



ECB COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR CRICKET INDOORS IN ENGLAND UPDATE 4 | APRIL 2021

IMPORTANT UPDATE

In England restrictions continue to relax in line with the Government's Roadmap Out of Lockdown. We must continue to conduct cricket activities in a COVID-19 safe manner.

At Step 2 (12th April) indoor sport facilities may open to the public with some restrictions:

- Indoor sport facilities can only be used for individual activity or for activities by people from the same household (or support/childcare bubble). Personal training and coaching can take place either 1:1 or within households/bubbles - social distancing should be maintained between coaches and participants at all times. Group cricket activities are not otherwise permitted for adults.
- People with disabilities can use indoor facilities for individual sport activities as well as organised sport in any number. This does not have to be between people from the same household/bubble.
- All U18s can take part in indoor childcare and supervised activities, including sport and physical activity (such as community sport clubs) subject to restrictions on size of group as set out in the [out-of-school settings guidance](#) – as at the date of publication of this guidance, the out-of-school settings guidance states that if it is not possible to group children in the same bubble as they are in during the school day, organisers should try to keep them in consistent groups of no more than 15 children and at least one staff member.
- Parent and child groups can also take place indoors and outdoors with a limit of 15 attendees (children under five years of age do not count towards the attendee limit).
- Indoor organised sport is permitted where it is part of formal education, and can take place indoors if necessary, but outdoor provision should be prioritised. You can find more information in the Department for Education guidance on actions for schools. Pupils should be kept in consistent groups, with sports equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups.
- Participants should turn up in their kit ready to play / train, carry out their activity and then travel home in their kit and shower at home because changing rooms are areas of increased

risk. Changing rooms should only be used where absolutely necessary and only for the minimum time possible.

- Guests using indoor sport facilities must adhere to the rules on social contact. People should not mix with others they do not live with (or share a relevant bubble with) indoors, unless an exemption applies.
- Indoor cricket activity must adhere to the rules on social distancing.

From 12 April 2021, UK Government restrictions on indoor sport facilities in England are as follows:

	Adults	Youth (U18*) & Disability & Educational purposes	Spectators
Indoor Sports	<p>Indoor sport facilities can be used for individual activity or for activities by people from the same household (or support/childcare bubble)</p> <p>Coaching and personal training is permitted indoors on a 1:1 basis or within households/bubbles. Social distancing should be maintained between coaches and participants at all times.</p> <p>Other group activities are not permitted for adults indoors.</p>	<p>People with disabilities can use indoor facilities for individual sport activities as well as organised sport in any number (subject to COVID-19 risk assessment). This does not have to be between people from the same household/bubble.</p> <p>All U18s can take part in indoor childcare and supervised activities, including sport and physical activity (such as community sport clubs) subject to restrictions on size of group as set out in the out-of-school settings guidance – the out-of-school settings guidance currently states that if it is not possible to group children in the same bubble as they are in during the school day, organisers should try to keep them in consistent groups of no more than 15 children and at least one staff member.</p> <p>Parent and child groups can also take place indoors and outdoors with a limit of 15 attendees (children under five years of age do not count towards the attendee limit.)</p> <p>Indoor organised sport is permitted where it is part of formal education, and can take place indoors if necessary, but outdoor provision should be prioritised. You can find more information in the Department for Education guidance on</p>	<p>Spectators are not permitted at indoor venues other than adults needed to supervise U18s that they have a responsibility for, or providing care or assistance to a person with disabilities participating in an organised sporting event or activity. They should maintain social distancing and not mix with other households.</p>

		actions for schools. Pupils should be kept in consistent groups, with sports equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups.	
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* The UK Government’s definition of U18 includes young people who were under 18 on 31 August 2020, even if they turn 18 during the remainder of the academic year.

1. Travelling to the venue
 - a. Always check that it is safe to travel before you set out to take part in cricket.
 - b. You should minimise travel wherever possible, but you can travel within England to take part in informal and organised cricket, where necessary. You should not stay away from home overnight for cricket.
 - c. You can find more information in the government [guidance on safer travel](#).

2. A summary of what indoor cricket activity is permitted in England for different organisations is shown in the table on the next page. The table must be read in conjunction with the rest of this guidance document – it should not be read or interpreted in isolation or as a standalone document.

3. Face coverings for indoor cricket facilities
 - a. People are not required to wear face coverings while taking part in sport and physical activity. All forms of face coverings may restrict breathing efficiency and should not be used during exercise except on specific advice from a physician.
 - b. Visitors are not required to wear face coverings in sport facilities, however they should be encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public areas when not engaging in sport or physical activity.
 - c. Staff are not required to wear face coverings in sport facilities, however you should encourage them to be worn to protect staff and customers. You should support your workers if they choose to wear face coverings.
 - d. However, face coverings may be required in specific areas. If your facility contains retail or hospitality areas (such as a shop, cafe or bar), face coverings must be worn by staff and visitors in public-facing roles. If this applies to your facility, you are required to remind customers to wear face coverings where they are required (for example, displaying notices outside and inside a cafe area).
 - e. Staff in close-contact services are required to wear a face covering and a visor when open. See the section on PPE for more information.

4. Venues must also display an NHS QR Code Poster (physically or electronically) – see [here](#) for details on how to register and create your NHS QR code poster. Once you have produced and displayed your poster, you then need to get visitors to scan the NHS QR code when they arrive at your venue using the NHS COVID-19 app. Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system.

5. ECB guidance on supervision and coaching ratios for supervised children’s activity should be maintained (with social distancing) - please note that the tables below set out the maximum number of participants per adult/activator/coach. Where your risk assessment determines that reduced participant numbers are required due to space restrictions for example, you must reduce the number of participants accordingly:

Supervision ratios must be adhered to as a minimum for clubs/activity providers looking after groups of children:

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Other considerations</i>
8 and under	1	8	for single gender groups, there must be at least one same gender supervising adult. For mixed groups there must be at least one male and one female supervising adult.
9 and over	1	10	

Recommended qualified coach/activator to participant ratios:

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Activator/Coach</i>	<i>Participants</i>
National programmes (All Stars and Dynamos)	1 Activator	24
Softball practice	1 Coach	24
Hardball practice (not in nets)	1 Coach	16
Net practice	1 Coach	8

INDOOR CRICKET PERMITTED ACTIVITY (IN ENGLAND)										
Organisati on	Club & Community Cricket County Cricket National Counties		First Class Counties & Regional Women's Cricket			Internation al	Disability Cricket	Schools ^[3] & Universities ^[6] (as part of a formal curriculum)		Coach Education
	Pathway	Academy	Senior	Education	Workplace Guidance ^[7]					
Relevant COVID framework	Recreational (has been playing cricket indoors following ECB recreational game guidance)			Elite ^[5] (training and playing cricket following the Government Elite Sport Return to Training and Competition guidance and ECB Medical guidance)			Elite ^[5] and Recreational ^[3]	Education		Workplace Guidance ^[7]
Age group	Youth (U18) ^{[2] [3]}	Adult (18+)	Youth (U18) ^{[2] [3]}	U18 & 18+	All Ages	All Ages	All Ages	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	All Ages
Step 2 ^[1]	✓	✗ (only permitted solo or with individuals from same household or support bubble) ^[4]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes:

- Step number refers to the UK [Government Roadmap out of Lockdown](#).
- The UK Government's definition of U18 includes young people who were under 18 on 31 August 2020, even if they turn 18 during the remainder of the academic year. This means that references to U18 now align with sports age groups as they are normally defined.
- There are exemptions for indoor disability sport, supervised sport and physical activity for Youths (U18s), and sport for educational purposes (within the curriculum) - this means that these can take place with larger groups mixing. Please note that the exemption for supervised indoor sport for Youths (U18) only applies where the whole group falls within the Government's definition of U18 - if an adult (aged 18 or over on 31 August 2020) takes part in supervised indoor sport alongside youths (U18), the exemption will not apply and the relevant guidance in respect of Adults (18+) must be followed by all participants.
- Indoor cricket facilities can only be used for individual activity or for activities by people from the same household (or support/childcare bubble). Coaching can take place either 1:1 or within households/bubbles- social distancing should be maintained between coaches and participants at all times. Group activities are not otherwise permitted for adults.
- For the purposes of COVID guidance, elite athletes are defined in the UK Government Elite sport return to training guidance: Stage One document. Indoor training and competition for elite athletes should be carried out in full accordance with the relevant Government guidance for elite sport return to training and competition (in particular Stage Two training guidance).
- Cricket for the purpose of education (as part of a formal curriculum) is exempt from legal gathering limits. However, this does not cover extra-curricular cricket for adults (such as playing for a college or university team) so these activities must follow the wider restrictions applicable at Step 2.
- Coach education can continue in line with the work exemption where this cannot be done from home.

