



GUIDANCE FOR AFFILIATED SNOWSPORT CLUBS IN ENGLAND

COVID-19 Phased return to Snowsport Activity

Version 5 – UPDATED 15th October 2020

SNOWSPORT
ENGLAND

GUIDANCE FOR AFFILIATED SNOWSPORT CLUBS

This guidance document has been developed in adherence to government guidelines as outlined by the Government through the summer of 2020 and includes information regarding the new tiered system introduced on Monday 12th October 2020. It 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 Snowsport England and must always be followed. It is important to say that any snowsport activity must take account of local conditions and any risk assessments have been amended to take into account Covid-19 controls required for a Covid Secure Environment.

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.

The guidance that follows provides sport specific advice to help engage snowsport users

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.

We have indicated the key additions and updates to these guidelines within this document with **[NEW]** and **[UPDATED]** on the following pages.

Any measures that clubs 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.

As lockdown restrictions evolve, Snowsport England's guidance, in line with Government legislation and guidance, will shift in focus to ensuring that facilities and clubs can provide COVID-19 secure environments, recognising the different operating contexts that organisations face. Snowsport Facilities across the country are all different and operate in different ways. Assessing whether a safe environment can be provided depends on a range of factors, which apply differently at each venue. It is the responsibility of each club, coach, and facility to make that assessment based on their local environment.

Please also read our other guidance documents:

- Guidance for Snowsport Athletes – Phased return to activity
- Guidance for Snowsport Instructors/Coaches – Phased return to activity
- Guidance for Snowsport Facilities
- Health and Safety Guidance: Return to Activity
- Covid Secure Environment
- Restrictions to Snowsport Activity in England - COVID-19 – Local Tiers document

[NEW] IMPORTANT: Where a local lockdown / higher tier is in place alternative measures and guidelines may be in place, please [check here](#) on the Government guidelines and local restrictions.

COVID-19 COORDINATOR(S)

Clubs should appoint a designated Covid-19 Coordinator/Team (preferably with experience in health and safety in a professional or volunteer setting) whose responsibilities are to work with the club committee to coordinate:

- Liaising with the facility manager/ owner in relation to all matters concerning Covid-19.
- Producing site-based risk assessments ensuring that the club is compliant with government guidelines.
- Ensuring all necessary levels of risk mitigation are in place prior to training.
- Ensuring the club members are aware of the track and trace protocols in place at the facility they are using.
- Clubs should ensure they are prepared and have planned for circumstances where injuries or other accidents occur, and they have mitigating procedures and plans in place to resolve the issue while maintaining all government guidance ensuring compliance of social distancing measures during training sessions.
- Ensuring that volunteers, coaches/leaders, athletes, and parents/guardians are adhering to this guidance.
- Ensuring that the club complies with the facility restrictions and guidance.
- Ensuring that all coaches/instructors have received a signed disclaimer from athletes/participants they are working with or have sought a signed disclaimer from the parent/guardian of junior athletes/participants.

The COVID-19 Coordinator role is not expected to take full responsibility for all health and safety, or risk assessment protocols implemented by the club. It is the responsibility of the club committee and key officers/volunteers to ensure protocols are implemented and reviewed across the club with the COVID-19 Coordinator acting as the key point of contact for related matters. In carrying out those tasks listed above and checking the guidance provided by Sport England and the government, you should be able to enable a **COVID secure environment**.

COMMUNICATION WITH FACILITY OPERATORS

To understand when and how facilities are going to reopen, we recommend that clubs arrange a conversation with the facility manager/landowner to discuss the following points:

- [NEW] Important to check the impact of moving into different tiers of the Government Covid Alert level system. Check the **Restrictions to Snowsport Activity in England - COVID-19 – Local Tiers document**
- An appropriate method for members to arrive and leave the site to maintain social distancing.
- Roles and responsibilities of the facility and club officers on site.
- Booking processes
- How Track and Trace will work at the venue
- Access to equipment

- Cleaning requirements
- First aid
- Slope Operating Procedures

For more information see [Guidance for Snowsport facilities return to activity](#) as well as any local restrictions that have been put in place in relation to capacity.

GROUP MANAGEMENT

Snowsport England will not be imposing a limit to the number of participants that can be at a facility at any given time due to the diverse nature of training facilities. However, clubs should practice the following:

- Liaise with the facility manager/landowner to determine the appropriate capacity levels within the facility/space considering:
 - Social distancing
 - Coach capacity
 - Site access
 - Access to toilets etc.
- For more information see [Guidance for Participants return to activity](#) as well as any local restrictions that have been put in place in relation to capacity.
- Coaching of young athletes on a one-to-one basis should only be undertaken in sight of the parent or guardian.
- Coaches should not be working with multiple groups across different areas of a facility.
- Groups should be led by an appropriately licensed coach familiar with the Covid guidelines at the facility.
- Club officers should ensure that all coaches' licenses and DBS are up to date.
- Clubs should ensure that an appropriate time buffer is built in between training sessions.
- The appropriate time should be determined by the club, based on enabling social distancing as well as allowing for adequate cleaning to take place.
- Where a parent/carer may need to stay at a training session for safeguarding reasons, clubs should ensure that there is adequate spectating space, clearly marked. We recommend that club welfare officers should be contactable during training sessions.
- Clubs should provide all coaches and athletes with appropriate guidance in relation to trainingsessions.

