



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Revised
May 2021

Guidelines for re-opening Sportsgrounds



Aviva Stadium: Data Classification Code - General (Class 1)



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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DISCLAIMER

All Sportsgrounds are expected to have implemented the guidance outlined in the Work Safely Protocol for Employers and Workers on their grounds.

The information contained within this document is based on the guidelines available at the time of writing. This information is subject to change as new information on the COVID-19 virus emerges. Those using this guideline should verify the recommendations based on the most up-to-date information provided by the Government of Ireland, National Public Health and Emergency Team (NPHET) and the Health Service Executive (HSE).

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REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Description
1.0	15/10/20	Final Draft
2.0	02/06/21	Revision

Foreword

Following the release, in September 2020, of the Government's Resilience and Recovery 2020-21: Plan for Living with COVID-19, the FAI, GAA and IRFU set up a Working Group to bring a collaborative approach to the development of a roadmap for the graduated safe return of Spectators to stadia in small steps, commencing with trial matches. The Working Group submitted the initial report on proposed guidelines to government in October 2020. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 situation in Ireland declined seriously subsequently. In May 2021, with an improving situation particularly regarding vaccinations, the Working Group reconvened, at the request of government, to revisit the guidelines and consider learnings since the original report was submitted.

Sport plays a hugely important role in Irish society and by working together the FAI, GAA, and the IRFU brought their collective expertise and learning to develop a roadmap for the safe return of Spectators to the sports events they love and miss deeply.

The number one consideration for the Working Group is to develop a series of protocols which will allow Spectators back into sporting fixtures in a safe way, while complying fully with Government Health Guidelines.

Clearly there is a growing appetite for live sport amongst the public. Our Spectators are more than fans, they are an intrinsic part of any sporting occasion; they are the family and friends of the men and women who are representing their town, their county, their province or their country. They are part of the sporting culture of our nation which is so critically important to our overall health and wellbeing.

The combined Working Group contained a wealth of experience in running major sporting events at national and international level. The Working Group also drew on international best practice. This guidance document is intended to outline a roadmap to opening Sportsgrounds from National Stadia, such as Croke Park and Aviva Stadium, to Provincial Stadia and to smaller venues and club grounds. The FAI, GAA and IRFU had already completed several protocols for safely returning to play and reopening venues.

The Working Group was conscious of the importance of this guidance document in demonstrating the ability of the associations to reopen stadia in as safe a manner as possible whilst also recognising the importance of "Living with COVID-19". Reopening stadia is a vital step to recovery for sports organisations which have been severely damaged socially, financially, and culturally by the absence of attendances at their major sporting events and their ongoing ability to fund and support the millions of men, women and children participating in GAA, Soccer and Rugby across the island every week.

In its deliberations the Working Group considered the experience in other countries where trials had taken place and sports spectators had already returned to sportsgrounds, particularly in England. The Working Party was mindful of the "The Ferguson Report" on antigen testing which made specific reference to it being used as part of the return to sport. The potential role of PCR and Antigen Testing

was considered, and it was noted that testing was not required for the final matches in the English Premier League. The Working Party considered that the FAI, GAA and IRFU would fully support government initiatives in the area of testing. The financial and logistical challenges of mass testing pre-event were not considered practical to operate in larger crowds. This opens the question of the value of testing at trial events when it cannot be used at standard events. It was also felt that to build public confidence any testing would need to be carried out by the HSE or other public health authority.

The Working Party considered that the original report, submitted in October 2020 and contained in this document, was still applicable to the situation as it pertained in May 2021.

It is hoped that this report, and the protocols developed by the associations which lie behind the report, will inspire the confidence to allow Spectators to attend important national and international fixtures which lie ahead – GAA All Ireland Championships, International Rugby and International Football.

I wish to thank Minister Jack Chambers and the officials in Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and in Sport Ireland for their leadership and guidance to the Working Group, and for Minister Catherine Martin for her support.

I also wish to thank the members of the Working Party who contributed to the report. In particular, I wish to thank Eamon O'Boyle and staff, Monica Lillis, Rani Cameron-Gregory and Laura O'Kelly of EOBA for their efforts in collating the report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is intended to provide guidance for reopening of sportsgrounds and stadia. Sports grounds are controlled environments and as such offer the potential to manage interactions and limit risks of transmission associated with COVID-19.