For the latest UK Government guidance and support, on sport please visit:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers>
- <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play/frequently-asked-questions-return-sport-and-activity>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities>

SUMMARY

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has updated guidelines for cricket indoors. The purpose of these guidelines is to offer practical guidance to venues, coaching providers and clubs on the steps they should take while undertaking cricket indoors. They should be read in conjunction with latest UK Government regulations.

There are adaptations in place for all, including venues, coaching providers, players, parents/carers, spectators and officials. Those adaptations relate to activity prior to, during and after cricket activity.

A summary of the adaptations is listed below but please read the full guidance for comprehensive details.

Venues:

- Carry out a COVID-19 Risk assessment, act on it, communicate it, publish it.
- Include ventilation, occupancy, social distancing and cleaning as a minimum.
- The restrictions on what size of group is permitted for indoor cricket activity varies see the 'Permitted Group Sizes' section of this document below.
- Follow the [Government guidance for sport facilities](#), which sets out measures on cleaning as well as capacity limits and ventilation requirements.
- Implement and communicate control measures.
- H&S, First Aid, Safeguarding and Access legislation and requirements remain in place.
- Continually review and update.
- Provide an NHS QR Code for your venue.

Coaching Providers and Clubs:

- Carry out a COVID-19 Risk assessment, act on it, communicate it, publish it.
- Check venues when you hire them.
- Plan and adapt your coaching activity to be COVID-19 compliant – remember the restrictions on what size of group is permitted for indoor cricket activity varies see the 'Permitted Group Sizes' section of this document below.
- Indoor cricket activity must adhere to the rules on social distancing.
- Plan and adapt pre-session and post-session processes to be COVID-19 compliant (including NHS Test & Trace requirements).
- Allow time for handover between sessions.
- H&S, First Aid, Safeguarding and Access legislation and requirements remain in place.
- Provide an NHS QR Code for your activity or club.

Participants:

- Enjoy your cricket and enjoy it safely.
- Cricket indoors is different from normal under COVID-19 and different from outdoor cricket under COVID-19, but everything will be explained to you – just follow guidance from your coaching provider or club.
- Individuals should undergo a personal symptom check prior to all activity and not take part if they demonstrate any COVID-19 symptoms.
- People with health conditions that put them at increased risk should consider the risks of participating in cricket activity.
- You must scan the venue's NHS QR Code with the NHS COVID-19 app on arrival or provide contact details for NHS Test and Trace (this can be supplied when pre-booking).
- Arrive at the venue changed and ready to play, and shower at home. While changing facilities can be opened from 12 April, their use is discouraged. If you do need to use

changing rooms, minimise the time spent inside. You should comply with social distancing requirements at all times.

- Players should minimise handling of the ball in all activity, by limiting contact as it makes its way back to the bowler and using small groups in training.
- No sweat or saliva should be added to the ball at any time.
- Limit the sharing of equipment where possible. Where not possible, practise strict hand and equipment cleaning.
- If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact your coaching provider or club.

To support delivery of cricket indoors we have provided checklists for venue operators and coaching providers and clubs and a risk assessment template. All of these documents can be accessed in the ECB Resource Hub [here](#).

INTRODUCTION

This document aims to help coaches, clubs and participants to carry on playing cricket indoors safely and in a compliant manner. The intention of this guide is to support venues, coaching providers and clubs to deliver cricket activity indoors in accordance with the [UK Government Guidance on indoor sport](#) and [Grassroots sports guidance for the public and sport providers](#). It has been aligned with guidance provided by Sport England and we thank them for their support in doing that.

Please note that the Government guidance is detailed and must be followed. When planning to open your facility or to run a coaching activity you must read the Government guidance at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers>
- <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play/frequently-asked-questions-return-sport-and-activity>

This document supports the application of the Government guidance for indoor sport in a cricket context – it is not a substitute for the Government guidance and should not be used as such.

The restrictions on what size of group is permitted for indoor cricket activity varies based on the nature of the activity (see the 'Permitted Group Sizes' section below).

In England, you are required by law to wear a face covering in certain indoor settings (see [here](#)), including premises providing hospitality (except when seated at a table to eat or drink). This does not currently include gyms, leisure centres and other sport facilities, however, when not engaging in sport and physical activity visitors should be encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public areas.

Staff are not required to wear face coverings in sport facilities, however you should encourage them to be worn to protect staff and customers. You should support your workers if they choose to wear face coverings.

However, face coverings may be required in specific areas. If your facility contains retail or hospitality areas (such as a shop, cafe or bar), face coverings must be worn by staff and visitors in public-facing roles. If this applies to your facility, you are required to remind customers to wear face coverings where they are required (for example, displaying notices outside and inside a cafe area).

Staff in close-contact services are required to wear a face covering and a visor when open. Please note that there are different requirements for hospitality and other social facilities within indoor sports centres such as restaurants, cafes and bars, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>.

There is no legal obligation for venues and clubs to open their facilities and they should only open if they are ready to do so and can do so safely, following requirements as laid down in the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and following Public Health guidance.

Venues, coaching providers and clubs that are opening and using indoor facilities should also be aware that Government guidance and this guidance document is subject to change. Further advice is available at the gov.uk and Sport England websites. You must regularly check these websites and updated ECB guidance as this policy position may change and could also become more regionalised and localised over time.

PERMITTED GROUP SIZES

Adults

Organised indoor sport for adults should not take place unless with the same household or bubble.

Adult 1:1 coaching is restricted to one player and one coach.

Children (U18)

All children (U18s) can take part in indoor childcare and supervised activities, including sport and physical activity (such as community sport clubs) subject to restrictions on size of group as set out in the [out-of-school settings guidance](#). As at the date of publication of this guidance, the out-of-school settings guidance states that if it is not possible to group children in the same bubble as they are in during the school day, organisers should try to keep them in consistent groups of no more than 15 children and at least one staff member.

The UK Government's definition of U18 includes young people who were under 18 on 31 August 2020, even if they turn 18 during the remainder of the academic year. This means that references to U18 align with sports age groups as they are normally defined.

Disability Cricket

There is an exemption for disabled people participating in indoor sport - people with disabilities can use indoor facilities for individual sport activities as well as organised sport in any number, subject to a satisfactory COVID-19 venue risk assessment. This does not have to be between people from the same household. Social distancing should be maintained at 2 m wherever possible.

Non-disabled people are not permitted to participate indoors under this exemption, except where necessary to enable the activity to take place (such as a carer or coach helping the disabled person to exercise).

Elite Cricket

Elite training and competition following the relevant UK Government [Elite Sport Return to Training and Competition Guidance](#). For the purposes of COVID guidance, elite athletes are defined in the UK Government Elite sport return to training guidance: Stage One document. Indoor training and competition for elite cricketers should be carried out in full accordance with the relevant

Government guidance for elite sport return to training and competition (in particular Stage Two training guidance).

Match officials, medics and coaches

Match officials, medics and coaches should observe the relevant guidance in the same way as participants. Where legal gathering limits (group size restrictions) apply, people participating in a work or volunteering capacity (such as match officials, medics and coaches) are exempt and therefore not included in the number of participants. However, they must remain socially distanced from players where possible during play.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

To help make your indoor cricket activity successful and safe, it is important that both the venue owner/operator and the coaching provider / club consider all aspects of the venue and activities. It is recommended that you consider all visitors to your venue, including coaches, employees, volunteers, participants and their parents/carers when preparing your venue and planning your session. It is also important that you communicate your intentions in a timely manner to ensure the venue is safe for use and all attendees are adequately prepared in advance in line with current COVID-19 guidelines.

