



# GUIDANCE FOR SNOWSPORT FACILITIES IN ENGLAND

COVID-19 Phased return to Snowsport Activity

Version 5 – UPDATED 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**SNOWSPORT**  
**ENGLAND**

## ***GUIDANCE FOR SNOWSPORT FACILITIES***

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 website](#) 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 venues put in place to enable snowsport activity to resume need to be capable of being flexible 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 Affiliated Snowsport Clubs
- Health and Safety Guidance: Return to Activity
- Covid Secure Environment
- [Restrictions to Snowsport Activity in England - COVID-19 – Local Tiers document](#)

## 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 assessments which show Covid-19 control measures.
- All risk assessments are up-to-date and have Covid-19 controls added.
- You have clarified with your insurance around reopening.
- Deep Cleans have taken place in all 'open' areas of the facility and equipment.
- **[UPDATED]** All staff and volunteers have been fully briefed and trained. You can make use of the free training platform we have available [here](#), It is suitable for staff, coaches and managers of Snowsport facilities.

## VENUE MANAGEMENT

- Ensure your facility management oversees and maintains the implementation of measures and any updates to them.
- All activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing, and hygiene at all times.
- Facilities must consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection/transmission. A thorough risk assessment should be undertaken (or updated if one previously done), and appropriate measures put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are protected.
- 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 guidance.
- **[UPDATED]** A risk assessment template is available from the COVID-19 section on the Snowsport England website. For larger group activity and in line with [Government guidance on organising outdoor sport and physical activity events](#), facilities should consider transmission risk based on three variables: droplet transmission and aerosol generation; fomite transmission; and population
- **[NEW]** As a COVID-19 secure venue, all Snowsport facilities should have in place a process for how they would handle a case if someone tested positive.
- Venues should refer to the Test & Trace section below, and can find information on how to approach cleaning for such instances on the Government website
- Guidelines will be updated as we progress through the different phases of Government measures, Snowsport England remains in discussions with Government, so we recommend you check at <https://www.snowsportengland.org.uk/covid-19-resources/> on a regular basis to stay up to date of the latest recommendations
- Any measures facilities put in place to enable snowsport activity to resume need to be capable of being flexible or changed quickly if tighter restrictions are reintroduced in the future or when the restrictions are further relaxed.
- This guidance is applicable to both outdoor and indoor snowsport facilities.

## HEALTH & SAFETY AND 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.
- 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). Spectators need to follow the rule of 6.
- Government advice on cleaning is [here](#).

## PRE-ATTENDANCE SYMPTOM CHECK

Anyone attending a snowsport facility (including participants, coaches, staff and any other visitors), should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any COVID19 symptoms using the [information on the NHS website](#) before leaving home. This should be communicated on booking and asked again on arrival.

No-one should leave home to participate in snowsport activity if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of COVID -19, currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste

Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow [NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation](#)

## NHS TEST & TRACE

- If someone who has visited your venue develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should be directed to follow the Government's 'test and trace' guidelines, which can be read on the [Government website](#)
- To support NHS Test and Trace, venues should keep a temporary record of all those on site for 21 days, in a way that is manageable, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed. This should also include keeping a temporary record of staff shift patterns for your venue for 21 days
- **[UPDATED]** For venues providing hospitality or indoor sports facilities, it is now a mandatory requirement to have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data, and keep this for 21 days – this can be via the NHS app (see below)
- **[NEW]** Further guidance on maintaining records of staff, customer and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace can be read on the [Government website](#)

### **[NEW] NHS COVID-19 APP**

- Venues that provide indoor snowsport facilities or offer hospitality must download and display an official QR code poster for visitors to scan with the NHS app.
- Any other snowsport facility that has an indoor space where people congregate is also encouraged to create a QR code poster for the entrance to that venue.
- By supporting the official NHS QR code poster system, you will be protecting your visitors and your business.
- **To create a coronavirus NHS QR code** for your facility [visit the Government website](#) – if you need help, [see this guide on how to create your poster](#)
- When displaying posters, venues should ensure that enough are on display and located appropriately to allow visits to scan in without queues forming – see [the NHS' tips for displaying your posters](#)
- Be aware that for venues that are required to collect data, you will still need to offer a manual option for recording visitors' contact details, for people who do not have a smartphone or do not want to use the NHS COVID-19 app, or who do not wish to show you their venue check-in history
- If you have an area where people may leave their belongings, then you can display [this poster](#) to advise them to pause the contact tracing on their app.
- Further help and guidance is available on the NHS website, including [FAQs for venues](#), guidance posters for the public on how to download the app on [iOS](#) and [Android](#), and [how to use the QR code poster to scan in to a venue](#)

## SNOWSPORT ACTIVITY

- Lessons can be run with people from different households, if participants remain 2 metres apart as far as possible.
- Snowsport Activity is permitted at both outdoor and indoor facilities.
- **[UPDATED]** Restrictions on group numbers vary depending on if the activity is informal social play or organised group activity, and if it is outdoors or indoors
- **[NEW]** Organised group activity (as detailed below) is defined as being activity organised by a national governing body, club, licenced instructor/coach, business or charity, where in all cases organiser must conduct a risk assessment and take all reasonable steps to limit transmission of the coronavirus by reference to that risk assessment and all relevant COVID-19 Secure guidance. Further details are provided on the Government website.

