

The Scottish Government have reviewed their current COVID-19 restrictions and protective measures and from the 21st March 2022 a number of changes will take effect that impacts on how we as a sport are currently operating. **On 15th March the Government announced that the requirement to wear face coverings has been extended until further notice.**

A new [Strategic Framework](#) for tackling COVID has been published by the Scottish Government and this outlines the steps required to allow us to achieve a sustainable return to a normal way of life, while remaining prepared for future threats. This new approach and indicative timeline will rely predominantly on vaccines, treatments, and public health behaviours and adaptations, rather than legal protective measures.

As a result of this, the current Scottish Swimming 'Beyond Level 0' guidance documents for training and competition environments will be removed from the website in line with the changes coming into place on the 21st March.

The following information are the key points that should be considered when organising aquatic club training or events:

Sporting Activity Specific Restrictions

There are no specific COVID-19 restrictions or considerations in place for sporting activity. All aquatic disciplines can return to normal operation for club training and competition, but the following information applies to aquatic activities as appropriate.

COVID-19 Lead Officers

From the 21st March there is no requirement for clubs to have COVID-19 Lead Officers/Team in place for club activities. Likewise, there is no requirement for event organisers to appoint a COVID-19 Officer for competitive events. However, clubs/event management should consider how they would react to and manage changes in COVID-19 Guidance and restrictions, should the situation change, and it be necessary to have mitigations back in place.

Face Coverings

The Government announced on 15th March that face coverings are still mandatory when indoors until further notice.

Physical Distancing

There are no physical distancing measures or restrictions in place for indoor facilities and activities. Everyone accessing indoor activities are still encouraged to give each other space to ensure everyone is comfortable and those who need additional space have it.

Testing

Clubs should encourage athletes and team staff to take a lateral flow test (LFD) before attending a club activity/competition. Results do not need to be submitted to the club/event. If a member returns a positive LFD then they should follow the Scottish Government guidance and if symptomatic take a PCR test as soon as possible. **Anyone feeling unwell, testing positive or requiring to isolate, should not attend a sporting venue or activity.**

Test and protect data collection

The collection and storage of attendee data for the purposes of the test and protect process for club activity/competitive events is no longer required from the 21st March 2022. Attendance for training sessions should continue to be taken as per normal practice.

COVID-19 Guidance Statement

16th March 2022

Facility Operating Procedures

Facility pool safety operating procedures may be updated to account for the necessary changes. Clubs should liaise with the facility staff to identify any relevant changes to the NOP/EAPs that affect club activity or events.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments should be reviewed regularly, updated if/when required, to ensure they are still relevant for the club activities/events and the information is communicated as required. Continue to liaise with facility operators as appropriate.

Hygiene Practices

Everyone attending club activities or events should be encouraged to regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitiser. Clubs/event organisers should also ensure surfaces and equipment are cleaned and sanitised appropriately in line with facility protocols.

Spectating

There are no COVID-19 restrictions on spectating at club training or competitive events. Capacity of facility areas may still be restricted as per the facility operating procedures, so clubs/event management should liaise with the facility management to establish spectating availability and capacity.

Internal facility spaces

Access to, and use, of meeting rooms, changing rooms, showering facilities and all other indoor spaces is permitted. Good ventilation in these areas should be in place. Clubs/event management should liaise with the facility operator to identify any remaining capacity or usage restrictions in place.

Number of Team Staff/Event staff

There are no COVID-19 restrictions on the number of coaches and team staff that can be on poolside/within the facility. Reminder that safe recruitment practices should be in place. There is also no COVID-19 restriction on the number of technical officials and event staff that can be involved at an event. Clubs/event management should liaise with facility management to determine any remaining facility restrictions that are in place.

Staff Contacts

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Euan Lowe | Chief Executive | e.lowe@scottishswimming.com | 07740 987379 |
| Ally White | Director of Aquatics | a.white@scottishswimming.com | 07834 583318 |
| Paul Donald | Club Development Manager | p.donald@scottishswimming.com | 07702 872965 |
| Paul Wilson | Disability Performance Manager | p.wilson@scottishswimming.com | 07809 657661 |
| Gordon Hunter | Aquatics Partnership Manager | g.hunter@scottishswimming.com | 07785951363 |
| Alan Reed | RSDM East | a.reed@scottishswimming.com | 07917 164644 |
| Colleen Blair | RSDM Highlands, Islands & Moray | c.blair@scottishswimming.com | 07809 658341 |
| Erin Cummins | RSDM West | e.cummins@scottishswimming.com | 07917 875447 |
| Andy Maguire | RSDM Central & West | a.maguire@scottishswimming.com | 07894 613103 |

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|--------------------|---|--|--------------|
| Sean Dawson | RSDM Grampian & Tayside & Safeguarding Manager | s.dawson@scottishswimming.com | 07801 578967 |
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