This guidance is in three parts:

1. Guidance for Venue Operators (this could be the venue owner).
2. Guidance for Coaching Providers and Clubs.
3. Guidance for Participants, Parents and Carers.

Some cricket organisations will be both the Venue Operator and the Coaching Provider / Club, but the majority will be a Coaching Provider or Club using a third-party venue. Whatever the circumstances, we strongly recommend that you read all sections so that you have a full understanding of guidance for both Venue Operators, and Coaching Providers and Clubs to help ensure that your coaching activity is compliant with Government guidance and minimises the risk of COVID-19 transmission. All groups have responsibilities for delivering safe activities but venue operators have the responsibility to provide a safe venue, and coaching providers and clubs to provide safe activity in that venue – therefore there needs to be good communication and clear understanding of how these responsibilities are going to be met by the venue, coaching providers and clubs.

We have provided three accompanying documents to help you with this guidance:

1. A checklist for venues to help you work through what you need to put in place and what you need to consider as a Venue Operator can be found [here](#).
2. A checklist for Coaching Providers and Clubs to help you work through what you need to put in place and what you need to consider as a Coaching Provider or Club can be found [here](#).
3. A risk assessment template that you can use to record your risk assessment of both the venue and the coaching/training/playing activity can be found [here](#).

PART 1: THE VENUE

Venues play a critical role in providing safe places for cricket to take place indoors. Venue owners and operators have a duty to reduce workplace risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level by

taking preventative measures. Venues must work with any other employers or contractors sharing the workplace so that everybody's health and safety is protected. In the context of COVID-19 this means protecting the health and safety of your workers/volunteers and customers by working through the following steps.

Risk Assessment

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Government guidance for people who work in grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities require you to risk assess your activities and to share the results of your risk assessment with your employees. A risk assessment must be conducted to understand the hazards and measure risks posed by your venue to those using it. The risk assessment must address and suitably and sufficiently control the risk of COVID-19.

It is recommended that a risk assessment is done at an early stage in your planning as this will give you sufficient time to put mitigating controls in place. Once complete, it is recommended that you review it prior to your first event and re-assess it at subsequent events.

The risk assessment should:

- Identify the hazards, who might be harmed and how.
- Assess the level of risk.
- Identify suitable controls.
- Be recorded in writing (if you have 5 or more employees).
- Review controls, as and when required.

We have provided an example of a risk assessment template that you can use for your venue and/or coaching activity [here](#).

Once you have completed your risk assessment and developed your control measures you should:

- Implement the control measures.
- Communicate your risk assessment and its findings to your staff, contractors and visitors.
- Communicate your risk assessment, control measures and other requirements to those hiring your facility (including Coaching Providers and Clubs).
- Keep a record on file but continually review and update the risk assessment as circumstances change.
- The UK Government expects companies in England employing more than 50 people to publish the findings of their risk assessment on their website.
- Share your risk assessment and control measures with your insurer or their representative to confirm that your insurance cover conditions have been met and your insurance is valid.

Ventilation

Ventilation is an important part of mitigation against the transmission of COVID-19. When ventilation is poor, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 increases because the number of pathogens can build up over time. A continuous or regular circulation of air with fresh air from outside is important. The aim should be to make the indoor environment 'as outdoors as possible'.

Ventilation into the building should be optimised to ensure a fresh air supply is provided to all areas of the facility and increased wherever possible. Particular attention should be given to the areas where high intensity exercise activity takes place.

To achieve this, specific measures should be implemented:

- The maximum occupancy of each indoor facility should be limited by providing a minimum of 9.29 m² (100 sq ft) per person. For this figure, the area is the net useable indoor facility space available to individuals to use, including changing rooms, toilet and wash facilities. Reducing capacity in this way whilst sustaining ventilation flows, will increase the typical current 10 L/s/p flow rate of ventilation to at least 20 L/s/p, as fewer people are being served by the ventilation system.
- Ventilation systems should provide 100% fresh air and not recirculate air from one space to another.
- Venues should take into account capacity limits and consider how to manage visitors, for example, reducing group sizes and amending timetabling to avoid crowding between activities or people waiting in groups.

Venues should also consider:

- Increasing the existing ventilation rate by fully opening dampers and running fans on full speed.
- Operating the ventilation system 24 hours a day.
- Increasing the frequency of filter changes.
- Using natural ventilation - open external doors and windows to maximise air flow.
- Opening internal doors to increase circulation (excluding fire doors unless on an automated fire door holder system).

Further guidance is provided in the CIBSE COVID-19 Ventilation guidance [here](#).

Where you are using natural ventilation methods (opening doors and windows) in winter periods you should also consider:

- Thermal comfort of users.
- The ability of your heating system to manage changes in temperature (fan air heating systems will be more effective at increasing temperature quickly than under-floor or radiating heating systems).
- Management of wet weather and slip / electrical hazard.
- Management of condensation and slip hazard.
- Control of noise pollution from the sports hall to surrounding premises.
- The security of the facility.
- The safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons whilst external doors are open.
- The risk of collisions, falls and ball escape when doors are open.
- Seasonal variation in temperature and weather will mean that a natural ventilation strategy must be kept under constant review.

Care should be taken when using school assembly halls, village halls and other non-sports hall facilities to ensure that there is sufficient ventilation as these are often not mechanically ventilated to sports hall standards. Effective natural ventilation will be important.

If you are in any doubt, then you should employ a specialist ventilation engineer to make an assessment and recommendations.

Social distancing: occupancy and circulation

When at the venue, everyone should comply with the social distancing guidelines set out by the Government. As the venue owner/manager, plans need to be put in place to facilitate this. Additional detail on social distancing and sports at grassroots and community level can be found [here](#).

Social distancing should be maintained between all users of facilities including individuals, groups, teams, teachers, trainers and coaches unless users come from the same household/support bubble or to manage needs on account of a disability when additional mitigation will be essential.

Participation in activities should be limited to the group sizes detailed in the 'Permitted Group Sizes' section of this document. These additional restrictions do not apply to organised activity for people with disabilities, which can continue in any number.

Please note that there are different requirements for hospitality and other social facilities within indoor sports centres such as restaurants, cafes and bars, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>.

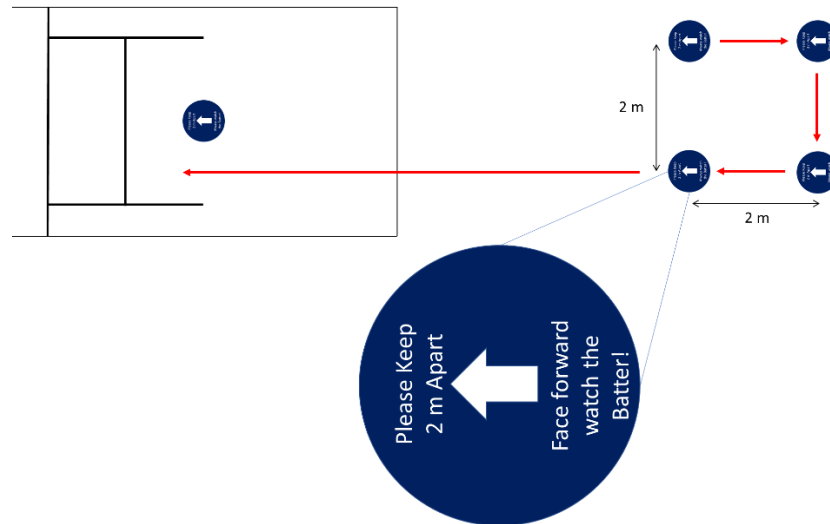
Cricket Nets

A typical net set-up comprises a coach, a batter and a number of bowlers actively bowling or waiting to bowl. It is important that the coach and all bowlers are aware of the ball being hit straight back down the net towards them to avoid injury. Therefore, the following principles for determining safe occupancy should be considered: social distancing, maintaining a safe reaction distance from the batter and safe ventilation so that participants are not standing around face-to-face in the same air.

The principles for determining safe occupancy in indoor cricket nets are:

Organised indoor cricket should only take place within the group size limits (see the 'Permitted Group Sizes' section above).

