

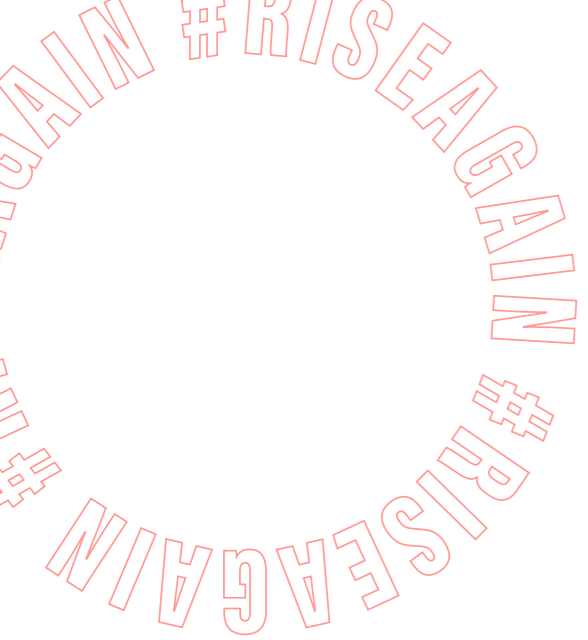
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COVID-19 GUIDANCE TO RE-START NETBALL ACTIVITY

VERSION 3 UPDATED MARCH 2021



INTRODUCTION

Following the post-Christmas lockdown, the Government have prioritised opening sport and physical activity to support the rebuild of the physical and mental health of the nation. From March 29th, netball can restart once again.

It is essential that this guidance is read in full ahead of any netball activity commencing. The UK Government have given England Netball specific permission to restart the game, but this MUST be carefully managed so that the virus does not spread as a result of netball activity. This is a collective responsibility and all requirements must be considered and managed by organisers of all activity.

Members of England Netball also have access to exclusive forums and the online Care Package, which includes additional resources, templates and tools to support you restart netball at your organisation.

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This guidance document is split into five sections

1. RETURN TO COURT ROADMAP **PAGE 4**

This section details a general overview of what the Government roadmap means for netball

2. GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS **PAGE 5**

This section includes details of the general information all netball organisations need to consider and be aware of

3. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR GROUPS WITHIN THE NETBALL FAMILY **PAGE 8**

This section details how specific groups of people will be impacted by this guidance

4. RISK MITIGATIONS **PAGE 10**

This section details the specific guidance and requirements at each stage of netball; before, during and after

- a. Before Netball page 10
- b. During Netball page 14
- c. After Netball page 20



RETURN TO COURT ROADMAP



As with all areas of society, the timescales to move to the next step will be determined by the Government. This will be confirmed one week prior to the date stated. Full details of the restrictions at each step will also be made available one week ahead as the Government continue to monitor infection and transmission rates. This guidance therefore covers everything known to date. As we move to the next steps in the future, England Netball will provide an addendum with further clarification around the step specific detail.

To comply with Government guidance every organisation organising netball activity in the community must;

- **Have in place a COVID-19 Officer.**
- **Read and understand this guidance in full and operate in line with it.**
- **Risk assess all netball activity delivered by your organisation.**
- **Develop and activate a Risk Mitigation Plan.**

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that affects your lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus and affected individuals can display a range of symptoms from mild to severe illness including death for confirmed cases. Affected people can also be entirely asymptomatic. Transmission is by respiratory droplets and direct contact.

RISK OF COVID-19 IN NETBALL

In every sport and leisure activity, there is a risk of contracting COVID-19 and team sports in particular pose slightly increased risks.

When thinking about netball, it is a game that is fairly static by nature (you have 3 seconds to pass the ball, or 4 seconds if you're a Walking Netball or Bee Netball participant), we defend face to face at 3 feet away (0.9m) and a netball is passed continuously around multiple people. It is also a game that is often played indoors and the netball family are a very friendly group and have traditions such as 3 cheers in close circles.

Netball therefore carries a greater risk than other team sport activities and as part of the return to community netball, we need to mitigate some of the risks to both protect the netball family, as well as ensure that netball is not responsible for an increased transmission of COVID-19 more broadly.

MITIGATING THE RISK IN NETBALL

This guidance document outlines the mitigations put in place to reduce the risk of participation in netball, however to ensure that our sport along with a number of other higher risk team sports could return, a number of modifications to the rules of netball were also required to be made.

The rule modifications are;

- 4ft spacing for the start of play - GS and GK are required to start inside their respective goal circles, GA, GD, WA and WD on the transverse line and the centres in the centre third. The modification requires all players to position themselves a minimum of 4ft away from their opposing players and teammates at the start of play. This will be managed by umpires at the start of play.
- 4ft marking - the defending distance has been increased from 3ft to 4ft. Particular attention must be paid in the circle when defending. This will be blown as distance.
- 4ft position of penalised player- penalised players for major infringements are required to position beside the player they infringed but from a distance of 4ft. This will be managed by umpires when an infringement occurs.
- Removal of toss ups - No toss ups are permitted, the team who had the ball directly before the action that caused the toss up to be awarded will retain possession. The umpire will briefly hold time, instruct the ball to be returned to the relevant team and play will be restarted on the umpire's whistle.
- Removal of idle interactions - Players not engaged in play or who are stood still are required to be positioned 4ft away from another player. This frequently happens on the circle edge, on the transverse line, whilst walking back to centre pass and returning to the team bench at the end of a quarter. Managed by umpires and supported by players and coaches.

