



ECB COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR CRICKET INDOORS

OCTOBER 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE

A tightening of COVID-19 restrictions means that the following amendments have been made to the guidance:

1. Local COVID Alert Levels
 - a. The UK Government has introduced three-tiered system of local COVID alert levels (Medium, High, Very High).
 - b. There are core restrictions that are applied by the UK government to every area at each local COVID Alert level. Additional restrictions may be imposed by local authorities - to determine the full list of restrictions applied in a particular area you will therefore also need to check which local restrictions apply (see further information below).

Core, UK Government restrictions on sport are as follows:

Alert Level	Medium – Level 1	High – Level 2	Very High – Level 3
Sports	Organised sport can take place outdoors.	Organised sport can take place outdoors.	Organised sport can take place outdoors.
	Indoor sport and classes must follow the rule of six.	Indoor sport and classes are only permitted if there is no household mixing.	Indoor sport and classes are only permitted if there is no household mixing.
	Youth (U18) and disability sport is unaffected.	Youth (U18) and disability sport is unaffected.	Youth (U18) and disability sport is unaffected.

Please note that throughout this guidance U18 refers to the actual age of the individual 'on the day', not to their cricket age group as determined on the 1st of September.

- c. **This guide applies to Local COVID Alert Level 1 (Medium).** If you are in an area in COVID Alert Level 2 (High) or 3 (Very High) you must check both the national restrictions and local restrictions before proceeding with any indoor cricket activity.
 - d. To determine your Local COVID Alert Level by postcode visit: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>. Note that this site only provides the local alert level and the applicable UK Government restrictions – you should also visit your local authority website to determine additional local restrictions.
 - e. It is the location of the venue that determines the restrictions applicable to the activity at the particular venue but all visitors should consider the Local COVID Alert Level that applies to the area you are travelling from too and refer to applicable guidance on travel to and from areas of different Local COVID Alert Levels.
2. **This guide applies to Local COVID Alert Level 1 (Medium) where the 'Rule of 6' applies to adults (i.e. 18+ year olds) participating in indoor cricket activity.** This means:
- a. that adults must participate in organised indoor cricket activity in a group of no more than 6 people from different households - provided groups of 6 do not mix, multiple net sessions of up to 6 people **per net** (excluding coaches) can take place at the same time in the same COVID secure indoor venue;
 - b. that match play for adults in groups larger than 6 (excluding coaches and officials) is not possible at this time.
3. There are exemptions to the 'Rule of 6' where groups can be larger than 6 people. These include:
- a. Supervised activities provided for under 18s, **where the whole group is under the age of 18**. If an adult (aged 18 or over) takes part in organised indoor sport alongside children (under 18), the 'Rule of 6' applies, so this can only take place in groups of up to 6 people (adults and children combined);
 - b. Cricket activity for educational purposes, delivered as part of curriculum or in-school activity. This exemption also applies to cricket activity for educational purposes at universities, including anything related to the curriculum/sport-related degree programmes, intra-mural, training and inter-university competitions but not recreational cricket activities at universities – see <https://www.bucs.org.uk/return-to-play.html> for more details. Note that where external cricket clubs/teams have a booking for the use of a school facility out of school hours or a university facility, then the 'Rule of 6' would apply);
 - c. Indoor organised cricket activity for disabled people;
 - d. Elite training and competition that follows the relevant UK Government [Elite Sport Return to Training and Competition Guidance](#);
 - e. Coach development courses are exempt as they are covered by the training exemption as long as the venue is COVID-19 Secure.

A summary of what cricket activity is permitted in England for different organisations is shown in the table on the following page. The table must be read in conjunction with the rest of this guidance document – it should not be read or interpreted in isolation or as a standalone document.

INDOOR CRICKET PERMITTED ACTIVITY (IN ENGLAND)

Organisation	Club/Community		County		National Countries		First Class Counties & Regional Women's Cricket		International	Disability Cricket	Schools & Universities		Coach Education			
	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	Pathway	Academy			Senior	Youth (U18)		Adult (18+)	Workplace Guidance	
Relevant COVID framework	(has been playing cricket outdoors following ECB COVID Step 4 recreational game guidance)															
Age group	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	Youth (U18)	All Ages	Elite (training and playing cricket following the Government Elite Sport Return to Training and Competition guidance and ECB Medical guidance*)	Elite and Recreational	All Ages	Youth (U18)	Adult (18+)	All Ages
Level 1 Medium	✓	✓ (plus Rule of 6)	✓	✓ (plus Rule of 6)	✓	✓ (plus Rule of 6)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 2 High	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 3 Very High	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✗ (unless same household or support bubble)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
THIS MATRIX IS BASED UPON CORE UK GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS AT LEVELS 2 & 3 - YOU MUST CHECK FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESTRICTIONS WITH YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY																

Notes:

- In Government COVID guidance, Youth U18 is defined by age on the day of the activity not age on the first of September.
- All youth/child, disability and education activity is exempt from the Rule of Six, except where youths are required to form a group of six with one or more adults; in those circumstances the youth (U18) should observe the Rule of Six for the duration of the event/activity.
- You must check local restrictions with your local authority if the venue is in a Level 2 or 3 area or if you live in a Level 2 or 3 area.
- Government COVID guidance states that 'you should try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey'. It also states that 'you should continue to ... travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but aim to reduce the number of journeys you make'.
- The ECB is awaiting clarification from DCMS on whether or not 1:1 Coach: Adult coaching is permitted at Local COVID Alert Levels 2 & 3 – we shall provide an update on this as soon as possible
- University cricket comprises representative organised cricket for the university, college or intra-mural teams but does not include recreational cricket for university students – this would fall under recreational and not education COVID guidance.
- For the purposes of COVID guidance, elite athletes are defined in the UK Government Elite sport return to training guidance: Stage One document. Indoor training and competition for elite athletes should be carried out in full accordance with the relevant government guidance for elite sport return to training and competition (in particular Stage 2 training guidance) and the latest ECB Science and Medicine Guidance. * ECB Science and Medicine Guidance is currently being revised and will be issued to relevant organisations shortly.

4. In England, you are required by law to wear a face covering in certain indoor settings (see [here](#)), including premises providing hospitality (except when seated at a table to eat or drink). This does not currently include gyms, leisure centres and other sport facilities, however when not engaging in sport and physical activity the government encourages visitors to wear face coverings in enclosed public areas where possible and practical. Staff in hospitality and retail are required to wear face coverings.
5. Venues must also display an NHS QR Code Poster (physically or electronically) – see [here](#) for details on how to register and create your NHS QR code poster. Once you have produced and displayed your poster, you then need to get visitors to scan the NHS QR code when they arrive at your venue using the NHS COVID-19 app. Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system.

For the latest UK Government guidance and support, please visit [Gov.uk](#); you should also check [local restrictions](#) that apply in your area.

SUMMARY

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has prepared guidelines for cricket indoors. The purpose of these guidelines is to offer practical guidance to venues, coaching providers and clubs on the steps they should take while undertaking cricket indoors. They should be read in conjunction with latest UK Government regulations. These guidelines could change in response to the current Local COVID Alert Level or other Government advice.

In order to keep cricket going as it moves indoors, there are adaptations in place for all, including venues, coaching providers, players, parents/carers, spectators and officials. Those adaptations relate to activity prior to, during and after cricket activity. There are also adaptations from the ECB Step 4 outdoor cricket guidance.

A summary of the adaptations is listed below but please read the full guidance for comprehensive details.

Venues:

- Determine [local restrictions](#) under the relevant Local COVID Alert Level for your area.
- Carry out a COVID-19 Risk assessment, act on it, communicate it, publish it.
- Include ventilation, occupancy, social distancing and cleaning as a minimum.
- Remember, the 'Rule of 6' applies to organised indoor cricket activity for adults.
- Implement and communicate control measures.
- H&S, First Aid, Safeguarding and Access legislation and requirements remain in place.
- Continually review and update.
- Provide an NHS QR Code for your venue.

Coaching Providers and Clubs:

- Determine [local restrictions](#) under the relevant Local COVID Alert Level for your area.
- Carry out a COVID-19 Risk assessment, act on it, communicate it, publish it.
- Check venues when you hire them.