- Organised indoor cricket activity for adults should not take place unless all participants are from the same household or bubble.
- All users should be socially distanced at 2 m (because all forms of face coverings may restrict breathing efficiency and should not be used during exercise except on specific advice from a physician, so 1 m+ does not apply).
- Queuing bowlers should maximise their distance from the batter to allow sufficient reaction time to balls hit out of the net.
- Participants need to maintain 2 m social distancing with participants in adjacent nets and in surrounding spaces.
- All players within a net should be facing the batter – this is so that they can react appropriately to a ball hit out of the net and so that the bowlers are facing in the same direction, reducing the risk of face-to-face transmission.
- Floor signage and reminder signage should be used to inform participants of socially distanced waiting locations and the direction in which they should face (for example 2 m spaced arrows).



We have provided example layouts [here](#) for:

1. A seven-lane specialist indoor cricket centre.
2. A typical four-badminton-court sports hall with four net lanes.
3. A typical four-badminton-court sports hall with two net lanes.

Please note that these layouts are for illustrative purposes only and need to be risk assessed for each particular site.

Open Plan (including school assembly and other halls where ventilation is appropriate)

Adult activity can only take place where participants are from the same household / support bubble. There should be a physical separation, such as a net, between different households/ support bubbles so that interaction among households and support bubbles cannot take place.

Indoor Cricket Matches

Indoor cricket matches for adults can only take place in groups of people from the same household (or support/childcare bubble).

Where group size limits do not apply (Disability Cricket, Elite Sport) and/or the permitted group size allows (e.g. for U18s), then indoor cricket matches can take place, provided relevant guidance is followed and risk assessments are carried out in respect of the venue at which they will take place.

Each risk assessment will be different but when considering whether indoor cricket matches can take place in your venue you should:

- Consider group size limits and restrictions on households mixing (see 'Permitted Group Sizes' section above).
- Determine whether social distancing can be maintained in the space available and adjust playing numbers downwards, if necessary.
- Ensure that there is sufficient ventilation.
- Avoid close contacts (within 2 m) during game play.
- Avoid shouting, calling loudly etc. as this increases the risk of transmission.

- For all nets, including indoor cricket played inside a tensioned net – consider how player entrance and exit can be facilitated without breaking social distancing and without creating common touch points at the net entrance (this could include high frequency cleaning and using elbows, backs of cricket-gloved hands etc to minimise touching with the palm of the hand).
- Do not share worn equipment such as helmets and gloves. Ideally participants should use their own bat – where shared bats are used, they should be sanitised between users.
- Hygiene breaks should be built into match play (for example every 4 overs) to sanitise all players' hands and the ball, with a maximum time of 20 minutes between hygiene breaks.
- A keeper should maintain 2 m social distancing and not stand up; social distancing at 1 m+ is not appropriate because the batter should not be wearing a face covering unless advised by a physician because of the level of activity required and the encounter could be prolonged.
- Risk assess the location of match officials. Where 2 m social distancing cannot be maintained between match officials and players 1 m+ social distancing can be observed if a match official is wearing a face covering and/or visor. There should be no encounters within 1 m.
- Batters must run at a distance of 2 m from each other and the fielders.

Bag storage and padding-up

We recognise that there may be a need to provide safe areas for bag storage and padding-up whether this is within the sports hall or within separate areas outside the hall. These areas should:

- Allow for social distancing of 2 m.
- Comply with the group size restrictions (please see 'Permitted Group Sizes' section above for details).
- Be safe from ball strike for the person padding- up, where you are using net lanes or areas between nets allow a sufficient safety margin from the net to allow for movement of the net when a ball is hit hard into the net – this will need to be assessed site-by-site because of differing net specifications.
- Not cause a trip hazard to activity in the sports hall.
- Not obstruct any circulation route and especially an emergency (fire) escape route.
- Not obstruct circulation for people using wheelchairs.
- Consider the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons.
- Be cleaned between bookings.

Classrooms and Coach Education

Risk assess classroom use carefully. Social distancing and ventilation requirements apply in this environment too. This will tend to reduce the capacity of classrooms because of desk spacing and circulation of people around and into and out of the classroom.

Look to see whether classroom activity can be brought into the sports hall where social distancing, circulation and ventilation are easier to facilitate.

Coach development courses (including active training, nets and classroom activity) are exempt from group size limits because they are covered by the training exemption, as long as the venue is COVID-19 Secure.

Strength and Conditioning Facilities

Strength and Conditioning (S&C) facilities should be risk assessed in the same way for social distancing and ventilation and appropriate control measures should be put in place. Cleaning of equipment between users is essential and this must be risk assessed carefully in full compliance with the Government guidance. It could be that S&C facilities need to be relocated from their normal location or not used and alternative, compliant provision sourced elsewhere. Group size restrictions must be adhered to, where applicable (please see 'Permitted Group Sizes' section above for details).

Circulation in the building

Consider how social distancing and the group size limits (where applicable) can be implemented and controlled – look at potential pinch points and workarounds, one-way systems (including entrances and exits), screens, floor markings and PPE requirements. Identify an operational protocol, communication and compliance plan (use illustrated site plans, signage and other control measures as required).

Look at whether you can use a one-way system with different entrances and exits. Where you are using sports hall doors for ingress/egress and ventilation, weather protection could be required.

Where you are changing circulation routes, consider access for disabled people, including people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.

Cleaning

If your facility has been in lockdown for some time, undertaking a deep clean of your facilities will ensure that you have a good base level of hygiene to work with and a clean and safe environment for all users. This is often referred to as an 'initial deep clean'. Plan to undertake this as soon as practicable after entering a building that has been temporarily closed.

Cleaning methods and cleaning products should follow Government advice on cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside the home available [here](#).

Formulate a cleaning plan that states:

- What should be cleaned and when – this should include areas of the building, frequent touch points and playing equipment such as bowling machines, stumps etc.
- Who is responsible for cleaning each area.
- Any special cleaning requirements i.e. deep clean.
- A schedule of frequent touch points and how frequently they should be cleaned.
- The provision of visible records of cleaning e.g. a toilet cleaning schedule.

On-going cleaning regimes will need to be more frequent, with a thorough clean of all contact surfaces and touch point cleaning between the end of one session and prior to the next session commencing.

It really helps to minimise unnecessary furniture, objects and fittings to limit the number of items that need to be cleaned or moved during cleaning – this can help to speed up the cleaning process.

Participants should turn up in their kit ready to play / train, carry out their activity and then travel home in their kit and shower at home because changing rooms are areas of increased risk. Changing rooms should only be used where absolutely necessary and only for the minimum time possible. Users must avoid mixing between groups or households and maintain social distancing.

Team talks/briefings and other gatherings should not take place in changing rooms under any circumstances.

Facility operators should follow government guidance to ensure these facilities operate safely, including advice on cleaning and ventilation.

Where use of such facilities is limited, you should ensure access is maintained for people with disabilities.

Legionella

Water Systems – Legionella bacteria can cause an outbreak of Legionnaire’s Disease. These bacteria thrive in stagnant water at tepid temperatures. If your facility has been out of use for a significant period water contained within could have become stagnant and could be contaminated with the legionella bacteria.

Water systems need to be treated with particular caution following a period of closure due to the risk of legionella bacteria developing in stagnant water. Unless your systems have been flushed on a weekly basis and a normal cleaning regime has been in place, particular care should be taken to disinfect them prior to opening.

It is essential to have a ‘competent person’ overseeing any work on water systems. If you are in any doubt, consult a suitably qualified specialist.

Further advice can be found at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/>

Toilets

Toilets should be checked and cleaned regularly with signage in place to remind people of essential hygiene practice.

Assess the safe number of occupants for each toilet facility – this could be based on the use of every cubicle but every other urinal, but is often determined by social distancing and safe circulation around the wash-basin area – queues within toilet areas should be avoided. Set a maximum occupancy for the toilet facility and communicate this with appropriate signage.

You should consider the use of social distancing markings and the adoption of a limited entry approach, with 1 in, 1 out (whilst avoiding the creation of additional bottlenecks).

The ventilation of toilets is important to limit the spread of aerosols that could carry the virus. Where possible, mechanical ventilation should be used to create a negative pressure in the toilet area to suck air out – be careful with opening windows that this direction of flow is not reversed and aerosols from the flushing of lavatories are minimised. Encourage users to flush lavatories with the lid closed where possible.