In line with Government guidance, all involved in netball must familiarise themselves with these rule modifications and they must be utilised in all community netball activity. This includes seven-a-side, Bee Netball, Walking Netball and NETS.

These COVID-19 rule modifications will be temporary, and it is currently anticipated that these will be removed at step 4 of the updated roadmap.

Evidence from previous lockdowns show that these rule modifications work and alongside the other risk mitigations, have ensured that the risk of contracting COVID-19 through netball activity is minimised.

COVID-19 OFFICERS

Regardless of size, the Government required every sports organisation to have a COVID-19 Officer in place before activity can resume. This role must ensure there is understanding and compliance with this guidance.

Members of England Netball can access template role descriptions and also receive regular communication and enhanced information.

VENUES

It is important to select an appropriate venue to deliver netball activity. Full guidance on venue selection can be found in the 'Before Activity' section.

During step 1, this must be an outdoor venue unless activity is for disabled people.

From step 2, U18s can also participate indoors and from step 3, both adults and U18s will be permitted to play netball indoors. Full detail will be made available as we progress further along the roadmap.

The risk of contracting COVID-19 is lower outside so outdoor netball courts are always preferable where possible.

TRAVEL

From March 29, time spent outside of home should be minimised but travel is permitted as to take part in informal and organised sport.

LEGAL GATHERING LIMITS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

Due to the rule modifications and risk mitigations in place, organised outdoor netball for adults and children can return and is exempt from the legal gathering limits. For netball, this is a maximum of 30 taking part in training or match activity on one court.

This exemption does not extend to any other part of netball activity outside of the on court activity and legal gathering limits and social distancing guidance should be adhered to at all times. This includes;

- Travel to and from any netball activity.
- Arrival at activity, during breaks or at quarter or half time during a match.
- On departure from activity.

It is crucial that netball organisations manage and facilitate this.

SPECTATORS

Spectators are not permitted at any training or competition activity until a later step in the roadmap.

This doesn't apply to carers for disabled people, or adults needed to supervise under 18s in a safeguarding role.

TEST & TRACE

The Government required facilities to display an NHS QR code that any netball attendees must scan. To support NHS Test and Trace, all netball organisations must hold attendance records for 21 days. This reflects the incubation period for coronavirus, which can be up to 14 days and an additional 7 to allow time for testing and tracing.

TESTING & VACCINATIONS

There is no requirement for those attending any community netball activity to complete regular testing ahead of the activity. It is however acknowledged that many may be being tested regularly through either their employment or via the testing processes within secondary schools. Anyone who has a positive test, must not attend any netball activity and should stay at home for 10 days.

Currently, there will not be a requirement for anyone attending netball activity to have been vaccinated or carry with them proof of vaccination.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

Safeguarding and protecting children and young people and adults at risk is of the utmost important. England Netball's safeguarding policies must be adhered to throughout all stages of the restart and beyond. These policies can be found here <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding/>.

England Netball is committed to ensuring all children, young people and adults at risk are able to take part in the sport in a safe and enjoyable environment. It is still a requirement to have a satisfactory Enhanced DBS with Barred list check carried out before an individual takes up a role with children, young people and adults at risk and for the check to be renewed every 3 years. This is a crucial part of England Netball's safeguarding commitment.

DBS checks for roles in regulated activity in netball can be applied for here: <https://www.Englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding/dbs/>

HIGHER RISK GROUPS

Shielding and clinically extremely vulnerable: People in this group are defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 – that is people with specific serious health conditions. Many are likely to already have been vaccinated but they may still be advised to ‘shield’. These people may have been less active whilst shielding which is important for any coaches, team managers and volunteers to be aware of.

For latest government info see www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR GROUPS WITHIN THE NETBALL FAMILY

JUNIOR PLAYERS

This guidance is applicable to both adults and junior netball activity.

Wherever this guidance references U18, it refers to those that were under 18 on 31/8/2020.

Some junior players, particularly U11's will require more regular reminders to ensure compliance with the rule modifications.

Some junior athletes will also be part of the performance pathway at U19 or U21 NPL within Vitality Netball Superleague teams and above (i.e. NPL (U19/U21), Roses Academy, VNSL, Roses futures and Roses). These athletes and their community clubs will need to be aware of the requirements of the Elite Netball framework as well.

PLAYER WELL BEING

Most players may have not been on court for a minimum of 3 months, awareness of their needs to reconnect with the activity and team members as well as re-build physical fitness must be considered.

All Netball organisers should ensure that a period to rebuild netball specific fitness must be incorporated into programming. Competition organisers should also factor this in to avoid the risk of physical injury.

For many, the lockdown period and pandemic has caused additional stresses and anxieties. We are confident that netball has a role to play in supporting this and all netball organisations should consider this. For members of England Netball, support can be found as part of the online Care Package.