## INFORMAL SOCIAL SLIDING

For informal social snowsport, group size is limited to a maximum of six people by law. This means you can do snowsport providing people only meet up with no more than 5 other people from different households and observe social distancing guidelines.

- People should not go to a snowsport facility socially in groups of more than six

## ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY – OUTDOORS

- The Government has confirmed that organised activity for larger groups, including coached sessions, club nights and competitions is permitted as an exception to the limit of six, provided the activity is in accordance with the COVID-19 Secure guidelines. The Government has made it clear that organised larger group snowsport activity is only permitted where this is the case.
- Any organised larger group snowsport activity is only permitted subject to a thorough risk assessment and event delivery plan, taking into consideration the relevant Government guidance, and where clear and appropriate risk mitigation measures are in place
- **[NEW]** When participating in any snowsport activity indoors or outdoors, participants must not mingle in groups of more than six before and after the activity, while maintaining social distancing with those from another household at all times. If an organiser is not able to ensure this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then such events should not take place. Attendees must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit.
- Larger group sessions may need to utilise larger spaces to maintain social distancing, depending on the local environment and risk assessment. Where space available is limited, then based on your risk assessment only smaller group sessions may be possible.
- Whilst Government guidance does not state an upper limit for sport and physical activity participation events for adults, for those venues that have taken steps to ensure they are COVID-19 secure, we recommend that all facilities very carefully consider the maximum capacity that they can operate at safely and whilst ensuring social distancing can be maintained at all times. All venues should produce detailed risk assessments and event delivery plans considering these factors
- For children, organised snowsport activity including coached sessions should be limited to

groups of no more than 15 children (plus coach(es), in line with guidance from the [Department of Education on out of school settings](#)

- Depending on your risk assessment, some activity that might ordinarily be delivered in larger groups, might still need to continue in smaller groups for now, to ensure the safety of participants.
- Further information can be read on the Government's published guidance on [organising outdoor sport and physical activity events](#) and for [providers of grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities](#).

#### **ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY – INDOORS**

- **[NEW]** Organised indoor group snowsport activity for adults (including coached sessions and club nights held indoors) can still take place in larger numbers in COVID-19 secure venues, however, participants should be part of an organised session as described before.

#### **COACHING**

- It is important that both recreational and coaching activity takes place. Facilities should continue to liaise with their instructors and coaches to ensure an approach to activity is agreed that is feasible to deliver safely, and how instructors / coaches can be supported to deliver lessons and group sessions. Instructors and Coaches should be adequately trained on Covid Control measures.
- ReActivate training for Instructors and Coaches is available [here](#) for free.

#### **SUPERVISION & SPECTATING**

- Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) is required, or a carer for a disabled participant, it is permitted, but should be off slope and limited to one per participant where possible
- Supporters, parents, and other spectators should remain socially distanced whilst attending events. Spectator groups must be restricted to discrete six person gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider government guidance
- Consider marking out specific boxes/areas for this purpose

#### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- Facilities should be fully aware of the latest Government advice on staying alert and safe (social distancing) which can be read [here](#)
- Venues should encourage participants not to congregate on or around the slope / building before and after sessions.
- Attendees should be advised to limit their interactions with anyone outside of the group they are attending the venue with (e.g. skiers on another slope or in a different coaching group), and they should continue to maintain social distancing from those that they do not live with or are in a support bubble with

## [NEW] CATERING & RETAIL

- Bars, cafes and restaurants, including any food or drink facilities inside a clubhouse, can open – consumption is permitted on site (indoors and out) with table service only – this should only be done in accordance with the latest [guidance on the Government website](#) for this, which should read in full
- From Thursday 24 September, all pubs, bars and restaurants must close by 10pm
- Make customers aware of, and encourage compliance with, limits on gatherings (for example, on arrival or at booking)
- For venues providing hospitality, it is now a mandatory requirement to have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data, and keep this for 21 days
- From Thursday 24 September, venues offering hospitality need to display a QR code poster so customers can check-in via NHS Test and Trace, and will also need to log customers not using the app. Posters displaying the QR code can be [downloaded from the Government website](#)
- Hot and cold food and drink may also be served on a takeaway basis
- [Face coverings](#) should always now be worn by both staff and customers in indoor retail and hospitality environments, except when seated at a table to eat or drink
- Consider mandating contactless or card payment, to avoid handling cash
- Further information is also provided on the [Food Standards Agency website](#)
- Retail units at a venue can be opened in accordance with [relevant guidance on the Government website](#)
- The Government has now published details on a temporary VAT cut to supplies relating to hospitality. If you're a VAT registered business, you should be able to temporarily reduce the rate of VAT on supplies relating to hospitality, with more detail published in the [Government's guidance](#)

## **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.