To facilitate good hand hygiene, you should consider making hand sanitiser available on entry to toilets (where safe and practical) and ensure suitable handwashing facilities, including running water and liquid soap are available.

Disposable paper towels are preferred to mechanical hand driers for hand drying – safe waste management must be considered.

Hand cleaning

Hand washing with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds is the recommended method for cleaning hands and reducing COVID-19 virus transmission. However, to avoid long, socially distanced queues for sinks, frequent hand sanitising gel with a minimum alcohol content of 60% is a convenient and effective method for reducing transmission.

Assess where people on site will need to sanitise their hands and ensure sufficient sanitiser is available – for example:

- At registration desks
- On entering/exiting buildings.
- Areas of concentrated use including the sports hall.
- Common contact/touch points.
- In player waiting areas particularly where players will be eating/drinking
- Toilets.

Make sure that you have a sufficient supply of sanitiser to meet demand – plan and evaluate after your first opening to gauge required stock levels.

First Aid

As part of your duty of care you must make first aid provision available. St John Ambulance have provided an online guide for carrying out first aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, including on how to modify CPR – let your first aiders know about it – it's available [here](#).

Make sure that even if parts of your building are restricted that the following are available to all users:

- Your First Aid kit(s) – including suitable PPE (gloves, suitable face coverings/masks, disposable apron, hand sanitiser) and that you have somewhere safe to dispose of this PPE once used.
- Your Automated External Defibrillator (AED) if you have one – check that it is functioning properly (e.g. warning light status) and has been serviced as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Note that providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm (such as administering first aid) are exempt from group size restrictions.

COVID-19 Cases on site / Symptomatic Persons

Every individual planning to attend the venue should undergo self-screening to ensure they are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 before coming to the venue. However, if someone starts to show symptoms whilst they are at the venue – have a plan for dealing with this scenario:

- Maintain social distancing and comply with applicable group size restrictions but note that providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm are exempt from group size restrictions.
- If the person is able to travel home safely, they should travel home and manage their symptoms in accordance with Government guidance.

- Identify a suitable isolation area and maintain this as part of your plan – it should be located to provide easy entry and exit from the facility and should have easily cleaned furnishings and fittings.
- If the person is too unwell to travel home safely, they should be isolated from everyone else and someone from their household contacted to make safe arrangements – if that is not possible then phone 111 and follow instructions.
- Make sure that the isolation area is well ventilated and then cleaned carefully using suitable cleaning products and PPE in accordance with [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

Treatment Rooms (where applicable)

Physiotherapy and other treatment rooms should be risk assessed to ensure that social distancing is achievable and ventilation is suitable. All treatment rooms will need to be cleaned to the relevant Government/Public Health England cleaning standard between individual sessions.

It may be necessary to relocate treatment rooms if existing rooms are risk assessed and found to be unsuitable. When relocating, consider the ease with which surfaces can be cleaned and privacy requirements as well as COVID-19 risk factors such as social distancing and ventilation.

Existing and alternative treatment room provision must be accessible to disabled people.

Spectators

Spectators are not permitted at indoor venues other than adults needed to supervise under-18s that they have a responsibility for, or providing care or assistance to a person with disabilities participating in an organised sporting event or activity. They should maintain social distance and not mix with other households.

It is important that spectators adhere to these limits; in addition to being legal requirements punishable by fines, those violating the measures are endangering public safety and undermining the case for safe sport to be allowed to take place.

If spectators do not follow these legal requirements, the club or provider can ask them to leave or not to attend again.

There is an additional risk of infection where people are shouting or singing in close proximity to others (particularly indoors and when face-to face). Where spectators are permitted, they should minimise shouting or raising their voices.

Where spectators are permitted, they should follow applicable group size restrictions and guidance on social distancing and face coverings. Viewing areas will also need to be cleaned between sessions. Where these COVID mitigation controls cannot be met, viewing areas should not be used. In cases where a child is participating in activities, consider permitting only one parent/carer per child to supervise their child while following social distancing.

Cafés

Where Cafés are used these must be risk assessed and operated in compliance with government guidance on restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services. In England see [here](#).

Registration and entry

Under the requirements of NHS Test and Trace you are required by law to collect and maintain temporary records of the contact details for your members, customers, staff and visitors for 21 days. Details on how to do this are available [here](#) and [here](#) (you should read both parts; the guidance includes important information on privacy and the security of information and also the fines for non-compliance).

You should also read important information from the Information Commissioner's Office on information security [here](#).

Venues must also display an NHS QR Code Poster (physically or electronically).

See <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster> for details on how to register and create your NHS QR code poster. Once you have produced and displayed your poster, you then need to get visitors to scan the NHS QR code when they arrive at your venue using the NHS COVID-19 app. Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system.

Further Information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

To assist with NHS Test and Trace record keeping the Government has produced a Customer Logging toolkit: <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/Test-and-Trace/resources/customer-logging-toolkit/>

Once you have produced and displayed your poster, you then need to get visitors to scan the NHS QR code when they arrive at your venue using the NHS COVID-19 app.

Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system.

Access & Disabled Persons

When designing how people will circulate around the facility consider those who may require reasonable adjustment i.e. if you have restricted the use of some of your facilities does this impinge on the needs of a disabled person? Can a disabled person move freely and easily around all accessible areas safely? Ensure any changes to entries, exit and queue management take into account reasonable adjustments for those who need them, including disabled attendees. For example, maintaining pedestrian and parking access for disabled attendees.

Venue Set-up and Clear-up

Establish a clear protocol on venue set-up and clear-up with the Coaching Provider or Club. Consider key preparation tasks such as who will be pulling out nets and tidying them away, who will be laying out mats and putting them away? Risk assess how this can be done safely, consider manual handling, COVID-19 safety – in particular social distancing and identify PPE requirements, providing PPE where it is your responsibility to do so.

Communication (internal / external)

Once you have planned how your facility will operate, it is important that instructions and expectations are communicated clearly. You will need to explain the changes and the reasons why you have made them.

Consider who you need to communicate with and the most effective methods for doing this. This should include event providers (including Coaching Providers and Clubs), users and their parents or carers.

Consider how you will communicate with people in a timely fashion before they arrive at your facility as this will help the process of managing behaviour in advance.

Provide clear unambiguous instructions and signage both before arrival and on arrival, particularly for re-enforcing the need for social distancing, observance of applicable group size restrictions, and good hygiene at all times, including before, during and after physical activity:

- If you supply instructions on information sheets, ensure these are either a fixed sign or 'disposable' takeaways. Do not use laminated sheets as this creates a common touchpoint.
- Use digital methods including social media, websites and email.
- Provide clear route signage utilising commonly understood symbols.
- Provide regular reminders and signage to maintain hygiene standards.
- Display an NHS QR Code.

Venues hosting elite sport

For the purposes of COVID guidance, elite athletes are defined in the UK Government [Elite sport return to training guidance: Stage One](#) document. Indoor training and competition for elite athletes should be carried out in full accordance with the relevant government guidance for elite sport return to training and competition (in particular Stage 2 training guidance from the [government](#) and the ECB).

PART 2: THE COACHING PROVIDER AND CLUBS

How to plan your indoor cricket activity

As the coaching provider or club, you have a duty to ensure the safety and health of those attending the event by reducing risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level and by taking preventative measures. Coaching Providers and Clubs who are employers must work with any other employers or contractors sharing the workplace so that everybody's health and safety is protected. Volunteer led organisations also have a duty of care and should take the same steps to protect anyone they may interact with.

You must familiarise yourself with the government guidance [here](#).