For guidance for younger, disabled and vulnerable athletes please see [Guidance for Participant return to activity](#)

Non-compliance with the above points may result in club insurance being invalidated.

GROUP MANAGEMENT & TRAINING SESSIONS

Overall Capacity

Snowsport England will not be imposing a limit to the number of participants that can be at a facility / venue at any given time as part of a club training session due to the diverse nature of training facilities. This is only applicable if the venue is a **COVID Secure environment**. For more information see Guidance for Snowsport Venues – return to activity and the specific COVID Secure Environment Guidance and always ensure you take into consideration any local restrictions that have been put in place by the facility / venue operator and/or landowner.

- **[UPDATED]** Training sessions should be delivered in line with any general capacity restrictions imposed locally due to local restrictions. Please refer Restrictions to Snowsport Activity in England - COVID-19 – Local Tiers document to see restrictions in differing tiers.
- Training sessions need to be compliant with social distancing guidelines.
- Ensure you have considered site access when determining overall training session capacity.
- Ensure you have considered access to toilets / first aid etc and can manage this in accordance with relevant restrictions / guidance that is in place.

GROUP SIZES AND MANAGEMENT

- **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]** Limitations may be imposed if the local area the facility is based in is moved into a different tier.
- **[UPDATED]** Ensure your training sessions are compliant with coach ratios set out by the facility and in line with local restrictions.
- Coaches should not be working with multiple groups across different areas of a facility.
- Groups should be led by an appropriately licensed coach or instructor.
- Club officers should ensure that all coaches' licenses and DBS are up-to-date and have a process for signing off DBS that is COVID-19 compliant.
- Clubs should ensure that an appropriate time buffer is built in between training sessions. The appropriate time should be determined by the club, based on enabling social distancing as well as allowing for adequate cleaning to take place.
- Where a parent / carer may need to stay at a training session for safeguarding reasons, clubs should ensure that there is adequate spectating space, clearly marked. We recommend that club welfare officers should be contactable during training sessions.
- Clubs should provide all coaches and athletes with appropriate guidance in relation to training sessions.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS WHEN WORKING WITH JUNIOR PARTICIPANT (U18S)

- Groups involving young people (under 18's) should be coached in no more than 15
- More information on coaching young athletes, and government guidelines for when working with young people, can be found here at [Sport England](#) or via [Department for Education](#) For guidance for younger, disabled and vulnerable athletes please see Guidance for Athletes – return to activity
- **[NEW]** Under 18 sport can take place in all tiers indoor and out.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

It is recommended that clubs should provide guidance to members, coaches, and volunteers prior to arrival for any club activity in order to implement appropriate measures based upon the Covid-19 risk assessment. Guidance will be dependent upon each individual club situation and local facility set up; however, such guidance may include:

- **[NEW]** Inform of any changes to activity due to facility locale moving tiers.
- Processes and procedures being implemented to manage the number of training groups and numbers of athletes/participants to adhere to guidelines.
- Details of bookings processes (where implemented).
- Welfare officer and Covid-19 Coordinator contact details.
- The revised process for registration/sign in on arrival to club training. Its key to speak to the facility about responsibility for taking details for [Track and Trace](#).
- Guidance for athletes on arrival and on completion of training to avoid larger groups congregating.
- Details of specific procedures relating to use of equipment & facilities and appropriate hygiene guidance based upon the Covid-19 risk assessment.
- Providing guidance for parents/carers of junior athletes regarding spectating and arrangements to drop off/pick up.
- Advising members to arrive ready for training and inform members whether toilet facilities will be available.

PRIOR TO COMMENCING TRAINING, it is advised that clubs consider:

- Clear signage in place at club training sessions to help enforce social distancing, cleaning, and hygiene measures.
- Suitable booking systems or management of training groups to ensure training can take place within the guidelines.
- Processes and procedures to manage the number of training groups and number of athletes to adhere to guidelines. This could for example include zoning certain slope areas to ensure distinct groups can operate safely within the guidelines.
- Processes are in place to avoid larger groups arriving in the same area at any given time, e.g. at car parks and entrances.

COMMUNICATION WITH CLUB OFFICERS

- To adhere to government guidance regarding the current phase of Covid-19 stages, we recommend club officers adhere to the following points in relation to club governance.
- Clubs should continue to conduct committee meetings virtually. See guidance on conducting virtual meetings [here](#).
- We recommend that clubs use cashless payments only. Where this is not possible clubs should ensure these transactions are as Covid-19 compliant as possible.
- Club officers should continue to remain visible and contactable to members during this time.

Please note, for a club's insurance to be valid, the club needs to be affiliated to Snowsport England.

SPECTATORS

- **[NEW]** There are limitations and restrictions at various tiers so please refer to Restrictions to Snowsport Activity in England - COVID-19 – Local Tiers document
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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](#).
- 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.
- 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.

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 (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.