As netball returns during the spring and summer, England Netball is advocating that activity should be fun and social, allowing players to reconnect both with one another and the game.

DEAF AND DISABLED PLAYERS

We know disabled people face more barriers to taking part in netball activity, so it is vital we do as much as possible to keep their opportunities accessible and for this reason the Government has put in place some exemptions to the guidance to allow this to happen.

Netball activity for disabled people must continue to use the COVID-19 rule modifications but it can be delivered both indoors and outdoors from step 1. This exemption only applied to disabled people and the necessary coaches or officials (along with any carers that may also be required).

COACHES & OFFICIALS

Coaches and officials are able to travel to netball, this can be either paid or voluntary delivery.

Coaches and officials are not included in the maximum number of 30 taking part in netball activity and should remain socially distanced at all times.

Coaches are able to deliver within schools, they must however adhere to any policies and procedures in place within the specific school and England Netball schools guidance should be fully read and understood.

Any competitive match requires 2 qualified/in training umpires. This includes leagues, friendly fixtures and when permitted tournament/festival matches.

Umpiring of a game based activity within a training session (including club training, Back to Netball, Walking Netball or Netball Now programmes) can be undertaken by either a qualified/in training umpire or a qualified coach with knowledge of the game.

All coaches, official and players should have knowledge of the game modifications

MANAGING CONCERNS AND BREACHES

This guidance is put in place to enable netball to restart whilst mitigating the risks associated with it.

Local netball organisations will be responsible for ensuring they adhere to national guidance as well as England Netball guidance.

COVID-19 Officers should regularly review the risk assessment in line with any updated guidance.

England Netball will take seriously any breaches of this guidance. Initially any concerns should be reported to one of the following:

- COVID-19 Officer.
- Club Safeguarding Officer.
- Other appropriate committee member.

If a formal complaint is made regarding continuous, intentional breaches of this guidance and therefore the England Netball Code of Conduct, this should be done in line with point 12.2 of England Netball Disciplinary Regulations found at www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/enjoy-ensure-entrust/enjoy-codes-of-conduct-disciplinary-regulations

For organisations that are not members of England Netball, the following steps will be followed:

- Contact will be made by an England Netball Partnership Manager to highlight specific breaches.
- Formal written notification will be given of any persistent and intentional breaches.
- Ongoing persistent breaches may be reported to local Health & Safety Executive and Local Authority for action. This activity, if appropriate will also be removed from the England Netball netball activity finder.

RISK MITIGATIONS

This section of the guidance gives detail on all risk mitigations required before, during and after netball activity, including details of the key actions that need to be completed.

BEFORE ACTIVITY

This section covers the elements that need to be considered when planning any netball activity. It is also important that those coming along to your activity are aware of them before they arrive.

THE BASICS & RISK ASSESSMENT

GUIDANCE:

- All netball organisations require a COVID-19 Officer. For larger organisations, you may consider having multiple volunteers undertaking the role. They should be identified on Engage.
- The COVID-19 Officer will be responsible for communicating relevant guidance and information to other volunteers/workforce as well as members.
- A COVID risk assessment must be undertaken, which will help formulate the COVID risk mitigation plan. Every organisation must produce these documents and there should be full consideration given to all activities as well as each venue used. If these documents have been previously produced, netball organisations should review in preparation for spring and summer activity.
- The COVID-19 game modifications must be understood and adhered to during training and matches. These should be made available to those involved in any modified netball activity.
- As we progress along the roadmap, the Government will release more detail regarding each step. England Netball will issue an addendum to this guidance to share any additional information.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Ensure membership to EN is in place	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ensure league is registered with England Netball	✓					
Appoint COVID-19 Officer and add details to ENGage	✓					
Ensure members know who COVID-19 Officer(s) is/are	✓	✓				
Read and understand the Restart 2.0 Guidance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ensure understanding of COVID-19 rule modifications	✓	✓				
Complete COVID-19 risk assessment		✓				
Complete COVID-19 management plan		✓				
Communicate key information from plan prior to the start of activity	✓	✓				
Be familiar with COVID-19 risk assessment & club risk mitigation plan	✓		✓	✓	✓	

VENUES

GUIDANCE:

- Netball activity should only take place at venues that have been COVID-19 risk assessed by the venue operator/owner. Netball organisations should also complete their own COVID-19 risk assessment for their own activity.
- Any netball on a single court has a limit of 30 players.
- Netball organisations must obtain the venue risk assessment and be fully aware of any additional COVID-19 risk mitigations or operational procedures. This must be completed, even if it is a venue used regularly.
- If using a venue where multiple courts are available and situated together, adjacent courts can be used and latest Government guidance on social distancing must be followed. Maximum numbers on site will be determined by venue operators.
- Key information must be obtained when booking a venue to ensure its suitability.
- If using indoor venue the ventilation levels must be obtained and understood. Netball activity cannot take place in venues that do not have the required ventilation levels. Details on ventilation can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities but it should be noted a minimum ventilation rate of 20l/s/p must be achieved.
- Congestion must be avoided when moving around the venue and court area, clear signage will support this.
- Venues are now responsible for displaying the NHS Test and Trace QR code, including schools.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Select suitable venue	✓	✓				
If appropriate obtain details of ventilation levels from venue operator		✓				
Obtain venue risk assessment	✓					
Determine with venue operator any additional requirements	✓	✓				
Identify flow of members within the venue and identify any signage/directional arrows that are needed		✓				
Ensure familiarity with venue operational procedures and risk assessment	✓		✓	✓	✓	