In the context of COVID-19 this means protecting the health and safety of your workers/volunteers and customers by working through the following steps:

Hiring venues

Prior to hiring a venue, you must ensure it is suitable for your activity in regard to COVID-19 and other safety aspects. Venue operators include leisure facility providers, schools, universities, indoor cricket centres and various others. The venue owner/manager should have undertaken a risk assessment for the venue. Ask to see this and ensure you are comfortable with the control measures the venue has taken to sufficiently control and minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

There are a number of questions you should be asking of a venue:

- Can they share their venue COVID-19 risk assessment and talk you through their requirements for your activity?
- Can they share their venue Health and Safety risk assessment and talk you through their requirements for your activity?
- Can they demonstrate and quantify the performance of their ventilation and heating systems?
- What social distancing measures and protocols are in place at the venue?
- What measures are in place to facilitate compliance with group size restrictions?
- Can they demonstrate their registration process and queuing systems?
- What participant data will need to be shared with the venue operator?
- Does the venue have an NHS QR Code on display at all entrances?
- What venue information will need to be shared with participants?
- What first aid equipment and first aider services will the venue provide, and will this be available during your sessions?
- Do they have a serviced Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available during your sessions?
- What is their cleaning regime and is this adequate?
- What will the venue clean and what will you (the coaching provider or club) need to clean?
- What are their hand cleaning/sanitisation requirements and will you need to provide hand sanitiser for your activities and sessions (it may be more cost effective for you to do this)?
- On reopening, have they carried out all their routine maintenance and health and safety checks (such as legionella, fire safety etc)?
- Does the venue have current Public Liability Insurance with cover for coronavirus/ COVID-19 risks?
- What are their safeguarding policies and procedures?

Where venue operators are unable to answer the above questions, then you will need to work with them to achieve satisfactory answers. If this is not possible then you should consider alternative venues that can provide this information.

It might be useful to use a checklist to ensure all aspects set out above have been considered before hiring. An example checklist is available [here](#).

Organisation

If your session is to be successful and safe it is important that as the coaching provider or club you consider the needs of all users of the venue, including volunteers, participants and their parents/carers when assessing the risk. You will need to communicate the results of your risk assessment and the mitigation measures you have implemented to ensure all users are adequately prepared and briefed in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Make sure that your coaching team or supervisors are fully briefed and trained on how your COVID-19 plan will work – include ‘dry runs’ and regular (e.g. monthly) reviews and reminders. Update training in line with any changes to your risk assessment including in response to a change in Government guidance.

Risk Assessment

If you are an employer, the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 requires you to risk assess your activities to understand the hazards and measure risks posed by your activities. Even voluntary organisations should undertake a risk assessment, to both manage your activities safely and demonstrate you have acted responsibly in the event of an incident. The risk assessment must address and manage the risk of COVID-19.

It is recommended this is done at an early stage in your planning as this will give you sufficient time to put mitigating controls in place. It should be completed in conjunction with the Venue Operator and in alignment with the risk assessment and mitigation procedures for the venue. Once complete, it is recommended you review it prior to your first event and re-assess it ahead of every subsequent event.

The risk assessment shall:

- Identify the hazards, who might be harmed and how.
- Assess the level of risk.
- Identify suitable controls.
- Be recorded in writing (if you have 5 or more employees).
- Review controls as and when required.

A risk assessment template can be found [here](#).

Once you have completed your risk assessment and developed your control measures you should:

- Implement the control measures in your coaching strategy and session design.
- Communicate your risk assessment and its findings to your staff.
- Use your risk assessment to develop the training material and information you communicate to course attendees and their parents/carer (as appropriate) on your COVID-19 control measures and other requirements.

- Keep a record on file but continually review and update the risk assessment as circumstances (including local COVID-19 prevalence) change.
- The UK Government expects companies in England employing more than 50 people to publish the findings of their risk assessment on their website.
- Share your risk assessment and control measures with your insurer or their representative to confirm that your insurance cover conditions have been met and your insurance is valid.

Session length

You should allow a sufficient gap (e.g. 10-15 minutes) between sessions to allow for registration, safeguarding and cleaning of equipment between sessions. This means that an hour-long session could become 45-50 minutes to allow for changeover. Consider running longer sessions for some training groups to allow for this. For example you could run U15s for two hours one week and U17s for two hours the next week, rather than running both age groups for one hour every week, etc – however you must risk assess bowling loads on individuals.

Participants should be encouraged to arrive and leave on time.

First Aid

As part of your duty of care you must make first aid provision available. St John Ambulance have provided an online guide for carrying out first aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, including on how to modify CPR – let your first aiders know about it – it's available [here](#). Note that providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm (such as administering first aid) are exempt from group size restrictions.

At the point of booking the venue you should establish whether the venue is able to provide first aiders, first aid equipment and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for your sessions. Where the venue first aid kit and AED are provided but not staffed by a first aider you must ensure that it/they are available during your hours of use and not locked in an inaccessible room or area.

If first aid is not provided by the venue, the Coaching Provider and/or Club should provide:

- Coaching staff / club members appropriately trained in First Aid.
- First Aid kit(s) – including suitable PPE (gloves, suitable face coverings/masks, disposable apron, hand sanitiser).
- Suitable disposal for PPE and other clinical waste once it has been used.
- An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) if you have one – check that it is functioning properly (e.g. warning light status) and has been serviced as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Pre-registration

Providers and clubs are strongly recommended to pre-register participants. This will assist in controlling numbers and ensuring legal requirements to supply user contact data to NHS Test and Trace are met with the Venue Provider. There must be a record of all participants (including coaches, administrators, carers and others) at training sessions. Collect sufficient data on each participant (name, contact details, date and times of entry and exit) so that each person could be contacted if there is a case of COVID-19 connected to the relevant facility. These records must be kept for 21 days. Because of the legal requirement to collect and provide these records it is essential that this process is coordinated with the Venue Provider (see section on Registration and entry above).

The Venue Provider must provide an NHS QR Code at all entrances, this can be scanned on entry by users of the NHS COVID-19 App but this is not a substitute for a pre-booking system because you will need to control numbers, in particular to ensure that group size restrictions are complied with and to monitor occupancy levels.

Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details for NHS Test and Trace purposes - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system. You will also need your own record of contact details for administrative and emergency purposes and the NHS COVID-19 App will not provide those details to you for those purposes.

For these reasons, Coaching Providers and Clubs should maintain their own records of attendees and their emergency contact details.

Note that if you are working in schools, establish whether the school is managing this process – you do not need to duplicate where there is an existing, compliant process in place but you will need to work with that party in the case of a COVID-19 infection and where advised by NHS Test and Trace.

Further Information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>
Government Customer Logging toolkit: <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/Test-and-Trace/resources/customer-logging-toolkit/>
NHS QR Codes: <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster>

You should also read important information from the Information Commissioner’s Office on information security [here](#).

Pre-registering participants will also give you the opportunity to communicate some essential information prior to the event, including:

- The importance of pre-attendance symptoms checks (details on symptoms of COVID-19 are available [here](#)).
- Insistence that participants should not leave home and attend the venue if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or they are otherwise advised to self-isolate, for example as part of the NHS Test and Trace service and, in each case, they have not completed the required self-isolation period. Such individuals should stay at home and follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation.
- Preferred modes of transport to the venue.
- The need for participants to arrive ready to play (arrive dressed in kit and leave venue in kit).
- The requirement to follow applicable group size restrictions (unless an exemption applies) and, irrespective of whether the activity is exempt from group size restrictions, to help you manage capacity calculations. Remember, adult 1:1 coaching is restricted to one player and one coach.
- Refer to the ‘Spectators’ section of ‘Part 1: The Venue’ above for important guidance on managing spectators at the venue.
- Emergency contact details of parent/carer will be required.

On arrival participants should be greeted outside the venue (or close to the main entrance in adverse weather) to:

- Confirm participant's details including emergency contact information
- Sanitise hands prior to entering the building.
- Confirm that the person does not have symptoms of COVID-19 and is not otherwise required to self-isolate prior to entry (details on symptoms of COVID-19 are available [here](#)).
- Where necessary, be escorted into the building and handed over to the relevant coach.
- Have the COVID-19 control measures explained.

For many of your participants they will be returning to a venue that was previously very familiar to them, but with numerous changes and adaptations things may feel strange at first. To support a comfortable transition, build confidence in your participants and parents/carers, and make newcomers feel welcome: create clear guidance that walks them through the changes that they can expect to find, from new entry and exit points to movement within the building and new processes during the sessions. For individuals with disabilities, ensure guidance is accessible and clear – a video and audio walk-through of the process from start to finish can be a really useful tool for all participants.

Pre-attendance symptom check

All players, officials, volunteers must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. Individuals should not leave home and attend the venue if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or they are otherwise advised to self-isolate, for example as part of the NHS Test and Trace service and, in each case, they have not completed the required self-isolation period. Such individuals should stay at home and follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation. Symptoms of COVID-19 are currently recognised as any of the following:

A high temperature.