Under the Government's Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19 (The Roadmap) provision was made for the reopening of stadia at Levels 1 & 2, with Behind Closed Doors games played at Levels 3 & 4. The Path Ahead revises this Roadmap on a continuing basis based on the vaccine rollout progression. This Path includes for the gradual phased re-opening of Sportsgrounds and other events using a series of Trial sporting events to gauge the effectiveness of the control measures put in place.

The report is a working document and will be updated in line with additional information, learnings from trial events, best international practice/experience, and any changes to Government guidelines.

INTRODUCTION

This report is the output of a Working Group comprised of representatives of the FAI, GAA, and IRFU as well as Senior Stadium Operations and Event Management, Officials from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Sport Ireland. The collaborative approach of the group involved significant contributions from all parties. Expert advice was provided by Health and Safety Consultants, Eamon O'Boyle and Associates, engaged by the Working Group at the outset. The report sets out in detail the background and context, the advice of the Working Group and the technical operational guidelines recommended by the Group. The report is supported by previous detailed and approved protocols developed by the FAI, GAA and IRFU that are currently successfully in place and in referenced reports. It is noteworthy that all three sporting bodies have organised

and managed safe return to play programmes for huge numbers of people which has had massive positive impact on health and wellbeing.

SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

This report is intended to assist the Government by proposing plans for the phased re opening of large sports grounds to spectators in a safe manner during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The contents are intended to support and complement existing guidance and requirements for managing major sporting events. It is primarily intended to reassure all spectators that it is safe to return to venues that comply with these guidelines. The report is also intended to guide venue management on operational details.

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

The document acknowledges that the guidance is subject at all times to the prevailing HSE/NPHET/Govt guidelines, Health and Safety and GDPR Regulations that are in place.

Government Guidance on Venues During COVID-19

Previous Government guidance set out in the Roadmap on venues that have capacity of less than 5,000 people would be limited to maximum attendances of 100-200 people depending on the restriction level in place. Stadia with capacities in excess of 5,000 people would be limited to maximum attendances of 200-500 people. The Path Ahead aims to provide a gradual phased re-opening of these venues, pursuant to a series of Trial events which test the capability to perform the events safely under the control measures outlined in this document. This document is aimed at purpose-built facilities with capacities in excess of 5,000 and which are proposed to host a significant sporting event such as Elite games, Professional sport, International matches, National finals, National semi-finals, and Intercounty Championships.

Code of Practice for Safety at Sports Grounds

Matches at Sports Grounds in Ireland, with capacities in excess of 20,000, are conducted under the Code of Practice for Safety at Sports Grounds. Sportsgrounds of lesser capacity are also guided by the Code. The Code stipulates clearly defined responsibilities for planning events and in the case of major events outlines the role of the formal Liaison Committee which is comprised of representatives of Stadia Management, and Statutory Authorities (An Garda Síochána, Fire Brigade, HSE, Transport, Local Authority). Event Management Plans are drafted for all major events. This report is specifically intended to address the challenges of admitting spectators to sportsgrounds in the COVID-19 crisis and therefore intended to supplement the normal event management planning for all events at major stadia. The principles outlined in the report can be adapted to club grounds.

LOCAL CONSULTATION – LIAISON COMMITTEE

Stakeholders such as the National Transport Authority (NTA), An Garda Síochána, Fire Safety Authorities and Local Authorities will be consulted locally by Stadium Management for initial views on the proposals. More detailed discussions will happen in advance of particular events in the normal manner.

TRIAL EVENTS

The phased return to spectating roadmap envisages a number of Trial Events to be conducted in designated venues with appropriate controls in place. These events will be held to test the control measures and determine if they are logistically practicable to employ in an event setting. The trials will be divided into a number of progressive phases with increasing capacities and to test the limits of the control measures

Trial events will not be organised or publicised prior to approval of the appropriate Government body (Sport Ireland / Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media).

REVIEW

The Working Group will reconvene after trial events to conduct a full debrief and revise the guidance document based on learnings. Learnings will be shared with the appropriate Government department in a transparent manner. The Working Group will keep account of all international best practice learnings via their International Federations (e.g. World Rugby, UEFA, FIFA) and feed these into the ongoing workings.