COMMUNICATION

GUIDANCE:

- All netball organisations should communicate clearly with all their members before, during and after netball activity to manage the transmission risks
- How communication is to be complete must be included within the COVID-19 risk assessment and risk mitigation plan
- Key messages that must be included are;
 - Social distancing
 - Checking symptoms ahead of attending
 - Sanitisation protocols
 - How movement will be managed around the netball venue
 - Arrivals and departure processes
- Digital assets are available to members of England Netball via the Care package to support key general messages that all need to be aware of.
- All netball organisations must make participants/attendees aware of who the COVID-19 Officer(s) is as well as where applicable the Club Safeguarding Officer. They should also share how they can be contacted
- Competition Organisers in particular should be aware of the need to communicate in a timely manner to allow teams/clubs to pass messages regarding logistics on to their members
- Regular reminders should be issued to those attending netball activity.
- In the event of any single netball organisation having 2 or more positive cases of COVID-19 in a 14 day period, they must notify England Netball via covid@englandnetball.co.uk

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/ league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Communicate with members around key covid risk mitigations to ensure the smooth and safe arrival & departure	✓	✓				
Communicate with participants what to expect at a session	✓	✓	✓			
In session reminders of key risk mitigations e.g. social distancing		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Share with England Netball when 2 or more positive cases of COVID-19 in a 14 day period		✓				

SYMPTOM CHECKING AND PERSONAL RISK

GUIDANCE:

- In line with the Government guidance, all players, coaches, officials, volunteers and others attending should check themselves and anyone in their household for COVID-19 symptoms prior to leaving home

for netball activity. If they, or anyone in their household is exhibiting symptoms, they should not attend netball.

- Any participants (including coaches, officials, volunteers and others) who have been told to self isolate by NHS Test and Trace as a result of being in contact with a known COVID-19 case, must not attend any netball activity and they should remain at home. This must be explained to members in advance of activity commencing.
- Those young people who have been told by their school to self isolate due to another young person within their school 'bubble' has tested positive must also not attend any netball activity.
- Participation in any training activity or match is the choice of the individual and all will be required to 'opt in'. There are some groups who are at greater risk of COVID-19 and these are detailed on the Personal Risk Assessment. Pressure must not be placed on individuals to participate or compete if they are uncomfortable with the risks associated with netball activity. This should be completed again as activity starts post lockdown 3.
- Players, coaches and officials should be made aware that changing facilities will not be available so everyone should come changed and ready to play.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/ league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Do not travel to netball activity if you or anyone in your household has symptoms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Personal risk 'opt in' form circulated to all	✓	✓				
Understand Personal Risk Assessments and ensure comfortable to participate by confirming 'opt-in'			✓	✓	✓	

TRIALS & SELECTIONS

GUIDANCE:

- All trial activity must be implemented in line with the information within this guidance document, including COVID-19 rule modifications.
- Group size within trial activity should not exceed 30 players; large scale trials are not permitted at this stage.
- An awareness of an individual's pre-trial activity must be known and understood when planning trial activity.
- Athletes should have a period of training and loading before any trials or selections.
- It is recommended that athletes should be in small groups for trial activity.
- Fitness testing should not be included in trials.
- Coaches and selectors should remain socially distanced from the activity at all times.
- The trial/selection administration process should be completed electronically where possible. Paperwork should not be passed between selectors and coaches during the trial activity.

DURING ACTIVITY

This section includes information to ensure training and competition is well managed.

It is important to note that players should be aware that netball activity will feel different to pre-COVID activity. Social interaction before, particularly during and after play need to be carefully managed.

VENUE PREPARATION

GUIDANCE (ALL VENUES):