A new, continuous cough.

A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste.

Travelling to the venue

- Always check that it is safe to travel before you set out to take part in cricket.
- You should minimise travel wherever possible, but you can travel within England to take part in informal and organised cricket, where necessary. You should not stay away from home overnight for cricket.
- You can find more information in the government [guidance on safer travel](#).

Arrival at the venue

On arrival at the venue, parents/carers are to drop their child at the pre-arranged reception point. All queuing should ideally be outside the venue and at 2 m social distance (facilitate with floor signage).

Spectators should be managed as per the section on Spectators in 'Part 1: The Venue' above. Note that where a person has a disability or special needs the presence of a parent or carer could be required and should be allowed for in socially distanced occupancy plans, as required.

When not engaging in sport and physical activity, visitors should be encouraged to wear masks in enclosed public areas, where possible and practical. All participants should wash/sanitise their hands-on entry to the venue.

You are required to keep a temporary record of attendees and their contact details for 21 days following a visit to your facility to assist the NHS Test and Trace process. At the reception, details will be confirmed, and will include emergency contact details for the parent/carer.

Visitors can scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app on arrival. Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system.

Coaching Providers and Clubs are advised to maintain their own records of attendees and their emergency contact details in addition to any use of the NHS COVID-19 app so that normal safeguarding and emergency procedures can function.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Cleaning Materials

The precautionary use of extra PPE should be avoided as per the [Government guidance](#). PPE use should be on a risk assessment basis and where a risk assessment determines that it is required it must be provided.

Consider in particular whether a coach or match official should be provided with a face covering and a visor (for when they are not wearing a helmet in a cricket ball situation) because of the frequency of close contacts over an extended period of multiple sessions through a day/week of coaching.

A further consideration could be disposable gloves when using bowling machines. If used correctly disposable gloves could reduce the cleaning requirements for bowling machines and bowling machine balls to the end of every day rather than the end of every session. Note that gloves and other PPE should be disposed of after every session and replaced, and only be worn by one individual.

Also consider supplies of suitable cleaning wipes and hand sanitiser for use during the coaching sessions.

Venue Set-up and Clear-up

Establish a clear protocol on venue set-up and clear-up with the venue operator. Consider key preparation tasks such as who will be pulling out nets and tidying them away, who will be laying out mats and putting them away? Risk assess how this can be done safely, consider manual handling, COVID-19 safety – in particular social distancing and identify PPE requirements, providing PPE where it is your responsibility to do so.

Planning and delivering your activities

- Prepare equipment
 - Minimise the sharing of equipment and use the One Skin, One Ball principle wherever possible. Where it is necessary to share equipment, equipment must be cleaned using appropriate cleaning materials between sessions and users and in the case of any shared balls, hygiene breaks must be adhered to (see Ball Transfer section below). Each person handling shared equipment must wash or sanitise their hands immediately before and after use.
 - You should identify a safe area for padding-up that is not a trip hazard and not at risk of ball strike or collisions. Consider safeguarding and note that privacy may be required to fit abdominal protectors and thigh pads.

- Participants are to bring their own equipment and take that home with them. ECB guidance on protective helmet use must be followed – helmets should not be shared.
 - Bowling machines, shared balls (including bowling machine balls) and training equipment (stumps, catching ramps etc) should be cleaned using suitable cleaning materials before and after each session – the use of disposable gloves could be considered – see the ‘PPE’ section above.
- Observe the applicable group size restrictions and understand the relevant exemptions (see the Permitted Group Sizes section above). It is essential that once a group is formed in line with group size restrictions, there is no mixing between groups, no forming of larger groups or swapping of individuals between groups, for example bowlers should not swap nets where this would mean mixing groups.
- Social distancing
 - Controls must be clearly explained, how and why.
 - Floor markings should be in place to support social distancing and encourage participants to watch the batter.
- Risk assess activities that will require hygiene breaks and sanitisation. You should have regular (every 20 minutes maximum) hygiene breaks to sanitise shared cricket balls (and other equipment where participants cannot bring their own).
- Coaching activity
 - Playing and coaching cricket in itself carries some degree of risk and whilst being mindful of the guidelines regarding COVID-19, coaches should not lose sight of the normal safety rules or safeguarding standards relating to playing and coaching cricket which continue to apply and must be complied with (DBS, safeguarding, First Aid etc).
 - Coaches should make themselves aware of, and abide by, all guidelines set out by the Government, the venue and ECB regarding use of facilities.
 - It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that they coach players in a safe environment and follow relevant guidelines.
 - Coaches should explain the safety guidelines of what is expected pre, during and post session including what the player is expected to do to maintain compliance with social distancing guidelines and all other health and safety guidelines.
 - Design your coaching activities to maintain social distancing throughout.
 - When working on individual coaching of players maintain 2 m and stand side to side as much as possible and limit face to face to only when necessary. Remember, adult 1:1 coaching is restricted to one player and one coach.
 - Coaching providers should risk assess PPE requirement for coaches. Where coaches are in static/low activity situations and are unable to maintain 2 m social distancing it is strongly recommended that coaches wear a face mask.
 - In order to limit the risk of injury and hospitalisation (and associated COVID-19 transmission risk and burden on the NHS), you should carry out a risk assessment of your net and practice activity and pay particular attention to the risk of ball strike to coaches and players, both in the net and in adjacent nets, and how this can be controlled and minimised. Examples of higher risk ball strike situations include:
 - Throw-downs in front of the bowling crease.

- Range-hitting or aggressive stroke play often referred to as white ball practice.
- A disparity between skill level, strength (size, age) or experience of participants.
- The ability of an individual to react to a ball hit back towards them.
- The net environment (lighting, background, strength and integrity of netting, excess tension, insufficient tension (billow), risk of ball escape, limited width or height, lack of roof net, etc). Refer to [ECB TS3](#) for more information.

Control measures that can be used to reduce risk include:

- Making sure everyone in the net is watching the batter and the ball.
 - Checking the netting and the ability to retain the ball.
 - Ensuring bowlers and coaches always watch the batter in adjacent nets when picking up their ball from the ground.
 - Coordinating hitting across different nets so that all are aware.
 - Coaches wearing helmets during net practice (helmets should be compliant with latest ECB advice available [here](#)).
 - Considering alternative modes or positions of ball delivery (such as using bowling machines or adjusting the position of throw-downs in aggressive stroke playing practice).
 - The use of additional practice nets such as 'A-frames' to protect the coach/player during throw-downs or coaching observation.
 - Closer matching of player ability.
 - Limiting range hitting to specific scenarios.
- ECB Regulations on the use of helmets in junior and age-group cricket should be followed at all times and adult players are advised to wear helmets when batting or keeping with a cricket ball to reduce the risk of injury, potential hospitalisation (and associated COVID-19 transmission risk) and burden on the NHS. See ECB guidance on helmets [here](#).
 - Where natural ventilation is used (doors and windows are open) in cold weather, make sure that participants are warmed up properly and stay warm throughout sessions.
 - Discourage shouting, singing and raised voices as this can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 - Avoid pre-game handshakes, huddles, etc.
 - Batters returning the ball are to do so by kicking or using the bat.
 - Avoid running practice between wickets – this is difficult to do whilst maintaining social distancing in a net situation.
 - Reinforce the message that no saliva or sweat should be applied to the ball.
 - Design hygiene breaks into your coaching programme. Net sessions where bowlers are using their own ball will not require hygiene breaks unless someone else touches their ball. But for team match activity and fielding drills (where such activity is permitted in accordance with group size restrictions), hands and balls should be sanitised after every group or rotation among groups.
 - Carefully risk assess wicket keeping practice. Movement of the stumps towards the bowlers will reduce the distance between batter and waiting bowlers, and should be avoided. Keepers should be socially distanced at 2 m from the batter and practice standing-up should not take place where this is not possible; social distancing at 1 m+ is not appropriate because the batter should not be wearing a face covering

unless advised by a physician because of the level of activity required and the encounter could be prolonged.

