

Guide for clubs contacting Local Authority Teams

Why reach out to your local council as part of business as usual?

- The offer will differ between areas, but council leads for sport will normally use a sports club directory for network meetings, newsletters, activity directories for residents and pitch bookings or funding opportunities.
- It also means your club should be notified if there are any consultations in relation to park closures/regeneration projects, local communication campaigns for sports etc.

Why should you reach out to your local council regarding COVID-19?

- National guidance can be confusing to interpret and will mean different things for different areas.
- Public Health departments within local authorities have compiled local guidance on preventing and managing outbreaks in specific settings including sport settings and parks and open spaces which they can share with you.
- They are best placed to advise you on whether members from different households can safely throw in public as they are most familiar with local COVID challenges or small cluster outbreaks.
- As club trainings restart, local council's can potentially provide advice, support or even approval on club plans for returning to play with the local context in mind (e.g., they might need copies of risk assessments).
- From a liability perspective, if a club has reached out to their local authority, then they have taken a proactive approach to get support from local experts, which should help prevent run-ins with COVID enforcement teams.

How should you get in touch?

- Contact information for local Sport and Physical Activity Leads and Public Health Teams should be available on council websites.
- If you struggle to find this information, you can email your local lead councillor for Health and Wellbeing (might be called Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board). Their email addresses legally need to be published and they are required to assist residents with getting a response from the council.

What information might you ask?

Here is a template for emailing your local council:

Hi [sport lead/public health team]

I am xxx from xxx ultimate frisbee club which normally trains within the boundaries of xxx council. More information about Ultimate can be found here: <https://www.ukultimate.com/what>.

Within the context of COVID-19, we want to ensure our club members are able to stay safe and protect others across our community. To mitigate the risks associated with our club returning to play, we wanted to proactively establish links with local expert teams to support local outbreak prevention/management plans. We are following approved National Governing Body team sports guidance as outlined here: https://www.ukultimate.com/story/coronavirus_covid19_updates_so_far.

[Enter additional specific queries - e.g. regarding use of specific open spaces.]