CORE PRINCIPLES FOR PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT (i.e. The Solution to the Problem)

The principles of prevention of spread of COVID-19 involve the following:

- Limiting potential Contact with the virus so it cannot pass from one person to another
- i.e. DATE principle. = Duration/Density, Activity, Timing and Environment management.
- Containment of the Virus to reduce number of persons it can be transmitted to
- Contact Tracing for early intervention

The key measures we intend to implement include:

- COVID-19 Compliance Management
- Training / education of staff and spectators
- Communication
 - Pre-event to staff and Spectators
 - Clear signage and use of PA system for COVID-19 messaging
- Tracing
 - HSE COVID-19 App
 - Contact tracing facilitation through ticketing.
- Spectator Management:
 - Code of conduct to be developed
 - Reduced capacity 1m or 2m social distancing
 - Segregated zones, entry and egress points
 - Mandatory face coverings

- Facilities Management
 - Enhanced cleaning and adequate hand sanitiser distribution
 - Spectator flow management - safe ingress and egress
 - Queue management at toilets, food and beverage concessions
 - Hand sanitiser distribution
- Zone Ex management - journey to the Sportsground.

The Working Group identified the following areas which have been addressed within the guidance.

COVID-19 Compliance Safety Management

Each venue is required to appoint a designated COVID-19 Compliance Officer or Compliance Team, depending on the size of the Sportsground.

Communication

Communication is probably the crucial aspect of the successful implementation of plans. Each association will develop detailed communication plans for their sports and sportsgrounds. A coordinated plan will be agreed between the three associations on a common message. Coordinated communications plans will be developed. This will ensure that fans can expect and follow the same safety protocols no matter what event they are attending – GAA, Football or Rugby.

COVID-19 Tracker App

Spectators will be advised that having the HSE COVID-19 Tracker App on their phone and with them at the event is a mandatory requirement for entry.

Spectator Code of Conduct

A Spectators' code of conduct has been drafted. It should be the same for all sports and promoted widely following approval of this report by Government and ahead of all trials and actual events.

Face Coverings

Face Coverings will be mandatory from arrival at the venue to departure (except while eating food, under 13s and for individual health reasons).

Physical/Social Distancing

The physical distancing of people to prevent transmission is a key principle to prevention of COVID-19 spread. The current public health guidance is 2m social distance for non-vaccinated people.

Scope has also been given to reduce distancing in areas that can be classed as "Controlled Environments"

The Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan defines a Controlled Environment as

"one where the number of people and the ways that they interact can be actively managed. The owners or organisers can control the number of people coming in and out, and there is space to physically distance. Controlled environments are those where the number of people present and the ways that they interact can be controlled, where there is a recognised organiser, where people are seated and generally remain in that same seat for the event, physical distancing, hand hygiene can be monitored, and contact tracing can be facilitated. For example, a sports club AGM, watching indoor sport, youth club meetings, AA meetings, conferences, training events, theatre performances."

The Path Ahead sets out a "Vaccine Bonus" for those who are fully vaccinated, or have had at least one dose of a vaccine and have waited the prescribed number of days as advised by the HSE. This bonus includes for a relaxation in physical distancing requirements. As the vaccine rollout progresses, it is envisaged that physical distancing requirement will be relaxed to reflect the reduction in transmission in the wider community.

Terraces

Terraces present certain challenges in the COVID-19 environment. However, we are confident that measures such as marking positions on terrace risers or designating pens can provide a solution and will be tested as part of the plan, as terraces are a vital feature of many of the traditional stadia in the country. Each association/stadium will carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment based on local knowledge to determine a safe terrace policy appropriate to the venue to be tested. Some venues may indeed choose not to open terraces.

Zone Ex

A stadium or sports ground will become a “controlled environment” as defined by NEPHET with all measures set out in this report and, as such, the Working Group believes this is manageable with the right plans in place. Zone Ex is the external environment outside the stadium. The movement of people to and from the event, although outside the control of Stadia Management, must be considered, to discourage unwanted gatherings of people in a less controlled environment. Measures will be planned in full consultation with the Liaison Committee ahead of each trial event to minimise gatherings and ensure that Zone Ex is as safe a space as possible to minimise the spread of Covid 19. For many this is understandably perceived as the biggest challenge but one that is considered by the Group as a vital aspect of all trial events

Travel to and from the Venue

Government guidance at this time on domestic travel is clear. People should walk or cycle if possible. Several Sportsgrounds have bicycle parking racks in their vicinity. In the normal course of daily life, people should be encouraged to avoid public transport and cars. Public Transport infrastructure can be critical in ensuring safe and efficient transport to and from major sporting events, engagement with the NTA on public transport planning for each event is advocated to advise on travel patterns of fans. Such engagement should enable Public Transport

to become a part of the solution to safe attendances at major sports events. Promotion of car-based solutions should be reserved for those who may need it most e.g. those with mobility impairments.

Spectators with Disabilities

The report provides for arrangements for spectators with disabilities.

Timing of Events

It is important that major events should not clash with other major events in a location. However, this is unlikely to happen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMPLEMENTATION BY ASSOCIATIONS

Each Sportsground has unique features and as such, plans for each venue must be bespoke. The implementation of the guidance in this report and the COVID-19 plans for each venue will be the responsibility of the Sportsground Management in consultation with the parent association. It is hoped that this guidance document may also be useful to other sporting bodies.



Part 1

Overview

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is Covid-19

1.1.1 About Covid 19

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a Coronavirus. The virus is transmitted primarily through droplets expelled when an infected person coughs, sneezes or exhales. These droplets may be picked up, if in the air, when a person is in close contact to an infected person. They may also fall onto surfaces where they may be touched and transferred to a person's nose, eyes or mouth when they touch them.

1.1.2 Symptoms

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The following are the most common symptoms:

- a fever (high temperature of 38°C or above)
- a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry

- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

A full list of symptoms can be found on the [HSE website](#).

1.2 Key Principles for Prevention of Spread of COVID-19

The key principles of prevention of spread of COVID-19 involve the following:

- Limiting potential contact with the virus so it cannot pass from one person to another
- Containment of the Virus to reduce number of persons it can be transmitted to
- Contact Tracing for early intervention

The primary methods to achieve this, as recommended by NPHET, the HSE, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) involve the following:

- Cleaning your hands thoroughly and often using soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Maintaining a safe distance from other people
- Wearing a face covering when physical distancing is not possible
- Covering your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Refraining from touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Staying home and self-isolating and contacting your doctor or the HSE if you develop symptoms
- Avoiding large crowds in uncontrolled environments
- Using Contact Tracing Apps, or keeping a Contact Log
- Keeping up to date with public health advice from trusted surfaces

1.3 Regulations & Relevant Guidelines

1.3.1 Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19

In September 2020, the Government published the **Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan**. This outlined their medium-term approach to managing risk and repairing the damage caused by the Coronavirus.

The plan set out a framework of restriction levels that would be imposed on different regions and counties depending on the incidence rate of the virus in those areas.

The framework addressed restrictions in key areas including social gatherings, sports, bars and restaurants, hotels, retail services, workplaces, travel, schools, playgrounds, and care facilities.

This guidance set out a need for specific guidance for sportsgrounds and stadia, as follows:

“For very large purpose-built event facilities (for example: stadia, auditoriums, conference or event centres) specific guidance will be developed with the relevant sectors to take account of size and different conditions for events such as large national and international sporting events.”

This document aims to provide the specific guidance required for the opening of large purpose-built Sportsgrounds and Stadia.

This document is not intended as guidance to those events at which the public are not permitted. Sportsgrounds should carry out a risk assessment to assess the control measures necessary for behind-closed-doors activities.

1.3.2 Resilience and Recovery 2021: The Path Ahead

In April 2021, the Government set out their approach to the next Phase – laying the foundations for the full recovery of social life, public services and the economy,

while remaining vigilant to the uncertainties around new variants and emerging evidence.

Following 5th April, the situation has been subject to ongoing review taking account of the evolving epidemiological situation and available evidence in relation to vaccine deployment, uptake, and effectiveness.

1.3.3 Code of Practice for Safety at Sports Grounds

The Guide to Safety at Sportsground (Green Guide), issued by the UK's Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA), is recognised as best practice for the safe planning and management of events at held at Sportsgrounds. The SGSA have issued supplementary guidance for planning for Social Distancing at Sportsgrounds during COVID-19 (SG02).

This document follows the principles set out in the Green Guide and SG02.

1.3.4 Other Key Guidelines and Reference Documents

The information contained in this document is based on current best practice in major event management. It has been compiled with contributions from the FAI, the GAA and the IRFU, and in respect of Medical, Health and Safety, Catering and Facilities Management as well as the advice of the Government, National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), The Health Services Executive (HSE), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC). Refer to **Appendix 5** of this document for a full list of reference documents used.

1.4 Objectives

The policies and procedures outlined in this document are designed to be integrated into the Sportsground's event day operations and procedures. The main objective is to create an environment where the risk of virus transmission is reduced to an acceptable or tolerable level. The aim is to maintain a safe environment for competitors, staff and Spectators while providing an enjoyable experience for fans and delivering a successful event in line with competition rules.

1.5 Scope of this Document

The Government's Plan for Living with COVID-19 outlines the need for specific guidance for purpose-built stadia and Sportsgrounds to be developed. This document aims to provide that guidance, setting out proposals for measures to be in-situ for the safe return of Spectators at Sportsgrounds.