- Plan and adapt your coaching activity to be COVID-19 compliant – remember the 'Rule of 6' applies to organised indoor cricket activity for adults.
- Match play for adults in groups larger than six (excluding coaches and officials) is not possible at this time.
- Plan and adapt pre-session and post-session processes to be COVID-19 compliant (including NHS Test & Trace requirements).
- Allow time for handover between sessions.
- H&S, First Aid, Safeguarding and Access legislation and requirements remain in place.
- Provide an NHS QR Code for your club.

Participants:

- Enjoy your cricket and enjoy it safely.
- Cricket indoors is different from normal under COVID-19 and different from outdoor cricket under COVID-19, but everything will be explained to you – just follow guidance from your coaching provider or club.
- Check local restrictions under the Local COVID alert system that apply to travel from your home to the venue.
- Individuals should undergo a personal symptom check prior to all activity and not take part if they demonstrate any COVID-19 symptoms.
- You must scan the venue's NHS QR Code with the NHS COVID-19 app on arrival or provide contact details for NHS Test and Trace (this can be supplied when pre-booking).
- You should maintain 2 m social distancing at all times. Remember - organised indoor cricket activity involving adults is subject to the 'Rule of 6'.
- Players should minimise handling of the ball in all activity, by limiting contact as it makes its way back to the bowler and using small groups in training.
- No sweat or saliva should be added to the ball at any time.
- Limit the sharing of equipment where possible. Where not possible, practice strict hand hygiene.
- If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact your coaching provider or club.

To support delivery of cricket indoors we have provided infographics, checklists for venue operators and coaching providers and clubs and a risk assessment template. All of these documents can be accessed in the ECB Resource Hub [here](#)

INTRODUCTION

This document aims to help coaches, clubs and participants to carry on playing cricket indoors safely and in a compliant manner. The intention of this guide is to support venues, coaching providers and clubs to deliver cricket activity indoors in accordance with the [UK Government Guidance on indoor sport: Guidance for people who work in grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities](#). It has been aligned with guidance provided by Sport England and we thank them for their support in doing that.

Please note that the Government guidance is detailed and must be followed. You must read the Government guidance and the [guidance issued by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy relating to the operation of related working environments](#) when planning to open your facility or to run a coaching activity.

This document supports the application of the Government guidance for indoor sport in a cricket context – it is not a substitute for the Government guidance and should not be used as such. Additional detail on social distancing and sports at grassroots and community level can be found in the [Government's outdoor sport and recreation guidance](#) – the Government's guidance set out here also applies to indoor activity.

Following the introduction of a three-tiered system for local COVID alert levels (Medium, High, Very High) it is essential that you familiarise yourself with both the national restrictions and local restrictions in place in your local area. **This guide applies to COVID Alert Level 1 (Medium)**. If you are in an area in COVID Alert Level 2 (High) or 3 (Very High) you must check local restrictions before proceeding with any indoor cricket activity. For full details of local restrictions visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

Organised indoor sport for adults in a COVID secure environment is subject to the Rule of 6 (see The Rule of 6 and Exemptions section below).

In England, you are required by law to wear a face covering in certain indoor settings (see [here](#)), including premises providing hospitality (except when seated at a table to eating or drink). This does not currently include gyms, leisure centres and other sport facilities, however when not engaging in sport and physical activity visitors should be encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public areas where possible and practical. Staff in hospitality and retail will be required to wear face coverings.

Please note that there are different requirements for hospitality and other social facilities within indoor sports centres such as restaurants, cafes and bars, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>.

There is no legal obligation for venues and clubs to open their facilities and they should only open if they are ready to do so and can do so safely, following requirements as laid down in the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and following Public Health guidance.

Venues, coaching providers and clubs that are opening and using indoor facilities should also be aware that Government guidance and this guidance document is subject to change, for example in response to the COVID-19 Alert Level, community prevalence of COVID-19 and/or to reflect additional or updated Government guidance. Further advice is available at the gov.uk and Sport England websites. You must regularly check these websites and updated ECB guidance as this policy position may change and could also become more regionalised and localised over time.

THE RULE OF 6 AND EXEMPTIONS

Individuals in England must not meet with people from other households socially in groups of more than 6 (individual households/support bubbles of more than 6 will still be able to gather together). This rule is known as the 'Rule of 6' and will apply indoors and outdoors, including in private homes and this limit will be enforceable in law.

Organised indoor team sport is no longer exempt from the 'Rule of 6' – this means that organised indoor team sport should only take place in groups of up to 6 people (unless an exemption applies – see below).

Adults participating in organised team sport indoors must not gather in groups of more than 6, and must socially distance from people who they do not live with (or have formed a support bubble with) wherever possible - this means that provided the groups of 6 do not mix or form larger groups, multiple net sessions of up to 6 people per net

(excluding coaches) can take place at the same time in the same COVID secure indoor venue. However, match play for adults in groups larger than 6 (excluding coaches and officials) is not possible at this time.

There are limited exemptions where the Rule of 6 does not apply (i.e. where groups can be larger than 6 people). These exemptions include:

1. Supervised activities provided for under 18s, where the whole group is under the age of 18. If an adult (aged 18 or over) takes part in organised indoor sport alongside children (under 18), the 'Rule of 6' applies, so this can only take place in groups of up to six people (adults and children combined). Please note that the age of an individual is determined by their age on the day in question, not their cricket age group based on their age on the first of September;
2. Cricket activity for educational purposes, delivered as part of curriculum or in-school activity. This exemption also applies to cricket activity for educational purposes at universities, including anything related to the curriculum/sport-related degree programmes, intra-mural, training and inter-university competitions but not recreational cricket activities at universities – see <https://www.bucs.org.uk/return-to-play.html> for more details. Note that where external cricket clubs/teams have a booking for the use of a school facility out of school hours or a university facility, then the 'Rule of 6' would apply);
3. Indoor organised cricket activity for disabled people;
4. Elite training and competition following the relevant UK Government [Elite Sport Return to Training and Competition Guidance](#);
5. Coach development courses are exempt as they are covered by the training exemption as long as the venue is COVID-19 Secure;
6. Providing support to a vulnerable person;
7. Providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm.

Note that this is not the full list of exemptions. Further information is available [here](#).

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

To help make your indoor cricket activity successful and safe, it is important that both the venue owner/operator and the coaching provider / club consider all aspects of the venue and activities. It is recommended that you consider all visitors to your venue, including coaches, employees, volunteers, participants and their parents/carers when preparing your venue and planning your session. It is also important that you communicate your intentions in a timely manner to ensure the venue is safe for use and all attendees are adequately prepared in advance in line with current COVID-19 guidelines.

This guidance is in three parts:

1. Guidance for Venue Operators (this could be the venue owner).
2. Guidance for Coaching Providers and Clubs.
3. Guidance for Participants, Parents and Carers.

Some cricket organisations will be both the Venue Operator and the Coaching Provider / Club, but the majority will be a Coaching Provider or Club using a third-party venue. Whatever the circumstances, we strongly recommend that you read all sections so that you have a full understanding of guidance for both Venue Operators, and Coaching Providers and Clubs to help ensure that your coaching activity is compliant with Government guidance and minimises the risk of COVID-19 transmission. All groups have responsibilities for delivering safe activities but venue operators have the responsibility to provide a safe venue, and coaching providers and clubs to provide safe activity in that venue – therefore there needs to be good communication and clear understanding of how these responsibilities are going to be met by the venue, coaching providers and clubs.

We have provided three accompanying documents to help you with this guidance:

1. A checklist for venues to help you work through what you need to put in place and what you need to consider as a Venue Operator can be found [here](#).
2. A checklist for Coaching Providers and Clubs to help you work through what you need to put in place and what you need to consider as a Coaching Provider or Club can be found [here](#).
3. A risk assessment template that you can use to record your risk assessment of both the venue and the coaching/training/playing activity can be found [here](#).

PART 1: THE VENUE

Venues play a critical role in providing safe places for cricket to take place indoors. Venue owners and operators have a duty to reduce workplace risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level by taking preventative measures. Venues must work with any other employers or contractors sharing the workplace so that everybody's health and safety is protected. In the context of COVID-19 this means protecting the health and safety of your workers/volunteers and customers by working through the following steps.

