

To whom it may concern

Advice from Staffordshire County Council about Covid-19 compliance for sports clubs

Hello

Over the last two weeks, new laws and Government guidance have been introduced in response to the rise in Covid-19.

This includes the 'rule of 6' which limits people from different households to gatherings of no more than six people.

Sports and leisure activities remain important for the physical and mental health of our county and we want to ensure that residents have opportunities to stay active. We hope that by following the rules we can keep Staffordshire's sports clubs open and safe for our communities.

It is important to remember that the virus spreads from person to person when they are in close contact: the closer they are and the longer they are in contact the greater the opportunity for transmission. All sports clubs should try and limit the proximity and duration of contact between individuals. The virus also spreads through contamination of surfaces – so regular handwashing and cleaning of premises with an appropriate detergent is vital.

Updated rules for the sport and leisure sector include:

- Organised indoor team sport is no longer exempt from the rule of 6. This means that organised indoor team sport should only take place in groups of up to six people (unless an exemption applies). There is an exemption for indoor sport for people with disabilities, so this can continue in any number if undertaken in line with published COVID-secure guidance.
- Other organised indoor sport, including indoor exercise classes, can continue to take place with larger numbers present, provided that participants are in separate and distinct groups of up to six people (or larger discrete groups from the same household or support bubble) which do not mix with other groups.
- Organised outdoor team sport, outdoor exercise classes and outdoor licensed physical activity are still exempt from the rule of 6 and can happen in any number if undertaken in line with published COVID-secure guidance.
- All supervised activities for under-18s, including indoor and outdoor sports and exercise groups, are exempt (provided relevant guidance is followed and risk assessments carried out).

- Sports facilities such as gyms, leisure centres and sport clubs are not required to close from 10pm to 5am, however hospitality areas which sell food and drink (such as cafes and bars) must close at 10pm.
- Each club must only return to sport when they have the appropriate measures in place as developed by their governing body and general [government guidance in relation to recreational sport](#). All recreational clubs must develop a written Covid-19 plan and risk assessment prior to activity.
- Clubs must keep a record of customers, visitors and staff for 21 days and provide data to NHS Test and Trace if requested

Full guidance and advice can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/return-to-recreational-team-sport-framework> and on the websites of the appropriate governing body.

Additional advice and FAQs [can be found on the Sport England website](#).

If you need local support and guidance, you can contact [Together Active](#) at hello@togetheractive.org

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Harling, Director for Health and Care

Dr Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing