

The following is a list of responses to questions received from Governing Bodies during two online meetings held on 23rd and 25th March 2021

Question from a sport	Response
When will we receive the infographics and guidance?	Infographics – on SNI social media now Guidance on Pathway out of Restrictions for outdoor sport Sport NI
Are the numbers of 15 inclusive or exclusive of adults for groups of children under 18?	Inclusive – players plus adults/coaches =15
Are there any restrictions on the type of training in the first sub step?	Coaches should minimise contact at first and gradually increase over time in Phase 2
When will we see any regulations to follow the current ones please?	These are being drafted. No confirmed date but hopefully very soon.
If you have individual athletes training from a mix of ages from 13 to 18+, are we still limited to a max of 15 on an athletics track?	Where age groups are mixed, the guidance on numbers etc. will default to that which applies to the oldest participants.
As an 'indoor sport', can we look to return/move to outdoors in line with this roadmap and infographic in order to allow our members to return earlier? Also, in the 15 - would this still include a covid officer?	Yes if you are able to do so if your sport develops protocols for outside activity. The training group is to be 15. Assuming that the Covid Officer is not taking part in the group they could be additional
With regards to 3 groups of u-12 on one pitch etc., will there be more detail on this? For instance, a tennis court is significantly smaller than a football pitch.	Governing Bodies need to assess what will work for the typical sport spaces / facilities that clubs use. They should aim to stay within the spirit of this guidance – smaller areas mean smaller numbers.
What is the definition of 'sports space'?	This phrase is used for the typical facility area that the specific sport usually takes place within. e.g. equivalent of a pitch, court etc.
Competition can be 1 on 1 socially distanced. Can I presume that is allowed?	The spirit of this guidance is to refrain from competitive fixtures e.g. between clubs until the very last sub step in Phase 2. The first two sub steps in Phase 2 are about within club activity.
Will guidance on club sanctions be provided?	Not specifically. Governing Bodies are expected to apply sanctions proportionate to the severity of any breaches identified. These may range from temporary exclusions, bans from future competition etc. Governing Bodies are best placed to make decisions on what is appropriate and proportionate.

Under sub phase 2 A, where there is a mixed age group, how will this reflect in the guidance?	Where age groups are mixed, the guidance on numbers etc. will default to that which applies to the oldest participants.
No current guidance on 'distancing' – will contact be possible from 12 th April?	Contact should be limited / minimised throughout and particularly during sub step (a). In sports where it is necessary to do so contact may be gradually increased as Phase 2 develops until competition starts at sub step (c). Protocols should always attempt to minimise contact and retain distancing as far as possible. Mitigations should be used where possible and appropriate when 2m cannot be maintained.
Will sub steps 2B-C be 'completed' before Phase 3 for sports is allowed or will there be crossover? i.e. could indoor 'training' be permitted before outdoor competition?	The current phase 2 provides for outdoor activities only and indicates potential progression if positive data continues. Guidance for Phase 3 on indoor activity is still being developed.
Will indoor facilities have further access in 2B and C?	No – Phase 2 provides for outdoor activity only there are no plans to increase access to indoor facilities during this phase
What will the Maximum group/ on site sizes in 2 B and C?	Guidance on these limits will be provided once it is available. It may be some time until the data has been assessed regarding the impact of earlier sub steps
Could e.g. distanced competition in relative group sizes take place from 2B?	No – competition limited to final sub step 2C
Will vaccination be considered a form of mitigation?	No – mitigations are focused on methods to minimise risk of transfer of infection – masks, distancing, hand sanitation, limiting face to face etc.
When will 12 April date be confirmed?	It is likely that a review will take place immediately after Easter and confirmation will be linked to that.
If space is not a consideration, can clubs have multiple groups of 15 adults who do not interact?	Discrete groups of 15 can operate but any facility needs to ensure that the protocols will be able to cope with the total number of individuals on-site at any time. There must not be congregations and entrance and egress must be managed. Cautious first steps suggests a low risk approach – rather than big total numbers on site at any one time – smaller numbers in separate time blocks with gaps between would be better.
Can coaches move between an adult group and an under-18 group concurrently?	A group should remain intact throughout a particular session.
If a coach should not move between groups in different spaces, can they coach different groups on different days? What is the period required to "reset" this requirement?	Coaches could coach different groups on different time slots. They would have to follow all protocols re. entry to the training slot on each separate occasion – e.g. confirmation that they are symptom free. If it were possible with available coaches, it would be best practice to minimise transfer of coaches across groups.
How are relaxations on Sport and Travel related? How far can participants travel to engage in sporting activities allowed under Sporting relaxations?	Individuals will still be encouraged to stay local. For some their club may be within the 10-mile radius guidance of where they live. For others this will not be the case. It seems likely that travel advice may 'soften'