Local Restrictions

Before opening your venue you must determine the Local COVID Alert Level and any relevant local restrictions in place. For more information on how to do this see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

Risk Assessment

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Government guidance for people who work in grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities require you to risk assess your activities and to share the results of your risk assessment with your employees. A risk assessment must be conducted to understand the hazards and measure risks posed by your venue to those using it. The risk assessment must address and suitably and sufficiently control the risk of COVID-19.

It is recommended that a risk assessment is done at an early stage in your planning as this will give you sufficient time to put mitigating controls in place. Once complete, it is recommended that you review it prior to your first event and re-assess it at subsequent events.

The risk assessment should:

- Identify the hazards, who might be harmed and how.
- Assess the level of risk.
- Identify suitable controls.
- Be recorded in writing (if you have 5 or more employees).
- Review controls, as and when required.

We have provided an example of a risk assessment template that you can use for your venue and/or coaching activity [here](#).

Once you have completed your risk assessment and developed your control measures you should:

- Implement the control measures.
- Communicate your risk assessment and its findings to your staff, contractors and visitors.
- Communicate your risk assessment, control measures and other requirements to those hiring your facility (including Coaching Providers and Clubs).
- Keep a record on file but continually review and update the risk assessment as circumstances (including local COVID-19 prevalence) change.
- The UK Government expects companies in England employing more than 50 people to publish the findings of their risk assessment on their website.
- Share your risk assessment and control measures with your insurer or their representative to confirm that your insurance cover conditions have been met and your insurance is valid.

Ventilation

Ventilation is an important part of mitigation against the transmission of COVID-19. When ventilation is poor, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 increases because the number of pathogens can build up over time. A continuous or regular circulation of air with fresh air from outside is important. The aim should be to make the indoor environment 'as outdoors as possible'.

Ventilation into the building should be optimised to ensure a fresh air supply is provided to all areas of the facility and increased wherever possible. Particular attention should be given to the areas where high intensity exercise activity takes place.

To achieve this, specific measures should be implemented:

- The maximum occupancy of each indoor facility should be limited by providing a minimum of 9.29 m² (100sqft) per person. For this figure, the area is the net useable indoor facility space available to individuals to use, including changing

rooms, toilet and wash facilities. Reducing capacity in this way whilst sustaining ventilation flows, will increase the typical current 10 L/s/p flow rate of ventilation to at least 20 L/s/p, as fewer people are being served by the ventilation system.

- Ventilation systems should provide 100% fresh air and not recirculate air from one space to another.

Venues should also consider:

- Increasing the existing ventilation rate by fully opening dampers and running fans on full speed.
- Operating the ventilation system 24 hours a day.
- Increasing the frequency of filter changes.
- Using natural ventilation - open external doors and windows to maximise air flow.
- Opening internal doors to increase circulation (excluding fire doors unless on an automated fire door holder system).

Further guidance is provided in the CIBSE COVID-19 Ventilation guidance [here](#).

Where you are using natural ventilation methods (opening doors and windows) in winter periods you should also consider:

- Thermal comfort of users.
- The ability of your heating system to manage changes in temperature (fan air heating systems will be more effective at increasing temperature quickly than under-floor or radiating heating systems).
- Management of wet weather and slip / electrical hazard.
- Management of condensation and slip hazard.
- Control of noise pollution from the sports hall to surrounding premises.
- The security of the facility.
- The safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons whilst external doors are open.
- The risk of collisions, falls and ball escape when doors are open.
- Seasonal variation in temperature and weather will mean that a natural ventilation strategy must be kept under constant review.

Care should be taken when using school assembly halls, village halls and other non-sports hall facilities to ensure that there is sufficient ventilation as these are often not mechanically ventilated to sports hall standards. Effective natural ventilation will be important.

If you are in any doubt, then you should employ a specialist ventilation engineer to make an assessment and recommendations.

Social distancing: occupancy and circulation

When at the venue, everyone should comply with the social distancing guidelines set out by the Government. As the venue owner/manager, plans need to be put in place to facilitate this. Additional detail on social distancing and sports at grassroots and community level can be found in [the Government's outdoor sport and recreation guidance](#) – the Government's guidance set out here also applies to indoor activity.

Social distancing should be maintained between all users of facilities including individuals, groups, teams, teachers, trainers and coaches unless users come from the same household or to manage needs on account of a disability when additional mitigation will be essential.

Government guidance states "Maximum capacity should be based on the Government requirement for social distancing, nature of activities (i.e. if the activity is static vs. requiring a range of movement), equipment layout and the configuration of facilities". Further guidance can be found [here](#). From 24 September, you should also take into account the 'Rule of 6' which will apply to organised indoor team sport for adults. Participation in these activities (e.g. games and matches) should be limited to groups of up to 6 (not including anyone present in a work capacity or providing voluntary services, such as officials and coaches). These additional restrictions do not apply to team sports for people with disabilities, which can continue in any number. Organised outdoor team sport is also exempt from the rule of 6.

Please note that there are different requirements for hospitality and other social facilities within indoor sports centres such as restaurants, cafes and bars, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>.

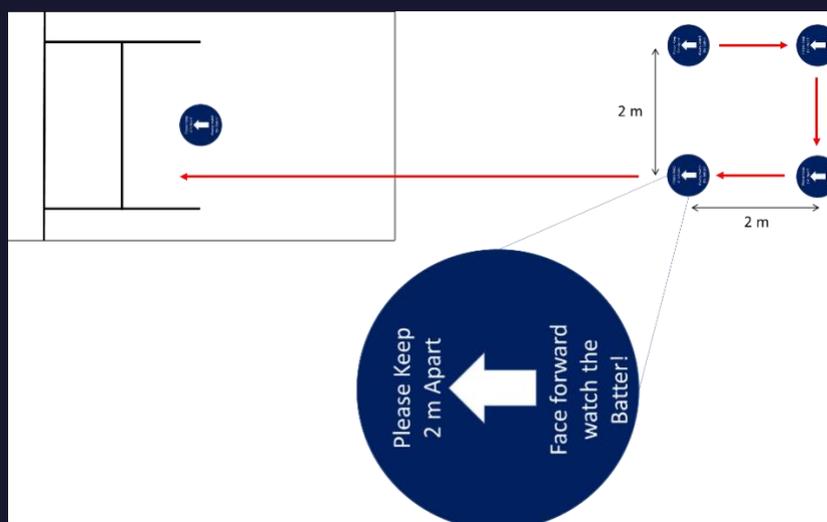
As per guidance for outdoor cricket – 2 m social distancing should be maintained. In addition, organised indoor cricket activity for adults in England is subject to the Rule of 6, please see The Rule of 6 and Exemptions section above. This affects the different types of indoor cricket activity in different ways, this is outlined below.

Cricket Nets

A typical net set-up comprises a coach, a batter and a number of bowlers actively bowling or waiting to bowl. It is important that the coach and all bowlers are aware of the ball being hit straight back down the net towards them to avoid injury. Therefore, the following principles for determining safe occupancy should be considered: social distancing, maintaining a safe reaction distance from the batter and safe ventilation so that participants are not standing around face-to-face in the same air.

The principles for determining safe occupancy in indoor cricket nets are:

- Organised indoor team sport should only take place in groups of up to 6 people (unless an exemption or easement applies). In the context of organised indoor cricket activity for adults, this means that, provided groups of 6 do not mix or form larger groups, multiple net sessions of up to 6 people per net (excluding coaches) can take place at the same time in the same COVID secure indoor venue – please see The Rule of 6 and Exemptions section above for details.
- All users should be socially distanced at 2 m (because all forms of face coverings may restrict breathing efficiency and should not be used during exercise except on specific advice from a physician, so 1 m+ does not apply).
- Queuing bowlers should maximise their distance from the batter to allow sufficient reaction time to balls hit out of the net.
- Participants need to maintain 2 m social distancing with participants in adjacent nets and in surrounding spaces.
- All players within a net should be facing the batter – this is so that they can react appropriately to a ball hit out of the net and so that the bowlers are facing in the same direction, reducing the risk of face-to-face transmission.
- Floor signage and reminder signage should be used to inform participants of socially distanced waiting locations and the direction in which they should face (for example 2 m spaced arrows).



We have provided example layouts [here](#)

1. A seven-lane specialist indoor cricket centre.
2. A typical four-badminton-court sports hall with four net lanes.
3. A typical four-badminton-court sports hall with two net lanes.

Please note that these layouts are for illustrative purposes only and need to be risk assessed for a particular site.

Open Plan (including school assembly and other halls where ventilation is appropriate)

For activities involving adults the Rule of 6 and 2 m social distancing must be maintained as per above. This means that that if a hall is divided such that mixing between groups of six can be avoided and social distancing can be maintained then open plan activity can take place within defined areas for each group of six. The coach does not need to be included in the headcount of six.

Please see The Rule of 6 and Exemptions section above for details.

Indoor Cricket Matches

Indoor cricket matches for 18+ year olds in groups larger than six (in total, including both teams and officials) are not possible under current Government guidance and should not take place.

Where the 'Rule of 6' does not apply (U18s, Disability Cricket, Elite Sport) then indoor cricket matches can take place, provided relevant guidance is followed and risk assessments are carried out in respect of the venue at which they will take place.

Each risk assessment will be different but when considering whether indoor cricket matches can take place in your venue you should:

- Determine whether social distancing can be maintained in the space available and adjust playing numbers downwards, if necessary.
- Ensure that there is sufficient ventilation.
- Avoid close contacts (within 2 m) during game play.
- Avoid shouting, calling loudly etc. as this increases the risk of transmission.

- For all nets, including indoor cricket played inside a tensioned net – consider how player entrance and exit can be facilitated without breaking social distancing and without creating common touch points at the net entrance (this could include high frequency cleaning and using elbows, backs of cricket-gloved hands etc to minimise touching with the palm of the hand).
- Do not share worn equipment such as helmets and gloves. Ideally participants should use their own bat – where shared bats are used, they should be sanitised between users.
- Hygiene breaks should be built into match play (for example every 4 overs) to sanitise all players' hands and the ball, with a maximum time of 20 minutes between hygiene breaks.
- A keeper should maintain 2 m social distancing and not stand up; social distancing at 1 m+ is not appropriate because the batter should not be wearing a face covering unless advised by a physician because of the level of activity required and the encounter could be prolonged.
- Risk assess the location of match officials. Where 2 m social distancing cannot be maintained between match officials and players 1 m+ social distancing can be observed if a match official is wearing a face covering and/or visor. There should be no encounters within 1 m.
- Batters must run at a distance of 2 m from each other and the fielders.

Bag storage and padding-up

We recognise that there may be a need to provide safe areas for bag storage and padding-up whether this is within the sports hall or within separate areas outside the hall. These areas should:

- Allow for social distancing of 2m.
- Comply with the 'Rule of 6' (if applicable - please see The Rule of Six and Exemptions section above for details).
- Be safe from ball strike for the person padding- up, where you are using net lanes or areas between nets allow a sufficient safety margin from the net to allow for movement of the net when a ball is hit hard into the net – this will need to be assessed site-by-site because of differing net specifications.
- Not cause a trip hazard to activity in the sports hall.
- Not obstruct any circulation route and especially an emergency (fire) escape route.
- Not obstruct circulation for people using wheelchairs.
- Consider the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons.
- Be cleaned between bookings.

Classrooms and Coach Education

Risk assess classroom use carefully. Social distancing and ventilation requirements apply in this environment too. This will tend to reduce the capacity of classrooms because of desk spacing and circulation of people around and into and out of the classroom.

Look to see whether classroom activity can be brought into the sports hall where social distancing, circulation and ventilation are easier to facilitate.

Coach development courses (including active training, nets and classroom activity) are exempt from the Rule of 6 because they are covered by the training exemption, as long as the venue is COVID-19 Secure.

Strength and Conditioning Facilities

Strength and Conditioning (S&C) facilities should be risk assessed in the same way for social distancing and ventilation and appropriate control measures should be put in place. Cleaning of equipment between users is essential and this must be risk assessed carefully in full compliance with the Government guidance. It could be that S&C facilities need to be relocated from their normal location or not used and alternative, compliant provision sourced elsewhere. The Rule of 6 must be maintained, where applicable (please see The Rule of 6 and Exemptions section above for details).

Circulation in the building

Consider how social distancing and the 'Rule of 6' (where applicable) can be implemented and controlled – look at potential pinch points and workarounds, one-way systems (including entrances and exits), screens, floor markings and PPE requirements. Identify an operational protocol, communication and compliance plan (use illustrated site plans, signage and other control measures as required).

Look at whether you can use a one-way system with different entrances and exits. Where you are using sports hall doors for ingress/egress and ventilation, weather protection could be required.

Where you are changing circulation routes, consider access for disabled people, including people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.

Cleaning

If your facility has been in lockdown for some time, undertaking a deep clean of your facilities will ensure that you have a good base level of hygiene to work with and a clean and safe environment for all users. This is often referred to as an 'initial deep clean'. Plan to undertake this as soon as practicable after entering a building that has been temporarily closed.

Cleaning methods and cleaning products should follow government advice on cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside the home available [here](#).

Formulate a cleaning plan that states:

- What should be cleaned and when – this should include areas of the building, frequent touch points and playing equipment such as bowling machines, stumps etc.
- Who is responsible for cleaning each area.
- Any special cleaning requirements i.e. deep clean.
- A schedule of frequent touch points and how frequently they should be cleaned.
- The provision of visible records of cleaning e.g. a toilet cleaning schedule.

On-going cleaning regimes will need to be more frequent, with a thorough clean of all contact surfaces and touch point cleaning between the end of one session and prior to the next session commencing.

It really helps to minimise unnecessary furniture, objects and fittings to limit the number of items that need to be cleaned or moved during cleaning – this can help to speed up the cleaning process.

Changing rooms are an area of increased risk of transmission and should only be used if essential and provided social distancing is maintained. Changing rooms should not be used for changing into training kit – participants should arrive and leave in their training

kit and travel home to change/shower. Changing rooms could be required for padding up on an individual basis but mixing with other sports venue users should be avoided and changing rooms should not be used for bag storage. Changing rooms should be maintained with a regular cleaning regime between sessions.

Legionella

Water Systems – Legionella bacteria can cause an outbreak of Legionnaire’s Disease. These bacteria thrive in stagnant water at tepid temperatures. If your facility has been out of use for a significant period water contained within could have become stagnant and could be contaminated with the legionella bacteria.

Water systems need to be treated with particular caution following a period of closure due to the risk of legionella bacteria developing in stagnant water. Unless your systems have been flushed on a weekly basis and a normal cleaning regime has been in place, particular care should be taken to disinfect them prior to opening.

It is essential to have a ‘competent person’ overseeing any work on water systems. If you are in any doubt, consult a suitably qualified specialist. Further advice can be found at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/>

Toilets

Toilets should be checked and cleaned regularly with signage in place to remind people of essential hygiene practice.

Assess the safe number of occupants for each toilet facility – this could be based on the use of every cubicle but every other urinal, but is often determined by social distancing and safe circulation around the wash-basin area – queues within toilet areas should be avoided. Set a maximum occupancy for the toilet facility and communicate this with appropriate signage.

You should consider the use of social distancing markings and the adoption of a limited entry approach, with 1 in, 1 out (whilst avoiding the creation of additional bottlenecks).

The ventilation of toilets is important to limit the spread of aerosols that could carry the virus. Where possible, mechanical ventilation should be used to create a negative pressure in the toilet area to suck air out – be careful with opening windows that this direction of flow is not reversed and aerosols from the flushing of lavatories are minimised. Encourage users to flush lavatories with the lid closed where possible.

To facilitate good hand hygiene, you should consider making hand sanitiser available on entry to toilets (where safe and practical) and ensure suitable handwashing facilities, including running water and liquid soap are available.

Disposable paper towels are preferred to mechanical hand driers for hand drying – safe waste management must be considered.

Hand cleaning

Hand washing with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds is the recommended method for cleaning hands and reducing COVID-19 virus transmission. However, to avoid long, socially distanced queues for sinks, frequent hand sanitising gel with a minimum alcohol content of 60% is a convenient and effective method for reducing transmission.

Assess where people on site will need to sanitise their hands and ensure sufficient sanitiser is available – for example:

- At registration desks
- On entering/exiting buildings.
- Areas of concentrated use including the sports hall.
- Common contact/touch points.
- In player waiting areas particularly where players will be eating/drinking
- Toilets.

