

Non-contact Indoor Sport

Introduction

While the Scottish Borders remains at Protection Level 2 (or below), indoor non-contact sport is permitted provided additional measures are taken to protect against Coronavirus (COVID-19). However, if protection is raised to Level 3, then no indoor adult group exercise classes, or any form of adult sports is allowed. For Protection Levels 1 to 3, under 18s sports and activities can continue with appropriate safety measures.

This short briefing summarises the key steps needed for sports such as badminton and table tennis to take place in village halls.

Risk Assessment

The village hall should have a COVID-19 risk assessment setting out the various safety measures needed to reduce risk of infection within the hall. This will cover physical distancing (including limits on room capacity), increased cleaning and hygiene, test and protect compliance, face coverings, ventilation and any other appropriate safety measures.

However, in consultation with organisers, halls should be satisfied that specific sporting activities have themselves been risk assessed to ensure any additional measures are in place appropriate to the nature of the sport that will take place. To help with this, the governing bodies of most sports have provided specific advice; and this is available from their respective websites.

For the hall itself, additional detailed advice on [getting facilities fit for sport](#) can be found on the Sport Scotland website.

Sports clubs

Sport Scotland have advised clubs to appoint a [COVID-19 officer](#) to ensure all appropriate management processes are in place. If an organised club wishes to use your hall, please consult with their appropriate COVID-19 officer regarding safety before proceeding with any booking.

Preparing the hall

The layout of the sport's court should be such as to enable 2 metre **physical distancing**. Placing markers on the floor or seating will assist with this. Consideration will have to be given to the space

taken up by the court and equipment; and if necessary, capacity limits will have to be set. (See also Player rules).

The playing area, all sports equipment and frequent touch points within the hall **should be clean**. Upon arrival, players will need to **sanitise** their hands. They must enter the hall wearing **face coverings**; and should only remove them when they are playing. Those waiting their turn to play must still wear a face covering. Toilets should be clean, with an adequate supply of liquid soap, hand sanitiser and paper towels.

For [Test and Protect](#) purposes, the organisers should provide the hall with contact details of all those who are present, including their entry and exit times.

Wherever possible, doors and windows should be opened to increase ventilation. Any other local measures arising from the hall's COVID-19 risk assessment must also be in place.

Player rules

Reduced mixing of households helps to reduce spread of the virus. As such, wherever possible, those from the same household should play together; and generally, it is better to limit each court or table to a maximum of six (including players and those waiting to play). For example, if the hall is sufficiently large to allow for two table tennis courts, then for the duration of the session, there should be two distinct groups of six associated with each table. Mixing players between tables should be avoided if possible.

For smaller halls, but where player capacity is still high, then players can be divided into distinct groups and play on a rotating basis. In all cases, those from different households must still keep their physical distance from others. That said, it is better to reduce overall numbers by limiting player capacity for the session.

A doubles team should be made up only of those from the same household.

Spectators

As a general rule, Sport Scotland discourage non-playing spectators, although exceptions can be made for children and carers. Hall capacity; and the need to maintain physical distancing, should govern your decisions on spectators.

Sports equipment

Players should keep their bats/racquets and other equipment with them at all times. To aid identification, it is helpful if players label their items to avoid any confusion. Sharing of equipment should be avoided where possible. Where sharing is necessary, then measures must be in place to sanitise and clean hands/equipment as appropriate.

Court equipment should be cleaned after each session. Where equipment is stored at the hall, then if possible, the same individuals responsible for the setting up the court should, after it is cleaned, take down and store court equipment before and after the session.

Players should be asked to bring their own water and take away their empty bottles afterwards.

Social activities

Although playing of non-contact sport is a permitted gathering, organisers should not allow pre or post-activity social gatherings within the hall. An orderly and swift exit after the session has ended is required.

Hall cleaning afterwards

All playing areas, including floors, should be properly cleaned once the session has ended. It will also be necessary to clean all frequent touch points, including toilets; and to dispose of any waste.

Induction and awareness

Organisers must ensure that players have been made aware of the safety expectations; and are able to follow the safety measures required of them.

Induction should be provided to volunteers and other helpers to:

- demonstrate commitment to taking the risks of COVID-19 seriously.
- build confidence that players and other hall users will be safe.
- reinforce responsibilities.

Further information

Information and guidance regarding risk assessments, physical distancing, cleaning and other relevant topics is available from the village halls page of the [Bavs website](#).

Official information and guidance on Coronavirus can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).