# **Goalball UK Return to Play - Population Update**

Published 29.09.2020

## 7.3 Population

Goalball is exempt from the rule of six guidelines as a disability sport for people who are blind or partially sighted. However, as the national governing body, we have created population guidelines based on the ‘rule of six’ set out by the Government.

All NGB and club affiliated training sessions must follow the restrictions on numbers regardless of age or disability.

Goalball can be played in a formal educational setting in existing educational bubbles as set by the individual institution in line with Government policy.

### 7.3.1 Number of People

Playing participants in each session should not exceed 12 under any circumstances.

It is essential playing participants are split into bubbles within the session with a maximum of 6 players per bubble. The bubbles must not come into contact with one another or mix socially within the session.

To deliver the session and provide the appropriate support to players each session can accommodate one support personnel per player. This is defined as one of the following roles;

* Coach
* Referee
* Volunteer
* Medical personnel
* Parent, Guardian, or Carer
* Personal support assistance

We recommend limiting the support numbers to those that are essential to deliver the activity in a safe and appropriate way. Anyone not fulfilling one of these roles should not enter the sports hall.

Pre-registration is required for all sessions / events to manage numbers.

Note: the venue may put in place restrictions that limit or increases numbers, this supersedes any Goalball UK advice on the maximum number in the sports hall but the playing participant maximum number of 12 plus one support personnel per player must not be exceeded.

### 7.3.2 Spacing in Sessions

Social distancing must be maintained by all participants when not on court. Ensure the hall space you use is large enough to allow this to take place.

Consider phasing your training sessions back by having smaller groups based on player levels novice, intermediate, and elite.

Participants should arrive at the session / event as close to the start as possible and avoid congregating before entering the hall. After the session / event all participants and workforce must ensure they follow Government guidance regarding social distancing and interaction.

We recommend keeping the player bubbles apart at ends or corners of the hall.

We recommend providing each player with an area 2m apart (if you have space) where personal belongings can be kept including personal hand sanitiser. If you have time these can be made tactile using string and tape.

If delivering back to back sessions allow enough time to clear the session and conduct cleaning as set out in section 7.5.2 – Fomite Transmission before new participants arrive for the next session. If you run back to back sessions, no players from the first session can attend the second session.