	to take account of people wishing to engage in their sport
Will indoor sports moving outdoors need to develop protocols for outdoor activities?	Yes, there can be no outdoor protocols without appropriate protocols. Risk assessment of the outdoor facility space to be used will be an important first step.
When is the proposed start date for competitive individual sports running/cycling time trial races? Clear guidance over gathering size and event/participants needs to be communicated to landowners/councils and community.	As yet, there is no confirmed date for sub step (c) when competitive sport is permitted to resume. It is likely that further guidance over gathering size will be provided once the early impact of sub step (a) can be assessed.
Can 1 v 1 training matches take place between players from different clubs?	The spirit of this guidance is to refrain from competitive fixtures e.g. between clubs until the very last sub step in Phase 2. The first two sub steps in Phase 2 are about within club activity.
Can walking and cycling clubs resume their activities from 12 April?	Yes, in groups of up to 15 with appropriate protocols around their activity.
In our sport of Bowls we play normally in groups of 4, 6 or 8 - is it possible to have let's say 3 groups of these numbers on the green when we go to the 15 limitation	The total limit on a green would be 15 – for your typical groupings the most that you could manage might be two 4s and a 6 or alternatively a 6 and an 8.
Motorsport has very specific covid guidelines to allow a restart of the sport and in Scotland, I believe they have approved separate 'Bubbles' of a maximum 15 persons with absolutely no mixing - multiple Bubbles are permitted at events. Given the vast areas where most events take place, is this 'Bubble' scenario possible (even looking to Phase 3) which will permit this style of event to restart in NI?	This type of approach is likely to be part of discussion ahead of any further advice issued in advance of the start of competitive sport sub step (c)
On the point of Data - is there Sport Specific Data being collected to help with the guide us moving forward? Or is this based on top line Covid Cases and R number?	The NI Executive are considering data related to health, economics and community response when making decisions on progression.
From a triathlon perspective - local clubs are not really present- sessions will be out on bikes, runs etc. that people will need to travel to. Do you know when we will be able to give concrete advice re. travel?	It seems likely that travel advice may 'soften' to take account of people wishing to engage in their sport. We
I understand the importance of this being managed very carefully and contact should be minimised and gradually increased, how might this	The first step is to develop protocols for operating outside. In keeping with a cautious first steps approach, the training should be modified to begin with no / minimal contact and then progress gradually to include some contact for a limited period. Coaches will need to

<p>apply to boxing in terms of training opportunities outside?</p>	<p>design their sessions carefully around e.g. shadowing, pad work and eventually limited sparring. Once protocols have been finalised these can be submitted to the Expert Group via returntosport@sportni.net for guidance.</p>
<p>Has it been noted that Indoor racquet sports are socially distant and non-contact, and differ from most other indoor sports?</p>	<p>Indoor sports are expected to return in Phase 3. A range of factors will be considered when drawing up proposals to put to Health on the return of indoor sport activity.</p>
<p>Car sharing is an important part of team sports. How to we best approach this?</p>	<p>Health have been very clear on this. Car sharing represents a big risk in terms of spread of infection. It should be avoided unless same household.</p>
<p>In the instance of multi-facility venues, how are pitches split? Do they constitute as one space with 15 people or can two pitches accommodate 15 people per pitch?</p>	<p>Discrete groups of 15 can operate on each pitch but any facility needs to ensure that the protocols will be able to cope with the total number of individuals on-site at any time. There must not be congregations and entrance and egress must be managed. Cautious first steps suggests a low risk approach – rather than big total numbers on site at any one time – smaller numbers in separate time blocks with gaps between would be better.</p>
<p>How are individual protocols being developed by sports being considered if they are shifting from inside to outside?</p>	<p>Once protocols have been finalised these can be submitted to the Expert Group via returntosport@sportni.net for guidance. Sports are advised to consider resources available on protocols at Developing Protocols Sport NI before submitting to ensure that protocols are to a high standard.</p>
<p>Our sport (Orienteering) has training in groups rather than competition – competition is actually safer for our sport than training and is as a result an anomaly. Can competition not start under Sub Group C?</p>	<p>Competition should not return until sub step (c). Training can still take place in groups but the limits of 15 apply as per the infographic on Phase 2.</p>