

Goalball UK

Return to Play Webinar

26th August 2020

Guidance Principles

- Safety - the safety and wellbeing of members is the number one priority
- Information - provide detailed up to date information to inform people's choice
- Choice - it is the personal choice of all individuals to return to play 'opt in'. No one should be made or feel pressured to play goalball.
- Support - Goalball UK want to support all members to safely return to play, please continue to work with us and feedback as we go through the process.

Role of Clubs, Volunteers, and Players

Clubs

- Follow the guidance to provide a safe environment for your members. This will involve considerable work to plan and implement, Goalball UK are here to support.

Volunteers & Players

- Offer to support your club with implementations – joint effort!
- Be patient while plans are put in place
- Adapt to the new protocols of delivering and playing goalball during COVID-19
- Be responsible to protect yourself and others

Key Risk Factors & Mitigations

1. Population - the number of participants likely to take part in the proposed activity plus known risk factors of participants with underlying health conditions or high risk groups, who wish to participate.

- Maximum of 30 people in the hall
- Maximum of 12 playing participants plus one (max) support personnel per participant
- Avoid unnecessary people entering the hall
- Robust register systems and access to contact details for everyone involved (NHS Test and Trace)

2. Droplet Transmission – duration and proximity of participants / volunteers / coaches / officials

- Social distancing when not on court, including before and after the session
- Provide personal space for people to keep belongings (2m apart)
- Face coverings or masks for workforce within less than 2m
- Minor adjustments to play in training (avoid meet passes, grouping at time outs, and penalties)

3. Fomite Transmission - sharing of equipment and surfaces

- Biggest risk factor for goalball (ball, goals and floor)
- Regular hand cleaning / sanitisation is vital and must be enforced
- Regular cleaning of ball, goals, and floor (team area) recommended every 20-30mins. Involves planning into your sessions.
- Do not share playing kit, if people do need to borrow kit ask them to takeaway and wash at home

Steps to return

Step 1 - Working Group to appoint COVID-19 Officer/s

- Direct output of this group is to complete a COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Step 2 - Contact Venue

- Key partner in your club returning to play
- Venues will expect you to be following NGB guidance and have a COVID-19 risk assessment

Step 3 - Communication with members

- Gauge the feeling of your members returning, everybody will have a slightly different outlook
- Make sure they have all the information to make a choice 'opt-in' when the time is right
- Some people may not be ready to return – respect everyone's circumstances are different

Step 4 - Workforce Training

- Anyone delivering activity is required to complete the free CIMPSA Reactivate training
- Will increase the knowledge base in your club to provide that safe environment

Step 5 - Register your return plans with Goalball UK

- Provide Goalball UK to a timeline to offer support
- Access to £100 to support the initial costs of PPE and cleaning equipment

Goalball UK Support

Dedicated Email

covid@goalballuk.com to answer any questions and provide support. Specific email has been set up to provide a consistent response, will also help us develop an FAQ page on the website.

Dedicated Webpage

Key resources and templates to help clubs develop their plans to return

PPE Grant

£100 contribution towards purchasing PPE and cleaning equipment.

We won't be asking for receipts but clubs are required to register their return to play plans with Goalball UK

Webinars

As guidance changes and we introduce new protocols particularly around competitions and rule changes we will run additional webinars.

Insurance

Nigel Hayden from SportsInsure Goalball UK's insurance provider

Failure to follow Goalball UK guidance will mean any insurance claim won't be upheld.

All sessions require a specific COVID-19 specific risk assessment. This is now standard practice across all sports.

If you have specific questions in the future regarding insurance please contact Goalball UK via covid@goalballuk.com

Current Goalball UK Competition Plans

Phase 1 - Goalball UK led re-engagement events

'friendly' competition opportunities

Regional and player level specific

Open to team and individual entry (number restrictions will be in place)

To maximise playing time and staff availability there will be mid-week events planned alongside weekends

Phase 2 - Structured Competitions

Regional structures

Potential qualification to national events or cups to provide context

Large scale 10-16 teams at national events unlikely 20/21

Challenges to planning so far...

Ever changing guidance and restrictions (local lockdowns)

Finding suitable venues that are taking sports hall & event bookings

Workforce and volunteers

New protocols and procedures will require more time and resource (finance and staffing) to implement

Timeframe

We hope to provide calendar of events in October, some later dates could be TBC.

Requested Questions

How is the game going forward and when can we start training?

The guidance outlines how goalball can return. There is minimal disruption to the actual game play from a players point of view. As soon as your club implements the guidance they can return. Individual players are welcome to attend Goalball UK events before their club returns to training.

When it comes to the venue check list – what happens if you are not happy with responses – what is the next step?

Discuss with the venue if they can make adaptations, and or consider further adaptations you can take to reduce the risk in the area of concern. Ultimately if you are not satisfied you shouldn't use the venue. Please seek Goalball UK support and advice if this situation arises.

Where some halls do not have sufficient ventilation who is responsible?

Venue alongside the organisation delivering the session. Part of assessing the suitability of the venue.

Are guide dogs allowed in the hall?

Yes, we recommend only the owner and their support personnel interact with the dog.

Do you expect all players to read the guidance before they turn up and play?

It must be available for people to read before 'opting in' to sessions. We recommend clubs create a pre session email or document with the key actions required from people when they return to training.

Requested Questions continued

Some players enjoy having friends at training sessions, how can we ask them to discourage this without upsetting both player and spectator?

Be clear and polite. Currently each participant is allowed one support personnel, if as a participant you don't require support don't bring your friend/s just to watch. Personal feelings at this stage are unfortunately secondary to safety.

How can players rehydrate during games?

In training there are a couple of options. Players leave drinks in personal areas and there are planned hydration breaks. Or players take water bottles onto court and place behind the post for wingers and back of the goal for centre. In competition Goalball UK are working through potential solutions to protect players and coaches.

Water refill, can clubs claim for bottled water from Goalball UK?

No. Encourage players to bring pre filled water bottles or own bottled water adequate for the session. If clubs choose to provide bottled water for their participants and workforce it will be at the clubs cost.

The court string is normally retained is this still the case?

Yes, people setting up should sanitise hands before and after putting and taking the court up and down. Disposing of string is not practical and is costly. We recommend only laying lines required for training (e.g. not full court).

Requested Questions continued

If coaches attend more than one session; do they need to wear a mask?

Not specifically. However if coaches come within 2m of players or other people in the session they should wear a face covering. Some people may wish to wear one all the time, this is also fine.

Pre-screening: Why do we need to keep results for 21 days? Who and how should they be kept?

If required to prove everyone has taken responsibility for making sure they haven't arrived to training with symptoms. The person undertaking the self screening. As a club you should recommend and encourage people to pre-screen each time before they attend sessions.

Should we be taking the temperature of players before allowing them to join session?

This isn't a current requirement from the Government or Goalball UK. If your club wish to add this measure you can but consider the logistics of undertaking the check face to face and potentially less than 2m from someone. The Government have also issued advice here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dont-rely-on-temperature-screening-products-for-detection-of-coronavirus-covid-19-says-mhra>

Is it correct that referees should both be table side?

Yes, this is something Goalball UK will be trialling in competitions to avoid the referee being close to the team bench areas. In training you may want to consider just having one referee.

Questions from the chat / audience