The key principles and control measures of hygiene, maintaining distance, sanitisation, and clear communication, as documented in these guidelines remain the same whether it is for a small club game or large international game taking place.

1.5.1 Small Sportsgrounds & Club Games (up to 500 Spectators)

Club games were held in early 2020 with 200 to 500 Spectators in outdoor settings, before further restrictions were put in place, in Sportsgrounds with a maximum capacity of less than 5000 people. This guidance can be used to supplement club guidelines already in place.

1.5.2 Large Sportsgrounds (500+ Spectators)

For large purpose-built Sportsgrounds that can normally accommodate 5000+ Spectators, this guidance may be adopted to allow these venues to run events with more than 500 Spectators where the recommended control measures are in place.

1.5.3 Matches Behind Closed Doors

This document applies only to sporting events where the public are admitted, i.e. for Restriction Levels 1 & 2 of the Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Framework.

Under the Living with COVID-19 Plan, Sportsgrounds may hold elite sports games behind closed doors at Levels 3 & 4 of the restrictions. Only the competitors, officials, accredited media/journalists, and people with a working function would be permitted at the event. These events can operate subject to a risk assessment and appropriate control measures.



1.6 Application of this Document

This document is intended for use by all parties involved in or organising a sporting event in a Sportsground. These guidelines apply to the following groups.

Group	Name	Includes:
Group 1	Competitors	All Competitors, Teams, or Players along with their Manager, Coaches, Assistants, Team Doctors & Physiotherapists, Press Officer, and any other Operational Staff Associated with the Competitors.
Group 2	Officials	Referees, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Video Assistant Referees, Match Officers, Doping Control Officers, Pitch-side Medical Team, Support Staff, Team Liaison Officers, Pitch-Side Media.
Group 3	Venue & Event Staff	Facilities Staff, Support Staff, Event Controller, Safety Officers, Security & Stewarding, Crowd Medical Team, Bar & Concession Staff, Cleaners, Maintenance Team, Broadcast Media.
Group 4	Patrons	Ticketholders and VIP guests.

The focus of this document is primarily on Groups 3 & 4. Groups 1 and 2 will be required to adhere to the particular guidelines set out by the Sporting Bodies and tournaments.



Part 2

Management

2. DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN

Before considering opening a Sportsground to members of the public, a series of actions should be carried out to ensure it is safe to do so. The action plan should include:

1. Appointing a COVID-19 Compliance Team
2. Producing a Work Safely Protocol for the Sportsground as a Workplace
3. Reviewing and Updating the Sportsground Safety Documentation
4. Carrying out a Risk Assessment for the Event
5. Developing and Installing Control Measures within the Sportsground
6. Carrying out a Capacity Analysis Based on Physical Distancing Guidelines
7. Reviewing Operational and Event Management Procedures
8. Outlining the Roles and Responsibilities of all Personnel in Relation to COVID-19
9. Developing a Communication Plan
10. Holding Trial Events Ahead of Opening Venues to Large Numbers
11. Monitoring & Review

Further information on these actions is detailed in the following paragraphs.

2.1 COVID-19 Compliance Team

A COVID-19 Lead Co-ordinator should be nominated by the Sportsground Management to represent their staff in relation to COVID-19 and co-ordinate and oversee the control measures required as part of the Sportsground's Work Safely Plan.

The Lead Co-ordinator should appoint COVID-19 compliance officers to monitor compliance in the workplace. The number of compliance officers should be proportionate to the number of staff in the Sportsground.

See Section 3.6.7 of this document for further information on the roles of the COVID-19 Compliance team.

2.2 Work Safely Protocol

In accordance with government guidelines, all workplaces are required to produce Work Safely Plan outlining measures they will put in place to protect their staff as they re-open.

2.3 Review All Health and Safety Documents

Normal in-house health and safety procedures are to be followed as instructed by the health and safety officer for the Sportsground. All health and safety documents should be updated to include COVID-19. This might include a review of:

- **Safety Statement.** Safety Statement and associated Risk Assessments should be reviewed to take account of COVID-19
- **Risk Assessments / Method Statements (RAMS).** Risk Assessments and Method Statements for all work on site should be reviewed to address the risk of COVID-19. Particular emphasis

will be required on "Close Working", i.e. where persons cannot maintain physical distance while working

- **Daily Briefing Document.** Daily briefing documents (Safe System of Work Plans / Site Induction briefings etc. should address COVID-19

2.4 Risk Assessment

Risk Assessments must be conducted as part of safety planning for all games. The risk assessments for each Sportsground and/or game need to take account of risk of transmission of COVID-19, identifying those hazards, which present a risk of a spread of infection between persons.