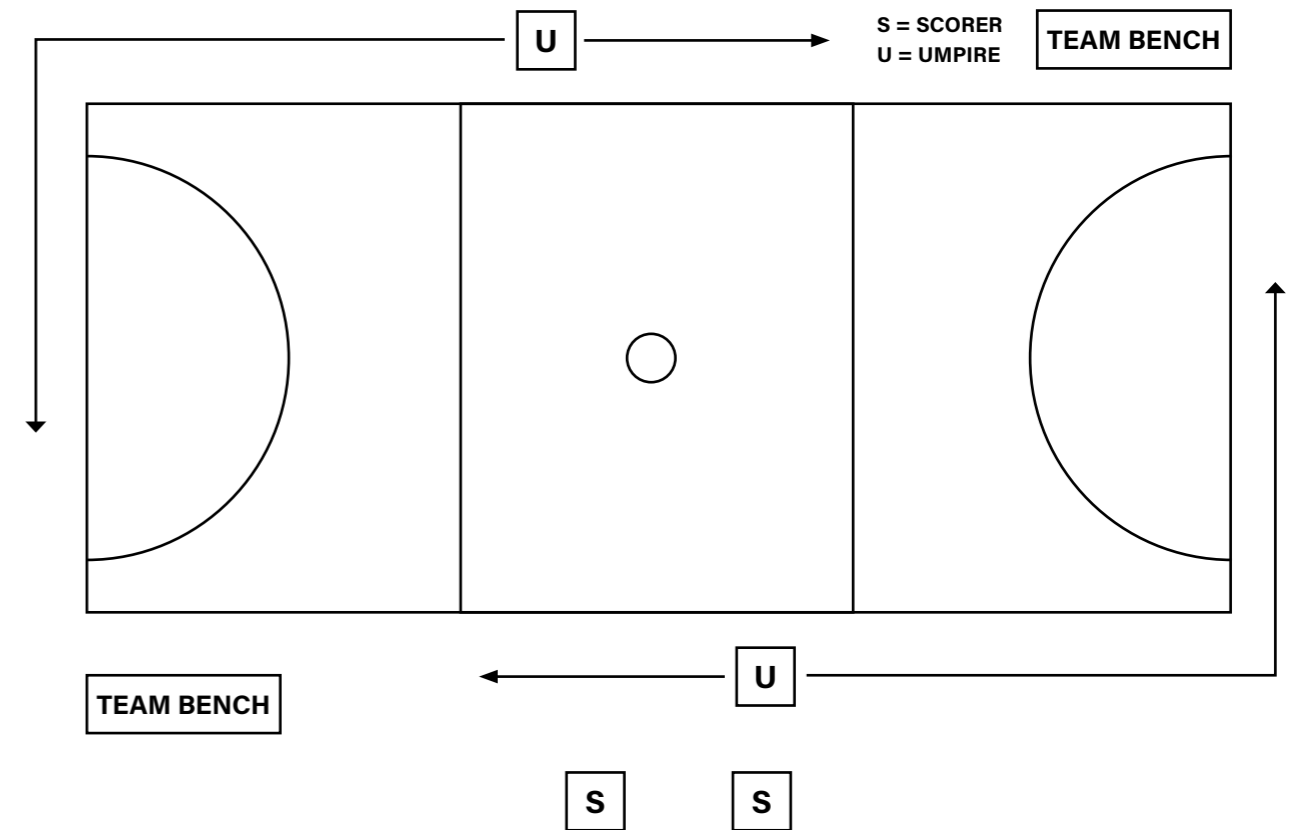
- A pre venue check must be completed before every session or match.
- If movement around site is required, for example if toilets are located a distance away, consideration should be given to movement of people. Signage should be used to ensure clear and direct routes are taken. The venue operator may have such plans in place already and these should be followed.
- Changing rooms and showers should not be used during training sessions or matches.
- Toilet facilities should be available and the process for increased cleaning should be understood. Toilets should not however be used for the purpose of changing.
- Huts and shelters for the purpose of time keeping, score collation etc. may be used in line with Government guidance. Strict hygiene measures and social distancing must be in place. This will mean limiting the number of people within such shelters and if space does allow for more than one individual, a face covering should be worn.
- No refreshments should be offered from huts or shelters that may be available.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/ league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Complete pre-venue check			✓	✓		
Arrive changed ready for activity			✓	✓	✓	
Clearly identify and communicate the appropriate use of any huts or shelters		✓				
Communicate facility usage rules and processes		✓				
Familiarise with all facility processes and guidance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reminders around social distancing within venue			✓	✓		
Ensure visual aids are in place to ensure social distancing when not on court		✓	✓			

MATCH SETUP

Social distancing must remain in place in areas around the court, including team benches and any scorers.



- Match Officials and Scorers will now be required to be at least 2m from activity where possible, with 2m distance between chairs.
- Those sitting on team benches will be 2m or 1m+ apart with risk mitigation in place where 2m is not possible.
- If there is insufficient run off (below 1.5m to the side of the court) the team bench should be positioned behind the goal line, on the opposite side to the line the umpire will run along/round.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

GUIDANCE (ALL VENUES):

- It is the venue's responsibility to display the NHS Test and Trace QR code.
- It is the individuals responsibility to socially distance from all others on arrival, during breaks and after the session.
- A traffic flow system should be clearly identified to help arrivals at court areas and venues. This should be detailed in the club/league management plan and where necessary must be in line with venue operator operational plans. Signage may be required to help with this.
- All players, coaches, officials and volunteers must go through a health screening as they arrive. They should not mix with others until this is completed. The health screening must be carried out at all

netball activity (training sessions and matches) and to screen for COVID-19 symptoms. The operational/logistical procedure for this should be documented within the Club Management plan.

