



Covid-19: Safe Return to Gaelic Games Guidelines

Club Briefing Webinar #1
16ú Meitheamh 2020



Presenters

1. Shay Bannon - Chairperson, Covid-19 Advisory Group

2. Feargal McGill - GAA Director of Player, Club & Games Administration

3. Dr Kevin Moran - Donegal GAA Team Doctor & member of the GAA Medical, Scientific & Welfare Committee



Covid-19 Club Education Programme

Webinar Series

- Club briefings
- Role-specific
- 1-hour sessions
- Common questions addressed

eLearning Module

- Open to all Club members
- 30-mins. to complete
- Proof of completion
- Available by this weekend

Other Resources

- Posters
- Guidebook
- FAQs
- Activity Planner

Aims of this Webinar

1. Communicate the Safe Return Guidelines

2. Explain the key roles and responsibilities within each Club

3. Address common questions

This Webinar does not aim to:

- Replace what is contained in the latest Safe Return Guidelines.
- Cover every question submitted.
- Policies on FAQs will be issued in the coming days.
- More role-specific webinars will be covered in due course, e.g. games development staff, referees, etc.

Should any conflict arise between information given on this Webinar and the text of the latest Safe Return Guidelines, the text of the Guidelines shall prevail.

Areas We Will Cover

1. Medical Information

2. Preparing for a Safe Return

3. Basic Information for Players & Team Personnel

4. Safe Return Responsibilities & Checklist

5. The Safe Return Roadmap

6. Common Questions

Guidelines Document

- Introduction and context
- Document relevant to Island of Ireland
- Flags the need for further information
- Document based on best advice available
- Follows Govt. Roadmap
- Defines minimum practices for resumption of activities
- Acknowledges timelines may change due to external factors
- Stresses that participation is on an **opt-in/opt-out** basis

S1 – Medical Information

- Split into two parts
- Basic information for Clubs - best practice habits for staying safe, how virus is transmitted, symptoms, etc.
- More detailed Medical Information (<https://www.hse.ie/eng/>)

S2 – Preparing for a Safe Return

- Preparing facilities
- Covid Supervisors – what they are, the need to complete the eLearning module
- Scheduling activities
- Educating Club members

S3 – Info. for Players & Team Personnel

- Completion of eLearning Module
- The Health Questionnaire
- Hygiene best practice
- Adherence to Social Distancing (Phase 3)
- Reducing contact to a minimum (Phase 4)
- No access to changing rooms
- Travel to and from training
- No indoor meetings

Health Questionnaire Overview

1. The Health Questionnaire can be completed online or in hard copy, in which case it should be presented to the relevant Covid Supervisor on entry to the facility.
2. Each individual will be required to sign a declaration at each subsequent session to confirm their health status has not changed.
3. An online system for the Health Questionnaire - compliant with data protection legislation - will be provided centrally by the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association. This is the only online system that should be used.
4. Full details in relation to the online solution will be circulated next week.





COVID Return to Play

Create Your Account

Choose a new username

Firstname/Ainm

Surname/Sioinne

Email address

Password

Confirm password

I am at least 18 years old

I have read the [Data Protection Notice](#)

CONTINUE

S4 – Club Summary & Checklist (P1)

- Circulate the latest Safe Return Guidelines - published 12.6.20 - to all Covid Supervisors/Club Officers, Players/Team Personnel, and Parents/Guardians.
- All attendees at training sessions or games have completed this eLearning module.
- Each team has a nominated Covid Supervisor.

S4 – Club Summary & Checklist (P2)

- Prepare Club Facilities in line with the recommendations in section 2 of the Guidelines.
- Establish and communicate a timetable system so that individual teams in each Club are aware of their allocated training times.
- Establish and communicate a process for administering the Health Questionnaires once details have been issued on the online solution.

S5 – Gaelic Games Safe Return Roadmap

- Mirrors and is consistent with Government Return Roadmap.
- Each Gaelic Games phase is subject to Government moving on to their next phase - delays will delay Gaelic Games.



Phase 2 – 8 June

- Walkways only opened
- Pitches to remain closed
- All Club buildings to remain closed
- Individual training in line with Government recommendations
- eLearning module to be developed and rolled out

Phase 3 – 29 June

- Pitches to open for small group training (adult and Juvenile)
- All buildings remain closed (exception: toilet)
- All training is non-contact in this phase
- Small groups = 10 players/2 coaches in a dedicated area of the field
- Players arrive and depart toggled out – “principle of get in, train and get out”
- Health Questionnaire must be completed
- Covid Supervisor for each team
- Underage players must be dropped off/collected
- Only players/management permitted entry to grounds
- Running, Aerobic, Agility, ball work – social distancing
- No sharing of equipment, e.g. water bottles

Phase 4 – 20 July

- Return to contact training
- Club Games from 31 July
- Buildings remain closed
- Health Questionnaire, Covid Supervisor, collation of data still in place
- Further information on spectators, spectator safety will be provided

Phase 5 – 10 August

- Club games continue
- Access to facilities permitted
- County training resumes – 14 Sept.
- Inter County schedule to start no earlier than 17 Oct
- CCCC will produce full fixtures schedule once Phase 3

Common Questions



Covid Officer or Covid Supervisors?

- There is no Covid “Officer” as such.
- The number of **Covid Supervisors** needed by each Club will be proportional to the size of the Club, i.e. the number of active teams and players within the Club.
- The Club Executive will communicate the details of the appointed Covid Supervisor(s) for each team to all Players, Parents/Guardians, etc. and ensure that appointed person(s) receive all necessary support to undertake the role.