Make sure that you have a sufficient supply of sanitiser to meet demand – plan and evaluate after your first opening to gauge required stock levels.

First Aid

As part of your duty of care you must make first aid provision available. St John Ambulance have provided an online guide for carrying out first aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, including on how to modify CPR – let your first aiders know about it – it's available [here](#).

Make sure that even if parts of your building are restricted that the following are available to all users:

- Your First Aid kit(s) – including suitable PPE (gloves, suitable face coverings/masks, disposable apron, hand sanitiser) and that you have somewhere safe to dispose of this PPE once used.
- Your Automated External Defibrillator (AED) if you have one – check that it is functioning properly (e.g. warning light status) and has been serviced as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Note that providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm (such as administering first aid) are exempt from the Rule of 6.

COVID-19 Cases on site / Symptomatic Persons

Every individual planning to attend the venue should undergo self-screening to ensure they are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 before coming to the venue. However, if someone starts to show symptoms whilst they are at the venue – have a plan for dealing with this scenario:

- Maintain social distancing and the Rule of 6 (where possible) but note that providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm are exempt from the Rule of 6.
- If the person is able to travel home safely, they should travel home and manage their symptoms in accordance with Government guidance.
- Identify a suitable isolation area and maintain this as part of your plan – it should be located to provide easy entry and exit from the facility and should have easily cleaned furnishings and fittings.
- If the person is too unwell to travel home safely, they should be isolated from everyone else and someone from their household contacted to make safe arrangements – if that is not possible then phone 111 and follow instructions.
- Make sure that the isolation area is well ventilated and then cleaned carefully using suitable cleaning products and PPE in accordance with [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

Treatment Rooms (where applicable)

Physiotherapy and other treatment rooms should be risk assessed to ensure that social distancing is achievable and ventilation is suitable. All treatment rooms will need to be cleaned to the relevant Government/Public Health England cleaning standard between individual sessions.

It may be necessary to relocate treatment rooms if existing rooms are risk assessed and found to be unsuitable. When relocating, consider the ease with which surfaces can be cleaned and privacy requirements as well as COVID-19 risk factors such as social distancing and ventilation.

Existing and alternative treatment room provision must be accessible to disabled people.

Viewing Areas and Cafés

Government guidance states that attendance by spectators and non-participating children should be avoided and minimised especially within indoor facilities. If allowing spectators would present challenges to maintaining decided capacity levels, consider prohibiting spectators until further notice. If a person is disabled or has special needs that require the presence of a carer then their presence should be allowed.

Supervised children's activity is exempt from the Rule of 6, and this can include adults where they are needed to supervise in a safeguarding role. Parents or other adults who are not acting in a supervisory role are considered to be spectators, and are not exempt. In cases where a child is participating in activities, consider permitting only one parent/carers per child to supervise their child while following social distancing.

Where spectators are permitted, they should only be allowed in separate and distinct groups (preferably with marked viewing spaces) consisting of up to 6 people (or larger discrete groups from the same household or support bubble), which should not mix with other groups. Where viewing areas are to be used, these need to be risk assessed carefully in line with above government guidance on social distancing, the Rule of 6, the wearing of face coverings indoors and ventilation. When not engaging in sport and physical activity, visitors should be encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public areas where possible and practical. Viewing areas will also need to be cleaned between sessions. Where these COVID mitigation controls cannot be met, viewing areas should not be used.

Please note that in areas with a Local COVID Alert Level of 2 (high) or 3 (very high), spectators are not allowed indoors except for supervision or safeguarding purposes.

Where Cafés are used these must be risk assessed and operated in compliance with government guidance on restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services. In England see [here](#).

Registration and entry sales

The Government guidance for indoor sport requires you to keep a temporary record of attendees and their contact details for 21 days following a visit to your facility to assist the NHS Test and Trace process. It is a legal requirement in England for venues to maintain a record of visitors and their contact details to support NHS Test and Trace, with a risk of fines if you do not. You must collect sufficient data on each attendee (name, home phone number, mobile number, date and times of entry and exit) so that each person could be contacted if there is a case of COVID-19 connected to your facility. As this is a legal requirement it is essential that this process is coordinated with the Coaching Provider or Club.

Further Information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

To assist with NHS Test and Trace record keeping the Government has produced a Customer Logging toolkit: <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/Test-and-Trace/resources/customer-logging-toolkit/>

Venues must also display an NHS QR Code Poster (physically or electronically) – see <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster> for details on how to register and create your NHS QR code poster.

Once you have produced and displayed your poster, you then need to get visitors to scan the NHS QR code when they arrive at your venue using the NHS COVID-19 app.

Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system.

Access & Disabled Persons

When designing how people will circulate around the facility consider those who may require reasonable adjustment i.e. if you have restricted the use of some of your facilities does this impinge on the needs of a disabled person? Can a disabled person move freely and easily around all accessible areas safely? Ensure any changes to entries, exit and queue management take into account reasonable adjustments for those who need them, including disabled attendees. For example, maintaining pedestrian and parking access for disabled attendees.

Venue Set-up and Clear-up

Establish a clear protocol on venue set-up and clear-up with the Coaching Provider or Club. Consider key preparation tasks such as who will be pulling out nets and tidying them away, who will be laying out mats and putting them away? Risk assess how this can be done safely, consider manual handling, COVID-19 safety – in particular social distancing and identify PPE requirements, providing PPE where it is your responsibility to do so.

Communication (internal / external)

Once you have planned how your facility will operate, it is important that instructions and expectations are communicated clearly. You will need to explain the changes and the reasons why you have made them.

Consider who you need to communicate with and the most effective methods for doing this. This should include event providers (including Coaching Providers and Clubs), users and their parents or carers.

Consider how you will communicate with people in a timely fashion before they arrive at your facility as this will help the process of managing behaviour in advance.

Provide clear unambiguous instructions and signage both before arrival and on arrival, particularly for re-enforcing the need for social distancing, observance of the 'Rule of 6' and good hygiene at all times, including before, during and after physical activity:

- If you supply instruction on information sheets, ensure these are either a fixed sign or 'disposable' takeaways. Do not use laminated sheets as this creates a common touchpoint.
- Use digital methods including social media, websites and email.
- Provide clear route signage utilising commonly understood symbols.
- Provide regular reminders and signage to maintain hygiene standards.
- Display an NHS QR Code.

Consider whether you need to communicate with your local public health body where local lockdown / restriction arrangements are in place.

Venues hosting elite sport

For the purposes of COVID guidance, elite athletes are defined in the UK Government [Elite sport return to training guidance: Stage One](#) document. Indoor training and competition for elite athletes should be carried out in full accordance with the relevant government guidance for elite sport return to training and competition (in particular [Stage 2 training guidance](#)) and the latest ECB Science and Medicine Guidance.

PART 2: THE COACHING PROVIDER AND CLUBS

How to plan your indoor cricket activity

As the coaching provider or club, you have a duty to ensure the safety and health of those attending the event by reducing risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level and by taking preventative measures. Coaching Providers and Clubs who are employers must work with any other employers or contractors sharing the workplace so that everybody's health and safety is protected. Volunteer led organisations also have a duty of care and should take the same steps to protect anyone they may interact with.

In the context of COVID-19 this means protecting the health and safety of your workers/volunteers and customers by working through the following steps:

Local Restrictions

Before planning your cricket activity, you must work with your venue to determine the Local COVID Alert Level and any relevant local restrictions in place. For more information on how to do this see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-restrictions-areas-with-an-outbreak-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

Hiring venues

Prior to hiring a venue, you must ensure it is suitable for your activity in regard to COVID-19 and other safety aspects. Venue operators include leisure facility providers, schools, universities, indoor cricket centres and various others. The venue owner/manager should have undertaken a risk assessment for the venue. Ask to see this and ensure you are comfortable with the control measures the venue has taken to sufficiently control and minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

There are a number of questions you should be asking of a venue:

- Can they share their venue COVID-19 risk assessment and talk you through their requirements for your activity?
- Can they share their venue Health and Safety risk assessment and talk you through their requirements for your activity?
- Can they demonstrate and quantify the performance of their ventilation and heating systems?