- Any venue specific arrival protocols should be shared with all members and adhered to.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/ league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Communicate reminders about not attending with COVID-19 symptoms	✓	✓	✓			
Arrival timings and processes to be followed in full	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establish registration process & associated traffic flow	✓	✓				
Health screening completed upon arrival		✓	✓			
Test and Trace check in	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Socially distance when not on court	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

RULE MODIFICATIONS AND NETBALL ACTIVITIES

GUIDANCE:

- All training and matches (both friendly and competitive) must be played in line with the COVID-19 rule modifications. Full details of the rule modifications can be found at the beginning of this guidance.
- Standard game management rules should be used by officials to enforce the COVID-19 rule modifications during matches with any persistent breaches dealt with by accelerated application.
- Coaches must support umpires by reminding players of the COVID-19 rule modifications during any coaching practices or matches.
- Parents must be aware of the COVID-19 rule modifications and understand that these will be managed by coaches and umpires within club sessions and matches.
- All circle and junior players, particularly those U11, must be reminded more regularly of the COVID-19 rule modifications by coaches and officials. Practices that encourage this should be included within training sessions.
- Shouting should not take place by coaches or spectators during netball activity as this increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- During competitive matches there should be 2 umpires to ensure the rule modifications are adhered to.
- Any Walking Netball activity must be delivered in line with the additional rule modifications and Walking Netball guidance.

The activities and practices within training sessions must be carefully considered and planned.

- Activity that breaches social distancing should not exceed 60 minutes in any one session. If playing in a match, warm must be factored in.

- Time must be planned into every session for ball and hand sanitisation at least every 15 minutes.
- Wherever possible social distancing should be integrated into practices.
- The amount of time spent face-to-face marking should be limited and where it is required, activities should be planned in line with the game modifications.
- Small sided games during training are possible but game modifications must be incorporated.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/ league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Fully understand the COVID-19 game modifications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Additional support provided to junior players to remind them of the rule modifications			✓	✓		
Activity planned to ensure no more than 60 min max. of netball activity that breaches social distancing	✓	✓	✓			
Manage matches and game based activities in line with COVID-19 game modifications			✓	✓		

SANITISATION

GUIDANCE:

- All netball activity should be in line with the Sanitisation in Netball protocol.
- Hands must be sanitised upon arrival at the netball activity, all balls should also be sanitised on arrival.
- Breaks should be scheduled at least every 15 minutes to allow for hands and balls to be sanitised in both netball training and netball activity.
- Netball posts should be sanitised before and after activity.
- If a player or official makes contact with the netball post, it should be sanitised.
- Passing between multiple players with multiple netballs during training practices should be kept to a minimum.
- Any personal items such as water bottles should be clearly marked.
- If the club, team or league are providing the netball for training or matches; it should be made clear which are 'clean' balls and which are used. This could be done via clearly labelling bags/containers.
- Bibs should not be shared, unless they have been washed and this should be done where possible at 60 degrees.
- In games/practices within training sessions or matches, sharing of whistles is not permitted.
- Any additional equipment used e.g. floor spots, cones should be sanitised before and after all activity. If there is extensive handling of the equipment, sanitisation should happen at least every 15 minutes in line with ball sanitisation.

SANITISATION PROTOCOL

Netball organisations should ensure the following is available at every session or match;

- Hand sanitiser.
- Antibacterial wipes for sanitisation of netballs and netball post, Clinell wipes are recommended.
- Non-surgical face masks for certain roles (e.g. first aider).
- Signage for court area (laminated if possible so they can be sanitised).
- Health screening checklist (laminated in possible so it can be sanitised).
- Bin bag for disposing of wipes.
- Netballs:
 - Where possible encourage players to bring their own ball to training sessions.
 - Balls must be sanitised every 15 minutes.
 - During matches, multiple balls may be required so that it can be replaced at regular intervals during the match (recommend quarter and half time).
 - Two x bags or containers for netballs may be required to ensure 'dirty' and 'clean' netballs are clearly identifiable.
 - Members of England Netball can benefit from a 15% discount on Gilbert netballs.
- Bibs:
 - Bibs must not be shared in the normal way during netball activity.
 - Multiple sets of bibs are an ideal solution if available.
 - You may want to distribute bibs for a whole session to be used inside out, position can be marked with sticky labels.
 - Alternatively large sticky labels can be used on their own.
 - Wipe down patch bibs are also now available but must be sanitised if transferred between players.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/ league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Ensure supplies of appropriate products and equipment are available at all netball activity		✓				
Ensure compliance of sanitisation protocol in all netball activity		✓	✓	✓		
Sanitise hands and balls during netball training sessions every 15 minutes			✓			
Ensure the ball is replaced or sanitised at least every 15 minutes during a match				✓		
Bring own equipment to netball activity (netball where possible, whistle etc.)				✓	✓	

SOCIAL DISTANCING DURING NETBALL ACTIVITY

Social distancing during activity should be maintained wherever possible. The following must not take place during any training sessions or netball matches;

- Nail checks should take place at a distance of 2m or more.
- There should be no pre match huddle – players should remain socially distanced for any pre match team talk.
- No pre match or pre quarter hands in.
- No shouting or cheering.
- No quarter or half time huddles.
- No high fiving.
- No post match hug circles or handshakes.
- Any post match paperwork should be shared digitally (this could be emails or photographs).
- No post match team teas or sharing of snacks and confectionery.

Netball organisations must put in place clear signage and if necessary additional aids to ensure participants comply with social distancing.

