

# Internal Briefing Note



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## **RAF SPORT – PATHWAY TO RESUMPTION**

### **ISSUE**

Following the release of the COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021<sup>1</sup> by the Govt, Head RAF Sport has agreed to the phased resumption of RAF Sport in line with 'The Roadmap Steps' in England. For Devolved Administrations separate direction and guidance will apply.

### **KEY POINTS**

The pathway for resumption of RAF Sport is outlined below. It is subject to COVID-Secure conduct iaw Govt, National Governing Body and Air direction and guidance at each stage and confirmation of the start date of each Step.

- **STEP 1 (Phase 2)** - 29 Mar 21 - Organised outdoor activity conducted off-duty for all Association and unit sport, iaw National Governing Body or other guidance and Head of Establishment permission.
- **STEP 2** - 12 Apr 21 - Permitted indoor activity for individuals/households only. No change for RAF Sport activity.
- **STEP 3** - 17 May 21 - All RAF Sport association and unit activity on duty permitted, to include RAF Championship scale of activity both indoor and outdoor iaw National Governing Body or other guidance and Head of Establishment permission.
- **STEP 4** - 21 Jun 21 - RAF Sport 'new normal' – RAF Championships, Inter-Service competition can continue/resume iaw National Governing Body or other guidance and Head of Establishment permission, including any remaining COVID-Secure requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963491/COVID-19\\_Response\\_-\\_Spring\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963491/COVID-19_Response_-_Spring_2021.pdf)

Before any physical activity in a RAF Sport association's name (off or on duty) is permitted, explicit Directorate RAF Sport (DRS) awareness or authority is required, as per the protocol below; virtual activity remains permitted as per IBN 04/21. The conduct of unit sport is a Chain of Command responsibility, normally in line with the association's safety regime.

## **BACKGROUND**

In the line with Steps given above the protocol for RAF Sport associations to conduct activity from 29 March-on is:

- Chair/RP analysis of the ability to comply with and the feasibility of the National Governing Body guidance in the Service context, which may include the use of novel (local, regional) and/or limited formats for competition and/or training 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 or elsewhere, initially at least.
- Completion of a 1 Party Audit of the sport's Safety Management Plan, to include consideration of the management of play/activity 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 both) but be in the format of the current RAF F7548 (Rev Jan 20).
- Production of a COVID-19 secure admin instruction/order which is to include an overview of the event, the RP's consideration of currency/recency requirements, the specific COVID-19 risk assessment accepted by the RP (any medium or higher risks will need to be elevated to Head RAF Sport) and an accurate nominal roll of all involved (on and off the field of play), in line with NHS Test and Trace procedures. A mechanism for updating the nominal roll at any event is to be in place.
- For off-duty activity DRS is to be made aware of association activity, for awareness. For on-duty association activity DRS authorisation is required, as normal. For unit activity it is up to the Head of Establishment as to what awareness or authorisation is required.

All activity is to be within relative priorities and resources. As before, Heads of Establishment and Line Management will be the authority the use for the Defence Estate and for release of personnel.

**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:

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