

RETURN TO RESTRICTED TRAINING ACTIVITY GUIDANCE FOR ATHLETICS VENUES



15th May 2020

This guidance might be
updated in due course

Introduction

This guidance document has been developed in adherence to the initial “steps” outlined by the government on 10th May 2020. All England Athletics guidance will be updated as per government guidelines when they are made available or as soon as possible thereafter.

The safety and wellbeing of all athletes, runners, coaches and the wider community is at the heart of any guidance that England Athletics is distributing. We know that athletes, runners, coaches and athletics venues will be keen to resume athletics activity as soon as it is safe and appropriate for them to do so. England Athletics recognises that wish BUT at the same time wants to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the athletics community, facility providers and the wider community is considered as the first priority.

These guidelines apply to **England only** and are based on those detailed in the use of public spaces, outdoor activity and exercise government document. More details are available [here](#). We recommend that you stay up-to-date with government guidance at all times. Government guidance supersedes all advice given by the governing body and must be followed at all times.

We also recommend that you stay up to date with [UKA](#) advice at all times.

The guidance that follows provides sport specific advice to help athletes and runners. **It is important to say that any return to activity must take account of local conditions and any risk assessment for normal activities should be undertaken as well as ensuring that all government guidance around Covid-19 is taken into account.** It is the responsibility of each athlete, runner, coach and facility to make that assessment based on their local environment.

England Athletics is advising that **group activity does not take place** during this first step due to the requirements for social distancing.

This guidance has been published on the understanding that it is an interpretation of government guidance relevant to the sport of athletics and running. It is likely to change at short notice, in which case we will publish updates through the [England Athletics website](#) and social media channels.

Any measures that venues put in place to enable athletics activity to resume need to be capable of being flexed or changed quickly if tighter movement/social distancing is reintroduced in the future or when the restrictions are further relaxed.

All parties should note the [disclaimer](#) at the end of this piece.

Please also read our other guidance documents:

1. [Guidance for Athletes and Runners – return to activity](#)
2. [Guidance for Coaches – return to activity](#)

Before opening

- Opening outdoor track and field facilities is at the discretion and consent of the facility owner, provider or contractor.
- The track operator group (Committee, Facilities Owner, Manager) has completed all relevant plans, procedures and risk assessment – updated for Covid-19’.
- All risk assessments are up-to-date and have Covid-19 restriction added.
- You have clarified with your insurance around re-opening.
- Deep Cleans have taken place of all ‘open’ areas of the facility and equipment.
- All staff and volunteers have been fully briefed.

Facilities

- Outdoor tracks only should be open, with indoor training facilities remaining closed.
- Toilet facilities can be opened if the venue wishes, but particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them. Where they are open, ensure soap and hot water is provided.
- Clubhouses can be opened in a limited way for operational reasons (e.g. to switch on floodlights, thoroughfare to access the track) or for toilet access.
- All social spaces and gyms should remain closed.
- At this point all fixed and movable equipment should have a clear ongoing hygiene plan in place, that outlines if the equipment is to be used and pre and post cleaning of equipment.
- Remove any other unnecessary equipment and items from tracks.
- **High Jump and Pole Vault beds and sand pits are NOT to be used at this point in time** – these areas should be made unavailable.

Health, safety & hygiene

- Ensure usual access to first aid and emergency equipment is maintained (in some cases this may require limited access to the clubhouse being possible) and a clear plan for dealing with an incident is available to all users. Guidelines for dealing with CPR can be found [here](#).
- Make hand sanitizers or wipes available for use at entrance/exit to venue/tracks area and equipment if in use.
- Clean all common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) regularly, wearing disposable gloves.
- Ensure measures are in place to minimise encounters between people, including in car parks and at entrances (clear signage in place).
- Consider marking social distancing at appropriate points, such as the entry gates.
- Athletes should ideally bring their own equipment. Where shared equipment is used, this must be cleaned before and after use.
- Operate online booking for the track where at all possible, or alternatively phone bookings. Take online or card payments.
- It might be possible on the track to have more than one unit training at any one point, this would need to be carried out in line with government guidelines and social distancing at all points within the facility, including the track.

- Communicate with your members/customers clearly and regularly, making them aware in advance of the measures you are putting in place at your venue, and guidelines they are asked to follow.
- Ensure signage on guidelines for taking part safely and promoting hygiene measures is clearly displayed (and ensure these remain up-to-date as restrictions change).
- Spectating should be actively discouraged. Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) or a carer for a disabled athlete is required, it should be limited to one per athlete where possible, with social distancing strictly observed while watching the sessions (consider marking out specific boxes/areas for this purpose).
- Government advice on cleaning is [here](#).

Club activity

- **At this stage there should be no group activity.**

Section 3: Disclaimer

Please note that the subject matter covered in this guidance is in no way exhaustive and the material does not stand on its own nor is intended to be relied upon as a substitute for obtaining specific legal advice. Individual circumstances will differ. The information contained in this guidance is given in good faith but any liability of England Athletics Limited or its professional advisors (including their respective members or employees) to you or any third party which may arise out of the reliance by you or any other party of the contents of this guidance is hereby excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law. England Athletics Limited and its professional advisors accept no duty of care or liability for any loss occasioned, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, to any person acting or refraining from actions as a result of any material in this guidance. We would strongly recommend that you consult professional advisors on specific issues before acting or refraining from action on any of the contents of this guidance.

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