

UKU Club Guidance - Covid-19 Club Preparation & Off-field Activity

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Introduction

This document outlines the general steps your Ultimate club needs to follow and implement in order to run modified training sessions and games. However, **this guidance MUST also be followed in conjunction with the restrictions outlined in the Return to Play Phase relevant to your local area, as well as any other applicable appendices.**

The Modifications During Training & Play (Phase B-C-D Details) guidance can be found [HERE](#).

The Scotland and Indoor Ultimate appendices links can be found [HERE](#).

Club Preparation

- You will need to appoint a [Covid-19 Officer](#).
 - Sportscotland has produced a more detailed role description and has provided an e-learning module for COVID officers available [here](#). This module is open, free and available to users outside Scotland.
 - Sport England & CIMPSA also provide a free, online training platform to help equip anyone working or volunteering in sport with the knowledge and skills to restart coaching activity in mind of covid-19. You can sign up as an individual [here](#).
- You must have a written Covid-19 Plan. This guidance document can be the starting point for your plan.
- You must have a club Covid-19 risk assessment ([template available from UK Ultimate](#)).
- You will need to understand and agree the procedures in place at the venue you are using. And you must make sure that your club members have a clear understanding of those procedures and agree to adhere to them.
- You must make sure participants understand and agree that they are opting in to participating as defined in the sport-specific guidance with regard to risk and risk mitigation. Your club's code of conduct or equivalent should be updated to provide the club with the powers to warn, suspend, and potentially permanently remove a player who refuses to adhere to the required measures.
- If your club wants to train in a public park you are strongly advised to [contact the relevant Local Authority](#) to check if there are any additional requirements or constraints.
- Some Ultimate clubs operate on a relatively informal basis, and some do not have any insurance for their club committee. We recommend that all clubs consider this question very carefully. UKU Club Affiliation includes liability insurance for the club committee.

Number of Participants

The number of permitted participants and related constraints varies significantly by location.

UKU guidance no longer includes a maximum number of participants in outdoor training or play. We note again, however, that there are locally-imposed restrictions that must be followed ([England](#), [N. Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#)).

The club must be responsible for understanding and implementing any additional constraints as they apply to the location of the training and the location of the participants if different. If an activity or participant is subject to conflicting constraints, they should adopt the strictest (most risk-averse) guidance.

We recommend that clubs remain particularly cautious regarding large groups. Remember that the club is also responsible for people before and after training and play. This off-pitch activity must be in line with legal gathering limits and other relevant restrictions.

Participants must also take care to follow relevant guidance regarding travel to and from any Ultimate sessions.

Contact Tracing

Containing outbreaks early is crucial to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect the NHS and save lives, and avoid the reintroduction of social and economic lockdown. This will support the country to return to, and maintain, a more normal way of life.

You must maintain a register of participants at each training event and retain the data for 21 days, except in England.

- We have created a template [online googleform](#), which has the advantage of time-stamping the submissions, and storing the data in a format that can be easily shared with “NHS Test & Trace” (England), “Test, Trace, Protect” (N.Ireland, Wales) or “Test and Protect” (Scotland). Please either copy and paste all of the text and details into your own form, or contact UKU (including an appropriate google account) if you would like us to share a copy with you.
- The form reminds participants of the COVID-19 symptoms, and other related reasons for staying at home. Everyone attending the session must confirm that they have reviewed the symptoms and are able to participate.
- The form also provides an option for participants to note their travel arrangements to/from training in case that information is requested by the relevant contact tracing authorities in that location.

Process

We suggest this is implemented as an online googleform as this is readily accessible on smartphones, and will automatically date-time-stamp the submissions. The form is designed to enable the club contact to share details with contact tracing authorities without needing to cross-reference with other club data. We advise that data management will be simpler if a new copy of the form is created for each training session.

Prior to the start of each training session a designated person should compare with participants that are physically in attendance. Nobody should be allowed to join the training session if they have not completed the form. Individuals that completed the form, but then did not attend should update their response accordingly.

Travel

Club Covid-19 Plans should include a process for encouraging participants to follow best practice. Guidance regarding local travel is likely to change, so participants must be responsible for understanding the latest government guidance as it applies to them and their location.

England: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)

N. Ireland: [Safer travel guidance for public transport users, walkers, cyclists, drivers](#)

Scotland: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local protection levels - gov.scot](#)

Wales: [Travelling safely during the coronavirus pandemic: guidance for the public \[HTML\]](#)

Arrival at, and leaving venues

As far as possible,

- participants should arrive changed and ready to begin
- avoid time spent congregating at venues before the activity begins
- participants should shower/change at home, and be encouraged to leave directly after the end of the activity.

Social Distancing

Spectators

Spectators should maintain a substantial distance from the activity and maintain social distance with other spectators. The club's plan should remind spectators that they may be subject to additional guidance about group gatherings.

No high-fives

The club plan should remind participants to avoid high-fives, shaking hands, huddles, etc.

Shouting

There is an additional risk of infection in close proximity situations where people are shouting or conversing loudly. This should be avoided when participants are close, and especially if face-to-face.

Hygiene

The club plan should remind participants to refrain from spitting, rinsing out their mouths or blowing their nose on or around the playing area. This also includes using clothing for cleaning face, mouth or nose areas.

Dealing with injuries

Your risk assessment should include consideration of how you will deal with an injury. If an injured player requires assistance, you should, if possible use gloves and face-coverings for the people that provide help as well as the injured person (if appropriate).

Equipment

Ultimate obviously involves throwing and catching discs. Inevitably this means that people are sharing contact with a plastic surface that cannot be cleaned between contacts. We recommend that players continue to clean discs if they are being used over an extended period, and in particular continue to clean their own hands regularly during breaks or during points for which they are off the field.

Other equipment must not be shared.

- Water Bottles should be labelled and absolutely must not be shared. Players who do not have their own drink should probably not be permitted to participate.
- Each participant should bring their own labelled hand sanitizer which should ideally not be shared.
- Cones should be handled as little as possible by as few people as possible.
- Where equipment is handled by more than one person they should wash their hands immediately afterwards.

Facility Usage

Clubs that are reliant on 3rd party facilities are required to agree guidelines for facility usage in advance, and should expect a plan that includes at least the following areas.

Movement on site

- Plans for separating entry and exit points
- Appropriate signage to support social distancing can be maintained across the venue
- Ensure that accessible provision are available

Changing rooms and showers

- Participants should arrive changed and should shower at home afterwards.
- Where facilities are available they should follow all the appropriate guidance on the use of indoor facilities.
- Where facilities are closed, exceptions may be made for reasons of safety or safeguarding.

Toilets

Toilets should be open before, during and after the activity. The usual steps that should be expected for safely managing provision of toilet facilities are outlined [here](#) and the venue provider should be familiar with these.

Clubhouses and hospitality

Venues must use clubhouses and hospitality facilities in line with the appropriate guidance for the location. Groups in such facilities must be restricted to the relevant constraints in terms of numbers and other social distancing measures. If facilities are closed, exceptions can and should be made if necessary for provision of first aid or accessing essential equipment.