- What social distancing measures and protocols are in place at the venue?
- What measures are in place to facilitate compliance with the 'Rule of 6'?
- Can they demonstrate their registration process and queuing systems?
- What participant data will need to be shared with the venue operator?
- Does the venue have an NHS QR Code on display at all entrances?
- What venue information will need to be shared with participants?
- What first aid equipment and first aider services will the venue provide, and will this be available during your sessions?
- Do they have a serviced Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available during your sessions?
- What is their cleaning regime and is this adequate?
- What will the venue clean and what will you (the coaching provider or club) need to clean?
- What are their hand cleaning/sanitisation requirements and will you need to provide hand sanitiser for your activities and sessions (it may be more cost effective for you to do this)?
- On reopening, have they carried out all their routine maintenance and health and safety checks (such as legionella, fire safety etc)?
- Does the venue have current Public Liability Insurance with cover for coronavirus/ COVID-19 risks?
- What are their safeguarding policies and procedures?

Where venue operators are unable to answer the above questions, then you will need to work with them to achieve satisfactory answers. If this is not possible then you should consider alternative venues that can provide this information.

It might be useful to use a checklist to ensure all aspects set out above have been considered before hiring. An example checklist is available [here](#).

Organisation

If your session is to be successful and safe it is important that as the coaching provider or club you consider the needs of all users of the venue, including volunteers, participants and their parents/carers when assessing the risk. You will need to communicate the results of your risk assessment and the mitigation measures you have implemented to ensure all users are adequately prepared and briefed in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Make sure that your coaching team or supervisors are fully briefed and trained on how your COVID-19 plan will work – include 'dry runs' and regular (e.g. monthly) reviews and reminders. Update training in line with any changes to your risk assessment (including in response to changes in local COVID-19 conditions).

Risk Assessment

If you are an employer, the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 requires you to risk assess your activities to understand the hazards and measure risks posed by your activities. Even voluntary organisations should undertake a risk assessment, to both manage your activities safely and demonstrate you have acted responsibly in the event of an incident. The risk assessment must address and manage the risk of COVID-19.

It is recommended this is done at an early stage in your planning as this will give you sufficient time to put mitigating controls in place. It should be completed in conjunction with the Venue Operator and in alignment with the risk assessment and mitigation procedures for the venue. Once complete, it is recommended you review it prior to your first event and re-assess it ahead of every subsequent event.

The risk assessment shall:

- Identify the hazards, who might be harmed and how.
- Assess the level of risk.
- Identify suitable controls.
- Be recorded in writing (if you have 5 or more employees).
- Review controls as and when required.

A risk assessment template can be found [here](#).

Once you have completed your risk assessment and developed your control measures you should:

- Implement the control measures in your coaching strategy and session design.
- Communicate your risk assessment and its findings to your staff.
- Use your risk assessment to develop the training material and information you communicate to course attendees and their parents/carer (as appropriate) on your COVID-19 control measures and other requirements.
- Keep a record on file but continually review and update the risk assessment as circumstances (including local COVID-19 prevalence) change.
- The UK Government expects companies in England employing more than 50 people to publish the findings of their risk assessment on their website.
- Share your risk assessment and control measures with your insurer or their representative to confirm that your insurance cover conditions have been met and your insurance is valid.

Session length

You should allow a sufficient gap (e.g. 10-15 minutes) between sessions to allow for registration, safeguarding and cleaning of equipment between sessions. This means that an hour-long session could become 45-50 minutes to allow for changeover. Consider running longer sessions for some training groups to allow for this. For example you could run U15s for two hours one week and U17s for two hours the next week, rather than running both age groups for one hour every week, etc – however you must risk assess bowling loads on individuals.

Participants should be encouraged to arrive and leave on time.

First Aid

As part of your duty of care you must make first aid provision available. St John Ambulance have provided an online guide for carrying out first aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, including on how to modify CPR – let your first aiders know about it – it's available [here](#). Note that providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm (such as administering first aid) are exempt from the Rule of 6.

At the point of booking the venue you should establish whether the venue is able to provide first aiders, first aid equipment and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for your sessions. Where the venue first aid kit and AED are provided but not staffed by a first aider you must ensure that it/they are available during your hours of use and not locked in an inaccessible room or area.

If first aid is not provided by the venue, the Coaching Provider and/or Club should provide:

- Coaching staff / club members appropriately trained in First Aid.
- First Aid kit(s) – including suitable PPE (gloves, suitable face coverings/masks, disposable apron, hand sanitiser).

- Suitable disposal for PPE and other clinical waste once it has been used.
- An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) if you have one – check that it is functioning properly (e.g. warning light status) and has been serviced as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Pre-registration

Providers and clubs are strongly recommended to pre-register participants. This will assist in controlling numbers and ensuring legal requirements to supply user contact data to NHS Test and Trace are met with the Venue Provider. There must be a record of all participants (including coaches, administrators, carers and others) at training sessions. Collect sufficient data on each participant (name, home phone number, mobile number, date and times of entry and exit) so that each person could be contacted if there is a case of COVID-19 connected to the relevant facility. These records must be kept for 21 days. Because of the legal requirement to collect and provide these records it is essential that this process is coordinated with the Venue Provider.

The Venue Provider must provide an NHS QR Code at all entrances, this can be scanned on entry by users of the NHS COVID-19 App but this is not a substitute for a pre-booking system because you will need to control numbers, in particular to ensure that the 'Rule of 6' is complied with.

Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details for NHS Test and Trace purposes - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system. You will also need your own record of contact details for administrative and emergency purposes and the NHS COVID-19 App will not provide those details to you for those purposes.

For these reasons, Coaching Providers and Clubs should maintain their own records of attendees and their emergency contact details.

Note that if you are working in schools, establish whether the school is managing this process – you do not need to duplicate where there is an existing, compliant process in place but you will need to work with that party in the case of a COVID-19 infection and where advised by NHS Test and Trace.

Further Information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>
Government Customer Logging toolkit: <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/Test-and-Trace/resources/customer-logging-toolkit/>

NHS QR Codes: <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster>

Pre-registering participants will also give you the opportunity to communicate some essential information prior to the event, including:

- The importance of pre-attendance symptoms checks (details on symptoms of COVID-19 are available [here](#)).
- Insistence that participants should follow [Government guidance on self-isolation](#) and not attend if they have symptoms of COVID-19, are self-isolating or if someone in their household or support bubble has symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19 or if they are advised to self-isolate as part of the NHS Test and Trace service.
- Preferred modes of transport to the venue.
- The need for participants to arrive ready to play (arrive dressed in kit and leave venue in kit).

- No changing or showering facilities will be available unless the person is disabled or has special needs that require the use of these facilities.
- The requirement to follow the 'Rule of 6' (unless an exemption applies) and, irrespective of whether the activity is exempt from the Rule of 6, to help you manage capacity calculations.
- Government guidance states that attendance by spectators and non-participating children should be avoided and minimised especially within indoor facilities. If allowing spectators would present challenges to maintaining decided capacity levels, consider prohibiting spectators until further notice. If a person is disabled or has special needs that require the presence of a carer then their presence should be allowed. Making this clear to parents will help them prepare for waiting outside the venue if required. Please note that in areas with a Local COVID Alert Level of 2 (high) or 3 (very high), spectators are not allowed indoors except for supervision or safeguarding purposes.
- Emergency contact details of parent/carers will be required.

On arrival participants should be greeted outside the venue (or close to the main entrance in adverse weather) to:

- Confirm participant's details including emergency contact information
- Sanitise hands prior to entering the building.
- Confirm that the person does not have symptoms of COVID-19 and is not otherwise required to self-isolate prior to entry (details on symptoms of COVID-19 are available [here](#)).
- Where necessary, be escorted into the building and handed over to the relevant coach.
- Have the COVID-19 control measures explained.

For many of your participants they will be returning to a venue that was previously very familiar to them, but with numerous changes and adaptations things may feel strange at first. To support a comfortable transition, build confidence in your participants and parents/carers, and make newcomers feel welcome: create clear guidance that walks them through the changes that they can expect to find, from new entry and exit points to movement within the building and new processes during the sessions. For individuals with disabilities, ensure guidance is accessible and clear – a video and audio walk through of the process from start to finish can be a really useful tool for all participants.

Pre-attendance symptom check

All players, officials, volunteers must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. No-one should leave home to participate in sport if they, or someone in their household or support bubble, has symptoms of COVID-19 or are advised to self-isolate as part of the NHS Test and Trace service. Symptoms of COVID-19 are currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature.
- A new, continuous cough.
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste.

Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation.

Transport to venue

Participants should be encouraged to follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and limiting car sharing. They should walk or cycle if they can.

People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle. See the Government's [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) for further information.

Arrival at the venue

On arrival at the venue, parents/carers are to drop their child at the pre-arranged reception point. All queuing should ideally be outside the venue and at 2 m social distance (facilitate with floor signage).

Government guidance states that attendance by spectators and non-participating children should be avoided and minimised especially within indoor facilities. If allowing spectators would present challenges to maintaining decided capacity levels, consider prohibiting spectators until further notice. Where spectators are permitted, they should only be allowed in separate and distinct groups (preferably with marked viewing spaces) consisting of up to 6 people (or larger discrete groups from the same household or support bubble), which should not mix with other groups.

Note that where a person has a disability or special needs the presence of a parent or carer could be required and should be allowed for in socially distanced occupancy plans, as required. The parent or carer would not be subject to the Rule of 6 in these circumstances. In cases where a child is participating in activities, consider permitting only one parent/carers per child to supervise their child while following social distancing.

When not engaging in sport and physical activity, visitors should be encouraged to wear masks in enclosed public areas, where possible and practical. All participants should wash/sanitise their hands on entry to the venue.

Please note that in areas with a Local COVID Alert Level of 2 (high) or 3 (very high), spectators are not allowed indoors except for supervision or safeguarding purposes.

You are required to keep a temporary record of attendees and their contact details for 21 days following a visit to your facility to assist the NHS Test and Trace process. At the reception, details will be confirmed, and will include emergency contact details for the parent/carers.

Visitors can scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app on arrival. Please note that the NHS QR code is an alternative to providing contact details - if someone chooses not to scan the NHS QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app, you are still legally required to record and maintain their contact details in a compliant record keeping system for use in the NHS Test and Trace system.

Coaching Providers and Clubs are advised to maintain their own records of attendees and their emergency contact details in addition to any use of the NHS COVID-19 app so that normal safeguarding and emergency procedures can function.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Cleaning Materials

The precautionary use of extra PPE should be avoided as per the [Government guidance](#). PPE use should be on a risk assessment basis and where a risk assessment determines that it is required it must be provided.

Consider in particular whether a coach or match official should be provided with a face covering and a visor (for when they are not wearing a helmet in a cricket ball situation) because of the frequency of close contacts over an extended period of multiple sessions through a day/week of coaching.

A further consideration could be disposable gloves when using bowling machines. If used correctly disposable gloves could reduce the cleaning requirements for bowling

machines and bowling machine balls to the end of every day rather than the end of every session. Note that gloves should be disposed of after every session and only be worn by one individual.

Also consider supplies of suitable cleaning wipes and hand sanitiser for use during the coaching sessions.

Venue Set-up and Clear-up

Establish a clear protocol on venue set-up and clear-up with the venue operator. Consider key preparation tasks such as who will be pulling out nets and tidying them away, who will be laying out mats and putting them away? Risk assess how this can be done safely, consider manual handling, COVID-19 safety – in particular social distancing and identify PPE requirements, providing PPE where it is your responsibility to do so.

Planning and delivering your activities

- Prepare equipment
 - Minimise the sharing of equipment. Where it is necessary to share equipment, equipment must be cleaned using appropriate cleaning materials between sessions and users and in the case of any shared balls, hygiene breaks must be adhered to (see Ball Transfer section below). Each person handling shared equipment must wash or sanitise their hands immediately before and after use.
 - You should identify a safe area for padding-up that is not a trip hazard and not at risk of ball strike or collisions. Consider safeguarding and note that privacy may be required to fit abdominal protectors and thigh pads.
 - Participants are to bring their own equipment and take that home with them. ECB guidance on protective helmet use must be followed – helmets should not be shared.
 - Bowling machines, shared balls (including bowling machine balls) and training equipment (stumps, catching ramps etc) should be cleaned using suitable cleaning materials before and after each session – the use of disposable gloves could be considered – see the 'PPE' section above.
- Observe the Rule of 6 and understand the relevant exemptions (see The Rule of 6 and Exemptions section above). It is essential that where groups of six are formed, there is no mixing between groups (or larger groups formed), for example bowlers should not swap nets.
- Social distancing
 - Controls must be clearly explained, how and why.
 - Floor markings should be in place to support social distancing and encourage participants to watch the batter.
- Risk assess activities that will require hygiene breaks and sanitisation. You should have regular (every 20 minutes maximum) hygiene breaks to sanitise shared cricket balls (and other equipment where participants cannot bring their own).
- Coaching activity
 - Playing and coaching cricket in itself carries some degree of risk and whilst being mindful of the guidelines regarding COVID-19, coaches should not lose sight of the normal safety rules or safeguarding standards relating to playing and coaching cricket which continue to apply and must be complied with (DBS, safeguarding, First Aid etc).

- Coaches should make themselves aware of and abide by, all guidelines set out by the Government, the venue and ECB regarding use of facilities.
- It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that they coach players in a safe environment and follow relevant guidelines.
- Coaches should explain the safety guidelines of what is expected pre, during and post session including what the player is expected to do to maintain compliance with social distancing guidelines and all other health and safety guidelines.
- Design your coaching activities to maintain social distancing throughout.
- When working on individual coaching of players maintain 2 m and stand side to side as much as possible and limit face to face to only when necessary.
- Coaching providers should risk assess PPE requirement for coaches. Where coaches are in static/low activity situations and are unable to maintain 2 m social distancing it is strongly recommended that coaches wear a face mask.
- In order to limit the risk of injury and hospitalisation (and associated COVID-19 transmission risk and burden on the NHS), you should carry out a risk assessment of your net and practice activity and pay particular attention to the risk of ball strike to coaches and players, both in the net and in adjacent nets, and how this can be controlled and minimised.

Examples of higher risk ball strike situations include:

- Throw-downs in front of the bowling crease.
- Range-hitting or aggressive stroke play often referred to as white ball practice.
- A disparity between skill level, strength (size, age) or experience of participants.
- The ability of an individual to react to a ball hit back towards them.
- The net environment (lighting, background, strength and integrity of netting, excess tension, insufficient tension (billow), risk of ball escape, limited width or height, lack of roof net, etc). Refer to [ECB TS3](#) for more information.

Control measures that can be used to reduce risk include:

- Making sure everyone in the net is watching the batter and the ball.
- Checking the netting and the ability to retain the ball.
- Ensuring bowlers and coaches always watch the batter in adjacent nets when picking up their ball from the ground.
- Coordinating hitting across different nets so that all are aware.
- Coaches wearing helmets during net practice (helmets should be compliant with latest ECB advice available [here](#)).
- Considering alternative modes or positions of ball delivery (such as using bowling machines or adjusting the position of throw-downs in aggressive stroke playing practice).
- The use of additional practice nets such as 'A-frames' to protect the coach/player during throw-downs or coaching observation.
- Closer matching of player ability.
- Limiting range hitting to specific scenarios.
- ECB Regulations on the use of helmets in junior and age-group cricket should be followed at all times and adult players are advised to wear helmets when batting or keeping with a cricket ball to reduce the risk of injury, potential hospitalisation (and associated COVID-19 transmission risk) and burden on the NHS. See ECB guidance on helmets [here](#).