HYGIENE & TOILETS

GUIDANCE:

Organisers of netball activity must ensure that the environment in which netball takes place has the following as a minimum:

- Rigorous cleaning procedures for high contact touch points throughout the venue.
- Rigorous cleaning procedures for any toilet facilities and other indoor communal spaces used.
- Procedures for the movement of and cleaning of any equipment such as netball posts (and any other large equipment items used at the facility such as tennis posts and football goals).
- Hand sanitisers / wipes on offer to assist with personal and equipment hygiene.
- Bins available for the disposal of any wipes / cleaning materials.
- Toilets will be overseen by the venue operator. There may be increased guidance and steps that venue operators take around toilet use.
- If there is a COVID-19 case in the facility, the operator will follow the PHE Guidance - COVID-19 Cleaning in non-healthcare settings while cleaning all areas of the facility.

FIRST AID

Injuries or accidents within training sessions or matches should continue to be treated as wellbeing is paramount.

First Aiders should consider the first aid protocol and see guidance from St Johns ambulance: <https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/covid-19-advice-for-first-aiders>

AFTER ACTIVITY

It should be noted that once the netball training session or match is complete, including a sufficient cool down, all should leave immediately and there should not be any congregating either on the courts or around the courts.

Social distancing must be maintained when leaving any netball activity.

GUIDANCE:

- Post-match paperwork must be completed digitally and not involve the passing of paperwork between different individuals. The Engage competition module supports this being done.
- Players, coaches and officials should shower and change at home.
- A clear traffic flow system for leaving court areas and venues must be in place. This should be detailed in the club/league management plan and where necessary must be in line with that of the venue operator.
- Parents of U18 members should be made aware a safe collection procedure and point. This should include clear information to parents as to where and when collection should be made.
- All equipment must be sanitised after all netball activity, including netballs, bibs, netball posts and other items such as spots, ladders and cones.
- All players, coaches, officials and other attendees must sanitise their hands as they leave.
- Any attendee who develops COVID-19 symptoms up to 48 hours after any netball activity must report to NHS Test and Trace and notify the COVID Officer if the test is positive.
- If there are two or more positive cases following a session, please report to covid@englandnetball.co.uk.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED?

	Club/ league	COVID Officer	Coach	Officials	Players	Parents/Spectators
Post match paperwork completed digitally	✓		✓	✓		
Get out of the session promptly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sanitise hands as leave	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify appropriate collection point for parents to collect juniors		✓				
Establish clear traffic flow for departure		✓				
Sanitise all equipment (even if it is personal equipment)	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Ensure fully understand Test & Trace scheme and report any COVID-19 positive tests		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Review risk assessment and COVID-19 management plan after initial modified activity commences. Reflect on any amendments that may be required and update documents	✓	✓				

DISCLAIMER

This guidance has been developed for use by England Netball affiliated members to facilitate a safe return to Netball and it is important that all of our members ensure that this guidance is adhered to before any return to play. Our action plan and risk assessment for Netball's return to sport has been approved by DCMS who has given its confirmation that our plan is consistent with current and relevant government guidance. Whilst efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information based on the latest available Government advice, you will appreciate that this is regularly changing, so this guidance should be read in conjunction with the Government's most up to date latest Covid-19 guidance which can be read at www.gov.uk/coronavirus. We continue to work closely with DCMS and Sport England in order to set out good practice guidance for those responsible for delivering different aspects of netball and as Government guidance changes, we will update our guidance accordingly.

In the interests of assisting all those who are responsible for organising netball activity within England, we are also making this guidance available to non-affiliated commercial leagues to help those leagues understand the game modifications and risk management procedures that need to be in place for a safe return to netball. However, all additional support and guidance on a return to play is strictly reserved for our affiliated members only. England Netball takes no responsibility for the decisions taken by commercial leagues to return to play and each league is responsible for putting in place its own risk assessment, policies and procedures based on its own playing environment and participants to ensure it is compliant with Government guidance.

This guidance isn't a substitute for taking your own legal advice. If you do not accept and agree to the above terms, then please do not use this guidance.

