

Internal Briefing Note



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RAF SPORT – RETURN TO PLAY ON DUTY 2 DEC 20

Following the Government announcement regarding the COVID-19 Winter Plan¹ and the promulgation of the revised Tier system² from 2 Dec 20, Head RAF Sport³ has agreed to the resumption of RAF Sport in England in accordance with the key points below. This is in further recognition of the value of sport and physical activity to the delivery of effect and the well-being of our personnel and is in line with the resumption of amateur sport in the wider community.

RAF Sport and unit level sport in the Devolved Administrations is subject to their own direction and guidance.

KEY POINTS

Head RAF Sport has agreed:

- RAF Sport can return to play at association and unit level in Tiers 1 and 2, iaw Government direction, National Governing Body (NGB) advice (re outdoor and indoor play, travel, etc.) and the respective RAF Sport association's safety and assurance regimes. Travel for sport between Tiers 1 and 2 is permitted.
- Unit level sport only is permitted within Tier 3, subject to HoE/C2 permissions and iaw Govt direction, NGB advice (re outdoor and indoor play, travel, etc.) and the respective RAF Sport association's safety and assurance regimes.
- DRS will provide ongoing review of the conditions for RAF Sport, at least in line with Govt review of the Tier system and in concert with the other Services.

BACKGROUND

The return of RAF Sport at association and unit level in England is compliant with the COVID-19 Winter Plan, emerging Sport England/NGB and Air guidance; it is also comparable with the other Services approach. Particular regard is to be taken in respect of the type of permitted activity in

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-winter-plan>

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know> and <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

³ AP3415, Lflit 5, para 5 - Head RAF Sport is responsible for policy for RAF association and unit level sport.

each Tier, including the use of indoor facilities (gyms/sports halls)⁴.

Sports that have been through their return to play protocol with DRS can continue as they were before lockdown, as per IBN 51/20⁵ (reproduced below). Those sports that have yet to return to play are to submit a draft admin order and COVID-19 specific risk assessment to DRS for review prior to authorisation, again as per IBN 51/20.

All activity remains subject to specific DRS or HoE authority and is to be within relative priorities and resources. As before, HoE and Line Management will be the arbiter for the release of personnel and use of the Defence Estate as venues.

From IBN 51/20, the protocol for RAF Sport associations to conduct on-duty fixture and events is:

- Chair/Responsible Person analysis of the ability to comply with and the feasibility of the NGB action plan in the Service context, which may include the use of novel (local, regional, virtual) and/or limited formats for competition and/or training but noting:
 - The practical restrictions of travel to and from venues.
 - The limited facilities available and constraints at venues, on or off the Defence Estate, including the inability to provide messing and accommodation on units.
- For some sports, hotels or suitable camping may be considered, where this is demonstrably COVID-compliant.
- In addition to the normal safety management processes (including an in-date 1st party audit review of the sport's Safety Management Plan), consideration of the management of play in terms of currency/recency of participants.
- The conduct of specific COVID-19 risk assessments for and away from play. The risk assessment should build on the NGB and HoE/venue assessments (and may cross-reference to both) but be in the format of the current RAF F7548 (Rev Jan 20)⁶.

Overseas Visits. This protocol does not apply to Overseas Visits (OV), authority for which will be considered separately in due course. Scoping for OVs may be conducted, without commitment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further advice can be obtained from:

Sports Delivery Manager – Aimée Elliot Aimee.Elliot103@mod.gov.uk

Sports Delivery Officer – Olivia Lade Olivia.Lade100@mod.gov.uk

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know> The tiers have different restrictions and any activity is required to adhere to the appropriate restrictions. A person travelling from a higher tier to a lower tier for sport is to remain compliant with the higher tier restrictions.

⁵ [IBN 51/20 RAF Sport Return to Play On Duty dated 28 Jul 20](#)

⁶ [AP8000 Lflt 8017 – RAF F7548 \(p 275\)](#)