- Where natural ventilation is used (doors and windows are open) in cold weather, make sure that participants are warmed up properly and stay warm throughout sessions.
 - Discourage shouting, singing and raised voices as this can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 - Avoid pre-game handshakes, huddles, etc.
 - Batters returning the ball are to do so by kicking or using the bat.
 - Avoid running practice between wickets – this is difficult to do whilst maintaining social distancing in a net situation.
 - Reinforce the message that no saliva or sweat should be applied to the ball.
 - Design hygiene breaks into your coaching programme. Net sessions where bowlers are using their own ball will not require hygiene breaks unless someone else touches their ball. But for team match activity and fielding drills (where such activity is permitted if an exemption to the Rule of 6 applies), hands and balls should be sanitised after every group or rotation among groups.
 - Carefully risk assess wicket keeping practice. Movement of the stumps towards the bowlers will reduce the distance between batter and waiting bowlers, and should be avoided. Keepers should be socially distanced at 2 m from the batter and practice standing-up should not take place where this is not possible; social distancing at 1 m+ is not appropriate because the batter should not be wearing a face covering unless advised by a physician because of the level of activity required and the encounter could be prolonged.
 - Running drills (two batters) are not possible due to close proximity within the net and should be avoided.
- Nets and coaching ratios
 - [The example layouts](#) are based on a coaching group of 6 participants (including adults) to one coach, with a batter, four bowlers circulating and one person padding-up. This ratio provides a balance between social distancing, bowlers being sufficiently distanced from the batter and circulation of bowlers at a sufficient rate to ensure that they are not waiting in concentrated group for too long to assist in ventilation. As long as participants do not mix between nets or create larger groups, it is also compliant with the Rule of 6 because the coaches are exempt based on the grounds that they are working or providing volunteer services.
 - Note that these layouts are for illustrative purposes only and need to be risk assessed for a particular site.
 - Coaches do not need to stand in the position shown but must socially distance from other users.

At the start of a session

You should provide a briefing to all participants at the start of the session to remind them of your operating rules and the mitigation steps and adaptations you have implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Be vigilant throughout the session and ensure that participants comply with the operating rules.

Use of equipment

The sharing of equipment must be avoided where possible, particularly that used around the head and face (i.e. helmets), also equipment that could transfer sweat such as gloves. Where equipment is shared, equipment must be cleaned before use by another

person and each person handling it must wash or sanitise their hands immediately before and after use.

Sports equipment used for more than one session such as stumps and catch training aids must be cleaned prior to each session.

Ball transfer

The risk of transferring COVID-19 via the ball is easily overcome when practising in cricket nets by restricting the sharing of cricket balls.

- Consider asking participant to bring their own ball. Balls can be marked for ease of identification.
- If you are to provide balls for common use, number or mark the balls for ease of identification. Balls can then be assigned to individual players for use throughout the session.
- No sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time.
- Balls must be cleaned prior to every session.
- Where balls have to be shared (for match play or fielding drills) then a hygiene break should be taken every 20 minutes (or between activities if sooner) in which participants sanitise their hands and the ball is disinfected using suitable cleaning wipes.

End of session

At the end of each session it is important to put aside time to prepare for the following session by conducting a pre-planned cleaning programme to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to the next group.

- All participants are to sanitise their hands prior to leaving the venue.
- Each junior participant to be individually returned to their parent/carer.
- Sanitise all equipment.
- Clean all communal areas, welfare facilities, reception area etc.
- Clean all touch points.

Safeguarding

ECB safeguarding policies, procedures and requirements apply as per usual for coaching sessions for children or vulnerable persons. You should carry out a Safeguarding Risk Assessment for your coaching activity and put the required control measures in place.

For details see [here](#).

Consider the need for 'time-out areas' in a safeguarding context where persons who need to take time out can do so safely and within view of the coaching team.

If external doors are propped open for ventilation purposes, consider how this might affect your safeguarding procedures. Can you keep doors open while restricting access/egress and without blocking potential fire escape routes?

Disabled Persons and Access

Indoor organised team sports for disabled people such as cricket are exempt from the Rule of 6, as are parents and carers and coaches involved in supervising that activity.

When planning your activity have you:

- Considered how those with disabilities will move around the facility?
- Assessed what reasonable adjustments may be required?
- Contacted the venue manager to understand if any adjustments have been made due to COVID-19 controls, does this impinge on the needs of a disabled person?

- If you have created an area to store kit or to pad-up or similar, does this present an obstacle and is it accessible?
- Can a disabled person move freely and easily around all accessible areas safely?
- Considered those with disabilities who may be more susceptible to COVID-19 due to underlying health issues and how will you identify and control this?

Review and update plans

It is good practice to conduct a post-event review of your arrangements. Identify what could be done better and make the necessary adjustments. Any adjustment may need to be added to your communications plan.

Elite sport

For the purposes of COVID guidance, elite athletes are defined in the UK Government [Elite sport return to training guidance: Stage One](#) document. Indoor training and competition for elite athletes should be carried out in full accordance with the relevant government guidance for elite sport return to training and competition (in particular [Stage 2 training guidance](#)) and the latest ECB Science and Medicine Guidance. This includes protocols for helmet use in nets.

PART 3: PARTICIPANTS, PARENTS AND CARERS

Introduction

Cricket is a game that lends itself well to social distancing. Cricket indoors will have many similarities to cricket you may have played outdoors under ECB guidance for cricket outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, because cricket is being played indoors there are different risks, particularly in poorly ventilated buildings. The purpose of the Government guidance on indoor sport and this ECB guidance for cricket indoors is to make the 'indoors as outdoors as possible'. You will notice some differences from the normal way cricket has been played indoors in the past, and even from outdoor cricket played during the summer of 2020. These differences are control measures designed to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We ask that you follow these guidelines and take care of yourself and your fellow participants.

When booking

Pre-booking will be required by venues, coaching providers and clubs to help manage peak occupancy of the venue. This will include using online platforms to collect key data without transferring paper copies so that the venue, coaching provider or club can contact you, record emergency contact information and keep a temporary record of the details required for NHS Test and Trace. Please note that you are still required to create an NHS QR code for your venue.

At the point of booking, your venue, coaching provider or club will issue venue-specific information on how the risk of COVID-19 transmission is being controlled and managed. You should read this information as there are likely to be new demands and requirements to help protect you and other venue users. If anything is unclear or you have any queries, please contact the venue, your coaching provider or your club.

Before leaving home

You should not leave home and arrive at the venue if you, someone you live with, or someone in your support bubble, has symptoms of COVID-19 or are advised to self-isolate as part of the NHS Test and Trace service. Symptoms of COVID-19 are currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature.
- A new, continuous cough.
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste.

If you, someone you live with or someone in your support bubble has any such symptoms, you must follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation.

Please make sure you bring your own equipment and your own water bottle (and that you take it home with you). Your water bottle and any balls that you are using should be marked with your (or your child's) name.

You should arrive at the venue in your kit and expect to travel home in your kit. Changing facilities will not be made available unless you are a disabled person or a person with special needs meaning that you require these facilities.

Travelling to the venue

Before travelling you should check any local travel restrictions in place under the Local COVID Alert system by visiting your local authority website. Note that in areas subject to Local COVID Alert Level 3 restrictions you should try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services. You should continue to travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but aim to reduce the number of journeys you make.

You should follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and limiting car sharing. You should walk or cycle if you can. People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle. See the Government's [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) for further information.

On arrival

You will need to confirm your registration at the front of the venue. If you are a parent or carer dropping your child, this will be the handover point – be prepared that some venues will not be able to allow viewing and will require you to stay outside the venue or in your car. Please be prepared to queue as check-in processes will take longer and please come prepared to wait outside the venue for the duration of the activity.

You may have your temperature taken remotely and will be asked again to confirm that you are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms and that you are not required to self-isolate.

You can scan the NHS QR Code using the NHS COVID-19 App at the venue.

Try not to arrive too early or late – this will help facilitate safe clean down and handover between different coaching groups and sessions.

During the session

Different operating rules will be in place to protect you, the coaches and other users of the venue. Your coaching provider or your club will provide an introductory briefing of the operating rules at the beginning of each session and you will be required to comply with these rules throughout the session. These rules will include:

- Complying with the Rule of 6 unless exemptions apply (please see The Rule of 6 and Exemptions section above).
- Wearing a face covering indoors, where you are required to do so by law.
- Washing/sterilising your hands frequently.
- Avoiding touching your face.

- No application of saliva, or sweat to the ball.
- Not to shout or sing.
- To bring your own playing equipment (including helmet).
- To maintain social distancing of 2m.
- To always watch the batter(s) in the nets.
- To listen to the coach and follow their instructions.

The operating rules will be different, but we still hope that you can enjoy a fun session and great coaching to help you with your cricket development.

End of the session

At the end of the session you should tidy up all of your kit and take it and your drinks bottle home with you.

You should sanitise your hands before leaving.

Parents and carers – if you are picking someone up, please make sure you are there at the agreed handover time – if you are too early please expect to queue at a social distance and this could be outside. Please do not arrive late as this will have a knock-on effect on the timings and delivery of the following session.