



Covid 19 Update:

Organised participation events: Guidance for Surf School and Clubs

16/07/2020

As part of the phased return to sport, Surfing England has been in discussion with the Department for Digital, Media and Sport as well as Sport England with the aim of providing some clarity for surf schools delivering group surf activities, which we view as organised participation events within [guidance for a phased return to sport](#).

We understand this means surf coaches running group activities (under the organised participation exemption) are now able to run sessions for up to 30 people including the coach. For surf lessons, this means returning to ratios up to 1:8. This also follows the position of the EMDUK, the NGB for group exercise.

The government position on groups of no larger than 6 remains in other areas, with the sport related exemptions of team sport, organised participation events (where surf lessons sit) and for gyms, leisure centres and pools.

Surf schools and clubs must operate within the [COVID 19 Secure Guidance](#) and the [guidance for grassroots sports, gyms and leisure facilities](#), including the completion of a Covid 19 risk assessment and maintaining a register of all attendees for 21 days in case of infection.

The Government's [5 Steps for Working Safely](#)

Practical actions all businesses must take:

1. You must have a Covid 19 risk assessment in place.
 - [HSE guidance](#) for risk assessments including templates
 - The Surfing England [surf school checklist](#) provides useful framework for surf school specific risks and requirements
 - Make sure you complete in conjunction with your team and your display on your website alongside a completed [Covid Secure certificate](#)
2. You must have cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures in place, this includes for boards and wetsuits.
 - There is a specific section on maintaining hygiene in the surf school checklist
 - There is detailed government guidance on [cleaning in the workplace](#) and [handwashing and hygiene](#)
3. Help people to work from home where possible.
 - Although clearly not possible for surf coaches, schools with dedicated admin functions should actively pursue options for those roles to be delivered remotely

4. Maintain 2m social distancing where possible
 - The surf school checklist considers how to maintain social distancing through the surf school operation, which may mean staggering lesson times, additional signage, dedicated waiting spaces and one way systems
5. Where it is not possible to be more than 2 meters apart, doing everything practical to reduce the transmission risk
 - Take a risk based approach, in the first instance, consider whether the activity can be avoided or the time it takes reduced
 - Consider what physical interventions can be applied, for example PPE or Perspex screens
 - Consider what process changes you can make, for example staggering lessons or creating separate access points for groups
 - Consider what behavioural interventions can be applied, for example changing working practice to avoid face to face working

Specific Guidance for sports and leisure facilities

There is specific guidance for providers of [grassroots sports, gyms and leisure facilities](#) which all surf schools should read and follow the relevant instruction. The Surfing England surf school checklist has been updated and can be used in conjunction with the guidance to assist you cover off the surf specific points not directly captured by the main guidance. It is really important you complete your Covid 19 Risk assessments in conjunction with your teams and that you share the results alongside displaying the [Covid Secure certificate](#).

Section 10 of the guidance for grass roots sports, gyms and leisure facilities has specific guidance for clubs, community sport orgs and working with volunteers.

Organising outdoor sport and physical activity events

The government has published guidance on a range of issues core to the delivery of outdoor sport and physical activity participation events. See above link to guidance on grass roots sport and leisure facilities. The following is copied direct from the [guidance for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport](#) and applies specifically to organised participation events.

As well as the general principles around mitigating risks, the rules on gatherings, and taking full responsibility for the safe delivery of a sporting event, organisers will want to particularly draw on the following in their planning:

- operating strictly within government guidance and ensuring event delivery plans are COVID secure
- communicating clearly and consistently with all participants and support staff including volunteers
- being adaptable to change, for example if a local lockdown were to be necessary
- rules on [gatherings](#)
- test [track and trace requirements](#) including recording of participants and officials to facilitate contacting by NHS Test and Trace if needed

- maintaining physical and personal hygiene
- keeping participants, officials, volunteers, and staff safe
- any necessary protective equipment or face coverings for staff
- access to temporary or permanent toilets and changing facilities or those with special needs and disabilities
- [traveling to and from events](#)
- use of car parks
- restaurants and clubhouses [link here please to relevant guidance]
- accessible provision within the site and the facility

Further guidance:

The main page which hosts all the relevant sporting guidance is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>

The Surfing England surf school readiness checklist has been updated (10/07/2020) and should be used in conjunction with the main guidance for grassroots sports, gyms and leisure facilities.

<https://www.surfingengland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Covid-19-Surf-School-Readiness-Checklist.pdf>

All other government guidance on Covid 19 is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Our responsibilities

We all need to assess and manage the risks of Covid 19 and as employers or operators of sports facilities we have legal responsibilities to protect workers, volunteers, customers and users from risk to their health and safety. This means spending time to understand the guidance, considering the risks they face and doing everything reasonably practicable to minimise them, recognising you cannot completely eliminate the risk of Covid 19.

Whilst we all continue to adapt our processes and procedures to the evolving guidance, water safety must continue to remain the no.1 priority. If for any reason you feel the usual standards of water safety cannot be met, don't go out.

As you make changes to your working practice, we strongly recommend keeping in touch with your insurers, keeping them informed of the guidance you are following and any operational changes you are making to ensure you maintain valid insurance with a suitable level of cover.