



Return to Outdoor Competition for Individual / Non Team Focused Sports

Background

Under the current Public Health Regulations certain professional, high performance and equestrian focused competition is permitted to take place.

From June 7th the broader resumption of outdoor competition is planned.

Such activity will take place under strict protocol and without spectators. The numbers involved in the return to competition for team sports should be reasonably consistent, with many of these sports routinely having a fixed number of competitors, officials and support staff.

The capacities in individual and non team focused sports will reflect the nature of the particular sport, the size and scale of proposed venues and the standard operating procedures of NGBs.

NGBs remain best placed to determine the final capacities and develop the required structures for safe competition.

In the initial stages Sports should focus on the minimum number of participants required to stage a meaningful event safely. Additional thought will also be required by NGBs if organising events that take place (fully or partially) on public grounds or roads.

To assist NGBs in planning during the initial return a starting number of approximately 100 is recommended.

This number would include participants, officials, management and essential support personnel.

These numbers can be reviewed further as the broader re-opening of sport continues across the summer months.

In certain cases it may be possible for NGBs to facilitate larger numbers of participants through the use of waves or pods.

When planning events NGBs should also seek to engage with other relevant stakeholders such as the Health & Rescue Services, Gardaí and the Local Authorities.

If events cannot be organised within these recommended structures then they should not take place in the initial stages.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles should be considered as part of the development of any competition protocol.

- Pre-booking of activity by all competitors is essential.
- Health screening of all participants leading up to and on the day of the event should be completed. This includes officials & support personnel.
- Participants, officials and support personnel should not attend if unwell.
- Participants arrive ready to participate and leave immediately. (i.e. No changing room or shower use).
- Additional signage, hand sanitization stations and deep cleaning measures should be implemented.
- Broadly, participants should aim to maintain social distancing (2m) on the 'field of play'. The ability to implement this will be dependent on the nature of each individual sport.
- Educational information should be made available to participants, officials and support personnel in advance of the activity.

Additional Points to Note

- It is important to note that Sporting Organisations wishing to deliver outdoor competition should incorporate the guidance outlined in this document into their existing Competition, Covid 19 Return to Work and Return to Sport Policies and Procedures. This Guidance is not sufficient in isolation.
- The ongoing allowance of competition will be dictated by the Public Health Situation.
- This guidance applies to the outdoor sporting competition of National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).
- The guidance may also be used in organising sporting activity by the Network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs).
- The activity must be sanctioned / supervised by the NGB/LSP or it's affiliated / partner organisations.
- NGBs / LSPs will have responsibility for approving the activities to be undertaken. Sport Ireland is available to provide guidance to Sport Ireland recognised NGBs/LSPs where required.

- NGBs/LSPs must give an assurance that protective measures will be strictly adhered to and that they have the resources locally to monitor compliance by clubs and groups.