

Guidance to Clubs and Tournament Managers for holding tournaments in England from 19 July 2021

Introduction

1. This document is intended to help clubs and tournament managers plan and manage any tournaments in order to minimise the risk of infection by Covid-19. This version applies in England from 19th July, when most legally enforceable lockdown restrictions are removed at Step 4 of the government's roadmap. However, some precautions are still advised, as the virus continues to circulate.
2. All forthcoming events in 2021 must bear this guidance in mind, not least because government guidance can be relaxed or tightened at any time. Clubs and players should, therefore, be prepared to react to changes and players should be aware that this may include cancellation of an event at short notice.
3. This guidance is an update of a document reviewed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in July 2020.
4. It is essential that at all stages of planning an event, the latest government and CA guidance should be taken into account. At the time of writing, the following are recommended reading:

Government Guidance:

- [COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021](#)
- [Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do](#)

CA Guidance:

- [CA COVID 19 Guidance](#), which includes more detailed guidance for clubs and players.
5. Clubs located in, or close to, Wales or Scotland should also consider different guidance that may be applicable to them or visiting players.
 6. The final decision whether or not to hold a competition or tournament is left entirely at the discretion of the clubs, in conjunction with the Organising Body, if different, who in addition to this guidance should take into account the views of their members, rules stipulated by landlords, the nature of the tournament and any other local conditions - including any local lockdown restrictions.

Preparations prior to the event

7. Although gathering limits no longer apply, it is important that events remain controlled and safe.
8. Clubs, when carrying out their risk assessment, must consider the whole end-to-end 'user journey' when planning safe operating practices. This means all activities from the time of arrival on site to leaving, not just the sporting activity. As well as considering players, this activity must also include staff (if applicable) and/or volunteers at the club.
9. This includes, but may not be limited to:
 - a. **Ensure that it is clear that anyone who is symptomatic or suspects they have been exposed to the virus does not take part and remains at home.**

- b. Additional arrangements may be required for more frequent cleaning of any areas that are open and ensuring that appropriate hygiene facilities are provided (e.g. disposable towels and hand sanitiser).

Notes on Tournament Regulations

10. Attention is drawn in particular to the following provisions of the Tournament Regulations which clubs may need to rely upon in order to make appropriate adjustments to events in order to comply with the guidance above.
 - a. **M1(k) (Emergencies)**. The CA considers that this regulation applies to all events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic. This Regulation requires that the manager takes actions necessary to protect players and the club. This may include:
 - (1) Alterations to the published programme to adopt a different format or a reduced number of players (C2(c)).
 - (2) Refuse entry to certain players, for example those who are displaying symptoms (C3(e)).
 - b. **M2(g) (Sanctions)**, includes breaches of Covid-specific requirements (including distancing and hygiene measures), and may result in disqualification and being asked to leave the premises.
 - c. **C2(b) (Titles for Events)** still applies. If the requirements of, for example, a Championship cannot be met, the event should either be downgraded or not held.
11. The CA does not intend to impose any penalties on players who withdraw due to Covid-19, whether that is imposed (for example, due to isolation requirements) or personal choice. Consequently:
 - a. An administrative fee under Regulation P3(g) should not be imposed.
 - b. Withdrawals, even at short notice, will not be subject to sanction under Regulations P2(c) or P3(h).
12. Given the lack of opportunity to play last season and potentially this season, the adjustment for allocation and seeding purposes of 50 grade points per year for those who have not played sufficient games is suspended for the remainder of 2021. (Regulations C3(a)(3), F1(a)(3)).

Changes Log

17 March 2021 2021/V1 – first published.

15 May 2021 2021/V2 published to take account of the updated Government and CA guidance for Step 3 (from 17 May), in particular: use of clubhouses permitted, but in accordance with social distancing requirements; restrictions on the numbers per court removed; restriction on the use of corner flags, offside markers, clips etc removed.

16 July 2021 2021/V3 published to take account of the updated Government and CA guidance for Step 4 (from 19 July).