- Running drills (two batters) are not possible due to close proximity within the net and should be avoided.
- Nets and coaching
 - The example layouts can be used in line with the permitted group size (see 'Permitted Group Sizes' section above)
 - Note that these layouts are for illustrative purposes only and need to be risk assessed for a particular site.
 - Remember, adult 1:1 coaching is restricted to one player and one coach.
 - Coaches do not need to stand in the position shown but must socially distance from other users.
- ECB guidance on supervision and coaching ratios for supervised children's activity should be maintained (with social distancing) - please note that the tables below set out the maximum number of participants per adult/activator/coach. Where your risk assessment determines that reduced participant numbers are required due to space restrictions for example, you must reduce the number of participants accordingly:

Supervision ratios must be adhered to as a minimum for clubs/activity providers looking after groups of children:

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Other considerations</i>
8 and under	1	8	for single gender groups, there must be at least one same gender supervising adult. For mixed groups there must be at least one male and one female supervising adult.
9 and over	1	10	

Recommended qualified coach/activator to participant ratios:

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Activator/Coach</i>	<i>Participants</i>
National programmes (All Stars and Dynamos)	1 Activator	24
Softball practice	1 Coach	24
Hardball practice (not in nets)	1 Coach	16
Net practice	1 Coach	8

At the start of a session

You should provide a briefing to all participants at the start of the session to remind them of your operating rules and the mitigation steps and adaptations you have implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Be vigilant throughout the session and ensure that participants comply with the operating rules.

Use of equipment

The sharing of equipment must be avoided where possible, particularly that used around the head and face (i.e. helmets), also equipment that could transfer sweat such as gloves. Where equipment

is shared, equipment must be cleaned before use by another person and each person handling it must wash or sanitise their hands immediately before and after use.

Sports equipment used for more than one session such as stumps and catch training aids must be cleaned prior to each session.

Ball transfer

The risk of transferring COVID-19 via the ball is easily overcome when practising in cricket nets by restricting the sharing of cricket balls.

- Consider asking participant to bring their own ball. Balls can be marked for ease of identification.
- If you are to provide balls for common use, number or mark the balls for ease of identification. Balls can then be assigned to individual players for use throughout the session.
- No sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time.
- Balls must be cleaned prior to every session.
- Where balls have to be shared (for match play or fielding drills) then a hygiene break should be taken every 20 minutes (or between activities if sooner) in which participants sanitise their hands and the ball is disinfected using suitable cleaning wipes.

End of session

At the end of each session it is important to put aside time to prepare for the following session by conducting a pre-planned cleaning programme to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to the next group.

- All participants are to sanitise their hands prior to leaving the venue.
- Each junior participant to be individually returned to their parent/carer.
- Sanitise all equipment.
- Clean all communal areas, welfare facilities, reception area etc.
- Clean all touch points.

Safeguarding

ECB safeguarding policies, procedures and requirements apply as per usual for coaching sessions for children or vulnerable persons. You should carry out a Safeguarding Risk Assessment for your coaching activity and put the required control measures in place.

For details see [here](#).

Consider the need for 'time-out areas' in a safeguarding context where persons who need to take time out can do so safely and within view of the coaching team.

If external doors are propped open for ventilation purposes, consider how this might affect your safeguarding procedures. Can you keep doors open while restricting access/egress and without blocking potential fire escape routes?

Disabled Persons and Access

Indoor organised team sports for disabled people such as cricket are exempt from the group size restrictions, as are parents and carers and coaches involved in supervising that activity.

When planning your activity have you:

- Considered how those with disabilities will move around the facility?
- Assessed what reasonable adjustments may be required?
- Contacted the venue manager to understand if any adjustments have been made due to COVID-19 controls, does this impinge on the needs of a disabled person?
- If you have created an area to store kit or to pad-up or similar, does this present an obstacle and is it accessible?
- Can a disabled person move freely and easily around all accessible areas safely?
- Considered those with disabilities who may be more susceptible to COVID-19 due to underlying health issues and how will you identify and control this?

Review and update plans

It is good practice to conduct a post-event review of your arrangements. Identify what could be done better and make the necessary adjustments. Any adjustment may need to be added to your communications plan.

Elite sport

For the purposes of COVID guidance, elite athletes are defined in the UK Government [Elite sport return to training guidance: Stage One](#) document. Indoor training and competition for elite athletes should be carried out in full accordance with the relevant government guidance for elite sport return to training and competition (in particular [Stage 2 training guidance](#)) and ECB Science and Medicine protocols for helmet use in nets.

PART 3: PARTICIPANTS, PARENTS AND CARERS

Introduction

Cricket is a game that lends itself well to social distancing. Cricket indoors will have many similarities to cricket you may have played outdoors under ECB guidance for cricket outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, because cricket is being played indoors there are different risks, particularly in poorly ventilated buildings. The purpose of the Government guidance on indoor sport and this ECB guidance for cricket indoors is to make the 'indoors as outdoors as possible'. You will notice some differences from the normal way cricket has been played indoors in the past, and even from outdoor cricket played during the summer of 2020. These differences are control measures designed to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We ask that you follow these guidelines and take care of yourself and your fellow participants.

When booking

Pre-booking will be required by venues, coaching providers and clubs to help manage peak occupancy of the venue. This will include using online platforms to collect key data without transferring paper copies so that the venue, coaching provider or club can contact you, record emergency contact information and keep a temporary record of the details required for NHS Test and Trace. Please note that you are still required to create an NHS QR code for your venue.

At the point of booking, your venue, coaching provider or club will issue venue-specific information on how the risk of COVID-19 transmission is being controlled and managed. You should read this information as there are likely to be new demands and requirements to help protect you and other venue users. If anything is unclear or you have any queries, please contact the venue, your coaching provider or your club.

Before leaving home

You should not leave home and attend the venue if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or you are otherwise advised to self-isolate, for example as part of the NHS Test and Trace service and, in each case, you have not completed the required self-isolation period. Please stay at home and follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation. Symptoms of COVID-19 are currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature.
- A new, continuous cough.
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste.

Please make sure you bring your own equipment and your own water bottle (and that you take it home with you). Your water bottle and any balls that you are using should be marked with your (or your child's) name.

You should turn up in your kit ready to play / train, carry out your activity and then travel home in your kit and shower at home because changing rooms are areas of increased risk. Changing rooms should only be used where absolutely necessary and only for the minimum time possible.

Travelling to the venue

- Always check that it is safe to travel before you set out to take part in cricket.

- You should minimise travel wherever possible, but you can travel within England to take part in informal and organised cricket, where necessary. You should not stay away from home overnight for cricket.
- You can find more information in the government [guidance on safer travel](#).

On arrival

You will need to confirm your registration at the front of the venue. If you are a parent or carer dropping off your child, this will be the handover point – be prepared that some venues will not be able to allow viewing and will require you to stay outside the venue or in your car. Please be prepared to queue as check-in processes will take longer and please come prepared to wait outside the venue for the duration of the activity.

You may have your temperature taken remotely and will be asked again to confirm that you are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms and that you are not required to self-isolate.

You can scan the NHS QR Code using the NHS COVID-19 App at the venue.

Try not to arrive too early or late – this will help facilitate safe clean down and handover between different coaching groups and sessions.

During the session

Different operating rules will be in place to protect you, the coaches and other users of the venue. Your coaching provider or your club will provide an introductory briefing of the operating rules at the beginning of each session and you will be required to comply with these rules throughout the session. These rules will include:

- Complying with the group size restrictions applicable to the venue unless exemptions apply (please see the 'Permitted Group Sizes' section above).
- Wearing a face covering indoors, where you are required to do so by law.
- Washing/sterilising your hands frequently.
- Avoiding touching your face.
- No application of saliva or sweat to the ball.
- Not to shout or sing.
- To bring your own playing equipment (including helmet).
- To maintain social distancing of 2 m.
- To always watch the batter(s) in the nets.
- To listen to the coach and follow their instructions.

The operating rules will be different, but we still hope that you can enjoy a fun session and great coaching to help you with your cricket development.

End of the session

At the end of the session you should tidy up all of your kit and take it and your drinks bottle home with you.

You should sanitise your hands before leaving.

Parents and carers – if you are picking someone up, please make sure you are there at the agreed handover time – if you are too early please expect to queue at a social distance and this could be

outside. Please do not arrive late as this will have a knock-on effect on the timings and delivery of the following session.