Should Clubs purchase thermometers?

- Clubs should not invest in thermometers.
- The revised Guidelines on 12 June removed any requirement for Clubs to check temperatures on-site.
- The onus is now on the individual or Parent/Guardian for Underage Players.



Are hand gel dispensers needed if anti-bacterial soap and water is provided ?

- It is strongly recommended that hand dispensers be provided in the car park, toilets, entrance to pitch and pitch side.
- However, hand washing facilities and anti-bacterial soap will suffice.



Will Clubs receive guidance for purchasing things like signage, sanitiser and PPE?

- Guidance is available at learning.gaa.ie/covid19resources on the procurement of Covid-19 equipment and supplies that may be required to mitigate the risks in Clubs.
- Categories include:
 - Face coverings
 - Hand sanitiser dispensers / hand wash stations
 - Anti-bacterial disinfectant
 - Signage
- Guidance is subject to change based on Government guidelines.



What are the ratios for Adult to Child supervision? (Part 1)

- The Code of Behaviour (Underage) contains strict child safeguarding adult to child ratios which have been agreed by the Gaelic Games Associations, and are enshrined in our Rules. They are in place to ensure the safety of children coupled with realistic coaching numbers as follows:
 - 1:8 for children under 12 yr. olds plus one other adult
 - 1:10 for children over 12 yrs. of age plus one other adult
- The one other adult may be a Coach or a Supervisor (non-coaching) and may for convenience purposes act in that capacity for more than one team at a time.



What are the ratios for Adult to Child supervision? (Part 2)

- The Guidelines on Safe Return to Gaelic Games reference reduced numbers at training with a maximum of ten permitted in a group. However, when working with children and young people the ratios contained in the Code of Behaviour must be adhered to resulting in less than ten for groups involving children under 12 yrs. of age.
- Clubs are reminded where girls are participating in training or for girls only training a minimum of one female liaison officer is required to be present for the duration of the training session.



Can children leave their backpacks in Club dressing rooms prior to 10 August?

- No. Backpacks must be left in stands or dugouts which are supervised.



Who must complete the Health Questionnaire? When? How often?

- The Health Questionnaire must be completed by:
 - Covid Supervisors and Club Officers
 - Players, and Parents/Guardians of Underage Players
 - Team Personnel such as Coaches, Managers and Medical Personnel
 - Referees
 - Anyone else present to run a training session/game
- The Questionnaire will need to be completed once before the initial return to training.
- Each individual will be required to sign a declaration at each subsequent session to confirm their health status has not changed.



How will personal information be stored?

- An online system will be provided to allow Clubs to process personal data in compliance with data protection legislation.
- It is essential to follow the process to ensure the security of data especially where health data is concerned.
- Training will be provided to Covid Supervisors in due course.



What is the process for contact tracing?

- Contact tracing identifies people who were in close contact with someone who has Covid-19. The protocol for contact tracing is as per HSE guidelines.
- The latest Guidelines are available - <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/testing/contact-tracing.html>



Who will monitor completion of the eLearning module?

- The onus is on Clubs to ensure that anyone entering their facilities for training/playing purposes have completed the eLearning module.
- Those who complete the module will be able to take print, download or take a screenshot of their Certificate of completion at the end of the module.



How can we train/play and maintain physical distancing?

- Games Development Department are preparing content for coaches around phase 3
- Phase 4 will be full contact in accordance with the Govt. Roadmap
- Important to maintain social distancing off field.



How many teams can a Player train with? How many can a Mentor coach?

- Players can train with multiple teams within the Club if they wish.
- No restriction on the amount of teams one can coach



Can multiple groups train on the same pitch at the same time?

- Yes
- Only relevant to Phase 3
- Ensure you are satisfied sufficient space to accommodate social distancing



How much contact can Players have with equipment such as footballs and sliotars?

- The Advisory Group is satisfied that the risk of transmission via equipment is low.
- Specific equipment such as footballs, sliotars and cones will be provided and will be sanitised.
- Coaches should ensure the minimum amount of equipment is used in sessions, e.g. cones, bibs, etc.
- All equipment used in sessions should be sanitised after each session and stored for use.
- Players must bring their own water bottles.



What is the advice for attending to injuries during training sessions/games?

- Where physical distancing is not possible, PPE such as face masks should be worn.
- If present, medical personnel should wear PPE such as face masks.
- More concrete advice will be issued in due course.



What is the advice for a Team if someone involved is diagnosed with Covid-19?

- The Gaelic Games policy on this question for teams, opposition teams and Clubs involved is pending Government advice.



What measures exist for members who do not comply with the Guidelines?

- Any issues of non-compliance should be reported to the Club Executive via the Club Secretary, preferably by the Covid Supervisor for the relevant team.
- Each Full Member shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee upon complaint or representation sent by him/her, in writing, to the Secretary.
- Guidelines should be followed on a "best endeavours" basis



Who has ultimate responsibility?

- Everyone has a role to play.
- Ultimately, safe return to contact sports is the **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** of each participant.
- Members who have a concern regarding personal higher risk should discuss the situation with their GP before deciding on whether to return to activity.

Next Steps

- Please take one minute to complete the Feedback Form shared via e-mail earlier today.
- The Advisory Group will review additional queries.
- Clarifications will be issued in the coming days.
- Details on accessing the eLearning module will be available later this week at learning.gaa.ie/covid19
- We will organise more webinars as required.
- You can watch this webinar again tomorrow on the GAA Learning YouTube channel.

Go raibh maith agaibh

