

Internal Briefing Note



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RAF SPORT – RETURN TO PLAY ON DUTY ISSUE

Following Govt guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation¹ and the return to recreational team sport², Head RAF Sport has agreed the return of RAF Sport to duty status to facilitate the recovery of the contribution it makes in supporting the delivery of effect.

KEY POINTS

- RAF Sport associations are authorised to conduct on-duty, fixtures and events in England (devolved administrations guidance to be followed), which are feasible in terms of:
 - Play in a Dept for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport (DMCS) approved National Governing Body (NGB) action plan.
 - Relative priority for participants and surrounding logistics (e.g. can the players be released; can the host unit support?).
 - Responsible Person (RP) review of currency/recency for the level of play/activity and a specific COVID-19 risk assessment, in addition to a sport's normal safety management regime.
- This is considered defensible because of the reintroduction of sport for the public, the contribution of sport, the reduction of COVID-19 commitment and the recovery of BAU.
- Hd RAF Sport has also agreed that previously sanctioned off-duty activity can continue in parallel and be allowed to expand to capacity, within COVID-19 restrictions and extant permissions (e.g. HoE).

BACKGROUND

The protocol for RAF Sport associations to conduct on-duty fixture and events is:

- Chair/RP analysis of the ability to comply with and the feasibility of the NGB action plan in the Service context, which may include the use of novel (local, regional, virtual) and/or limited formats for competition and/or training but noting:

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/return-to-recreational-team-sport-framework>

- The practical restrictions of travel to and from venues.
- The limited facilities available and constraints at venues, on or off the Defence Estate, including the inability to provide messing and accommodation on units.
- For some sports, hotels or suitable camping may be considered, where this is demonstrably COVID-compliant.
- In addition to the normal safety management processes (including an in-date 1PA review of the sport's Safety Management Plan), consideration of the management of play in terms of currency/recency of participants.
- The conduct of specific COVID-19 risk assessments for and away from play. The risk assessment should build on the NGB and HOE/venue assessments (and may cross-reference to both) but be in the format of the current RAF F7548 (Rev Jan 20)³.

For each event or series of events (fixture/training serial/other) production of an admin instruction/order⁴ is required, which is to include an overview of the event, the RP's consideration of currency/recency requirements, the specific COVID-19 risk assessment accepted by the RP (any medium or higher risks will need to be elevated to Head RAF Sport) and an accurate nominal roll of all involved (on and off the field of play), which is to be retained for 21 days for Track and Trace purposes. A mechanism for updating the nominal roll at any event is to be in place.

On completion of the admin instruction/order it is to be submitted to the Directorate RAF Sport (DRS) (Lade, Olivia Miss (22TrgGp-DRS-SportSupport) Olivia.Lade100@mod.gov.uk) for approval and authorisation.

Unit Sport. The conduct of unit sport on duty is a CoC responsibility, with due cognisance of the RAF Sport association's safety and assurance regimes, including the currency/recency review and COVID-19 specific risk assessment.

Overseas Visits. This protocol does not apply to Overseas Visits (OV), authority for which will be considered separately in due course. Scoping for OVs may be conducted, without commitment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further advice can be obtained from:

SO2 Sports Policy – Sqn Ldr Chris Cornish Christian.Cornish805@mod.gov.uk

Sports Delivery Manager – Aimée Elliot Aimee.Elliot103@mod.gov.uk

SO3 Sport Policy/Assurance – Flt Lt Howell Wayne.Howell771@mod.gov.uk

[IBN 36/20](#) - COVID-19 Guidance for Reintroducing Outdoor Physical Training on RAF Units

[IBN 41/20](#) - COVID-19 Guidance for Re-Opening of RAF Gymnasiums and Swimming Pools in England

Example of other available resources - <https://wsa.wales/covid-19-awareness-course-for-the-sports-and-recreation-sector/>

³ AP8000 AIR TLB SEMS Annex A to Leaflet 8017 – RAF Risk Assessment Form F7548.

⁴ [RAF Sport AOv6 template dated 6 Sep 19](#)