toilet facilities can be opened if the venue wishes, but particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them. Where they are open, ensure soap and hot water is provided.
- Buildings can be opened in a limited way for operational reasons (e.g. to switch on floodlights, thoroughfare to access the slope) or for toilet access.
- All social spaces can now open from the 25th July 2020.
- At this point all fixed and movable equipment should have a clear ongoing hygiene plan in place, that outlines if the equipment is to be used and pre and post cleaning of equipment.
- Remove any other unnecessary equipment and items from slopes.
- **[NEW]** All Snowsport facilities / clubs need to take participants details and hold securely for 21 days for Track and Trace and display the NHS QR codes for people to check in. Track and Trace Toolkit can be found [here](#)

Health, safety & hygiene

- Ensure usual access to first aid and emergency equipment is maintained (in some cases this may require limited access to the building being possible) and a clear plan for dealing with an incident is available to all users. Guidelines for dealing with CPR can be found [here](#).
- Consider making hand sanitizers or wipes available for use at entrance/exit to venue and equipment if in use.
- Clean all common touch point surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) regularly, wearing disposable gloves.
- Ensure measures are in place to minimise encounters between people, including in car parks and at entrances (clear signage in place).
- Consider marking social distancing at appropriate points, such as the entry gates.
- Snowsport users should ideally bring their own equipment. Where shared equipment is used, this must be cleaned before and after use.
- Operate online booking for the slope where at all possible, or alternatively phone bookings. Take online or card payments.
- It might be possible on the slope to have more than one instructor/coach training at any one point, this would need to be carried out in line with government guidelines and social distancing at all points within the facility, including the slope.

- Communicate with your members /customers clearly and regularly, making them aware in advance of the measures you are putting in place at your venue, and guidelines they are asked to follow.
- Ensure signage on guidelines for taking part safely and promoting hygiene measures is clearly displayed (and ensure these remain up to date as restrictions change).
- Spectating should be actively discouraged. Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) or a carer for a disabled athlete is required, it should be limited to one per athlete where possible, with social distancing strictly observed while watching the sessions (consider marking out specific boxes/areas for this purpose).
- Government advice on cleaning is [here](#).

Club/Group activity

- **[UPDATED]** **OUTDOOR** and **INDOOR** Snowsport group activity can continue to take place as long as it is within a COVID secure environment (which can be an outdoor slope, cycle track (for roller skiing), open space such as a park. If the venue is Covid secure the facility can set the group sizes for the activity. Clubs that use a facility they do not own must follow the guidance on numbers set by the facility. Where a COVID secure environment is not in place groups will need to be a maximum of 6 as per the Government guidelines.
- **[NEW]** All supervised activities for under 18s, including snowsport, indoors and out, are permitted where a risk assessment has been carried out. This should follow guidance on [out of school settings](#).
- Group sizes can be set by the facility (Covid Secure), but other Covid Control Measures like physical distancing should be used.
- Group sizes may differ depending on facility and ability of the group to ensure Covid Control Measures can be followed.
- **[NEW]** Ensure all groups are using the track and trace protocols the facility has set out.

Spectators

- **[NEW]** Venues following Covid-secure guidelines can host more than six people in total, but no one should visit or socialise in a group of greater than six.
- **[NEW]** It's also important that people from different households or [support bubbles](#) meeting in a single group remain socially distanced. This includes during off slope activities.
- **[NEW]** More guidance for sports on managing facilities (such as club houses, bars or restaurants) is available on the [working safely during coronavirus page](#) of the government's website.
- **[NEW]** The [Recreational Team Sport Framework](#) sets out that supporters, parents, and other spectators should remain socially distanced whilst attending events. Spectator groups must be restricted to six people and spread out, in line with [wider government guidance](#).
- **[NEW]** Where it's anticipated that an activity will attract spectators, there should be a named person or persons with responsibility for ensuring adherence with these guidelines and ensuring the facility is Covid-secure. The person should carry out and publish a risk assessment for the activity which limits the number of spectators and focuses on the need to maintain social distancing on arrival, for the duration of the activity, and on departure.
- **[NEW]** Arrangements should also be put in place to support test and trace efforts by collecting information from spectators which is detailed enough to allow NHS Test and Trace to contact them if necessary. See the maintaining records guidance for more information.

Section 3: Disclaimer

Please note that the subject matter covered in this guidance is in no way exhaustive and the material does not stand on its own nor is intended to be relied upon as a substitute for obtaining specific legal advice. Individual circumstances will differ. The information contained in this guidance is given in good faith but any liability of Snowsport England or its professional advisors (including their respective members or employees) to you or any third party which may arise out of the reliance by you or any other party of the contents of this guidance is hereby excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law. Snowsport England and its professional advisors accept no duty of care or liability for any loss occasioned, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, to any person acting or refraining from actions as a result of any material in this guidance. We would strongly recommend that you consult professional advisors on specific issues before acting or refraining from action on any of the contents of this guidance.

This guidance has been prepared by Snowsport England.