RULE MODIFICATIONS AND ACTIVITY SETUP

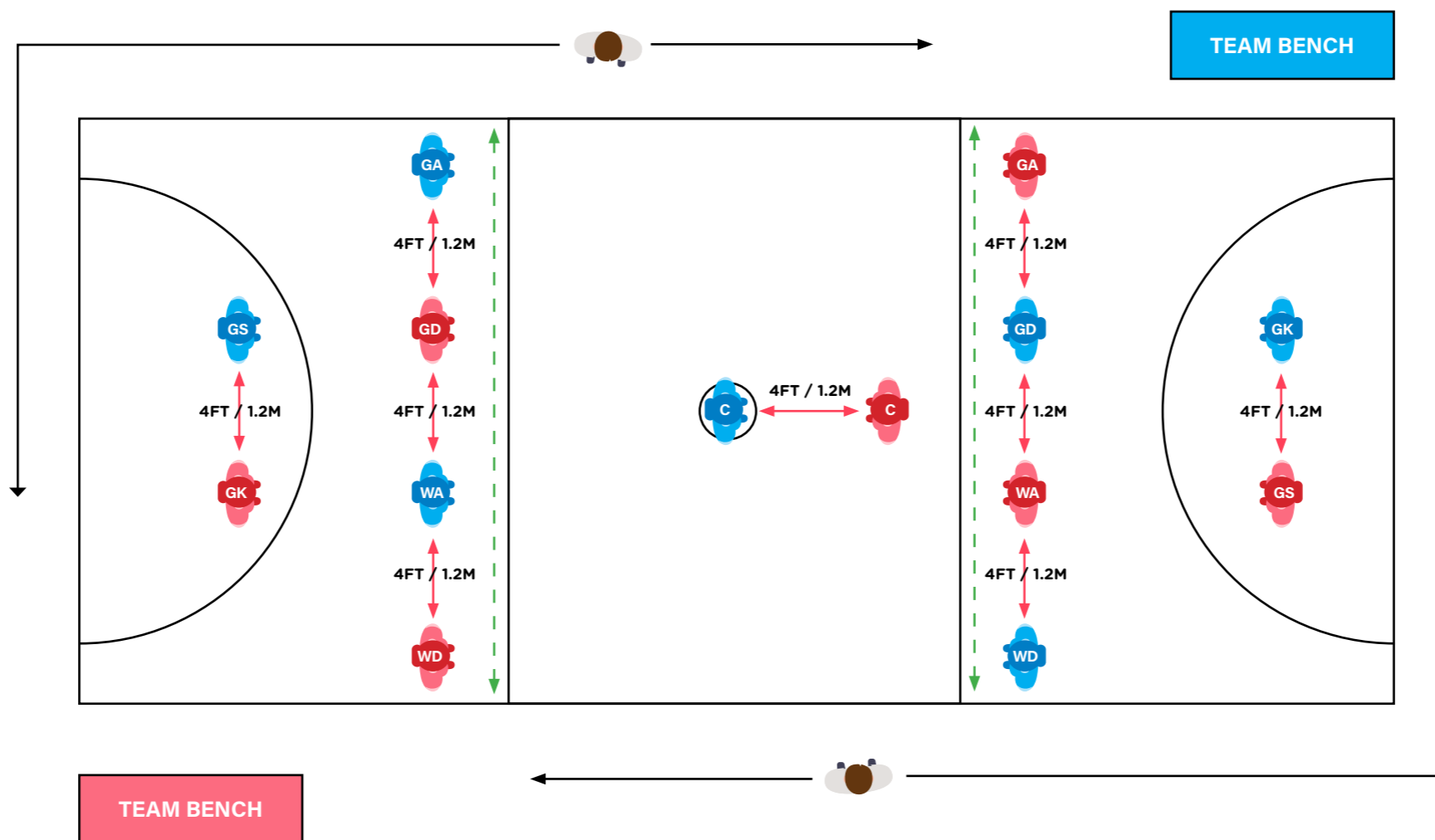
- 4ft spacing for the start of play.
- 4ft marking.
- 4ft position of penalised player.
- Removal of toss ups.
- Removal of idle interactions.

TRAINING SESSIONS:

- Socially distanced arrivals and departures.
- Limited amount of time in close contact - 60 mins max.
- Further socially distanced practices permitted.
- Rule modifications used.
- Sanitisation breaks every 15 minutes (hands & equipment).

UMPIRES

- 2 umpires must be used during matchplay.
- Must ensure players are adhering to the rule modifications.
- Maintain 4ft away from players at all times.
- Do not deliver the ball at centre pass.



POSITIONS FOR THE START OF PLAY

- All players must not position within 4ft (1.2m) of any other player.
- GA/GD/WA/WD can position as normal at any point along the transverse line but must maintain a distance of 4ft (1.2m) from each other.
- GS/GK are required to start inside the Goal Circle 4ft/1.2m apart.
- Centres can position as normal but must maintain a distance of 4ft (1.2m) either at the Centre Circle or if the Centre decides to mark at the transverse line.

COMPLIANCE

All who take part in this version of Netball have a responsibility for ensuring that they adhere to the modifications put in place.

These modifications have been introduced to significantly reduce the number of face to face interactions that may occur but players should ensure that they actively seek to remove these from the game.

Any persistent breaches of these modifications will result in players being dealt with under Game Management rules which could be accelerated to protect the safety of other players.

MATCH HYGIENE AND SAFETY MEASURES

- Players are required to sanitise their hands at the start and end of each quarter.
- A freshly cleaned/sanitised ball should be used for each quarter (same ball can be used but must be cleaned at quarter times).
- Spare 'clean' ball to be kept in reserve if the match ball enters a spectator area.
- Match Officials and Scorers will now be required to be at least 2m from activity where possible, with 2m distance between chairs.
- Those sitting on team benches will be 2m or 1m+ apart with risk mitigation in place where 2m is not possible.
- Team talks should be conducted in socially distant circles on the court to avoid congesting the bench area.
- Social norms including handshaking, goal celebrations, high 5's etc are not permitted.
- The post protector at each goal end should be sanitised prior to the start of the match.
- Players are actively discouraged from touching the post.
- Shouting is not permitted.
- No sharing of water bottles and these should be clearly marked.
- A clean set of bibs should be used with no sharing.
- Matches for those aged 18 years and above, can only take place outdoors.



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