The identification of hazards is based on assessment against the principles of prevention, and relevant guidance documents, as applied to an environment having regard to the application of professional judgement and common sense to the particular circumstances.

Factors to consider when carrying out the risk assessment on COVID-19 transmission include:

- The length of activity
- The numbers involved in an activity
- Whether direct contact is part of the activity
- Whether close proximity is part of the activity
- Contact group characteristics (e.g. a social bubbles, team pods)
- The environment in which the activity occurs (e.g. outdoors versus indoors)

A non-exhaustive list of typical hazards which may increase the risk of infection can be found in Appendix 3 of this document.

2.5 Control Measures

Based on the risk assessment, measures can be put in place that are considered reasonably practicable, to mitigate or eliminate the hazards. The objective is to reduce risk completely or to a tolerable or acceptable level. This document sets out those control measures which should be considered to help mitigate or eliminate risk of spread of COVID-19 at an event in a Sportsground.

The management and implementation of control measures will determine if the Sportsground can be considered a "Controlled Environment" as defined by the Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2021.

Further information on Controlled Environments is outlined in [Appendix 1](#) of this document.

2.6 Capacity Analysis

The assessment of the maximum allowable capacity of a Sportsground during COVID-19 will be based on the

Sportsground's ability to manage physical distancing.

The Sportsground management and their governing body must be satisfied that the control measures will be implemented and that facilities are in place to adequately manage the patrons at an event.

The first step should be to determine if the control measures and management procedures will satisfy the requirements for a "Controlled Environment" as detailed in [Appendix 1](#). This will determine whether the 2m physical distancing is employed as per NPHET guidelines, or if the number of people present and the ways in which they interact can be controlled, a 1m physical distance may be considered. Refer to [Section 13](#) of this document for a detailed outline on calculating maximum capacity using physical distancing.

2.7 Review Operational and Event Management Procedures

Standard Operating Procedures and Operational Manuals should be reviewed and updated, where necessary, to include for risks associated with COVID-19 transmission.

The Event Management Plan should be augmented to include the COVID-19 risk assessment, updates to the roles and responsibilities of personnel, and any relevant COVID-19 control measures to be put in place. See Section 3.2 of this document for further information.

2.7 Review Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibilities of all stake holders should be clearly outlined, including the appointment of a Lead COVID-19 Compliance Officer. Refer to [Section 3.0](#) of this document for further detail of the responsibilities of the various parties involved.

2.8 Develop Communication Plan

A robust communication plan is essential to achieving compliance by staff, competitors, and Spectators. All available means of communication should be used before and during an event, including ticketing platforms, social media, and websites, as well as signage, public address systems, and electronic displays in and around the Sportsground. Refer to [Section 4.0](#) of this document for further information.

Key to re-opening Sportsgrounds safely is buy-in from the public. It is imperative that Spectators are aware of the measure that are being put in place for their safety, as well as their personal responsibility for themselves and for others while attending an event. As such, a Spectator Code of Conduct should be drawn up to inform all patrons of their responsibilities while attending a sporting event. An example of the Code of Conduct is given in [Appendix 2](#) of this document.

2.9 Monitoring and Oversight

The governing body of a Sportsground should have oversight of the Sportsground's COVID-19 plan and control measures before a game can take place. The measures may also need to be reviewed in respect of tournament regulations and guidelines by the relevant sporting bodies.

The COVID-19 Lead Co-ordinator for the Sportsground should work in conjunction with all personnel to ensure strict compliance on event days. All control measures implemented must be monitored on a continuing basis. The COVID-19 Lead co-ordinator should monitor ongoing HSE & NPHET advice and update all procedures accordingly.

A Post-event review should take place following each event to discuss any issues which may have arisen, and how to improve on them ahead of the next event. Outcomes should be shared with the governing bodies so that the lesson learned can be passed between Sportsgrounds.

2.10 Trial Events

Trial events are necessary in order to evaluate and build confidence in, and to test the plans and procedures and control measures outlined in this document. A number of trial events shall be run in different venues as a proof of concept of the guidelines being proposed in this document, prior to opening of all Sportsgrounds at full physically distanced capacities.

Parameters for these Trial events will be agreed between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the relevant Sporting Bodies.

The guidelines in this document may be revised following review of Trial events.

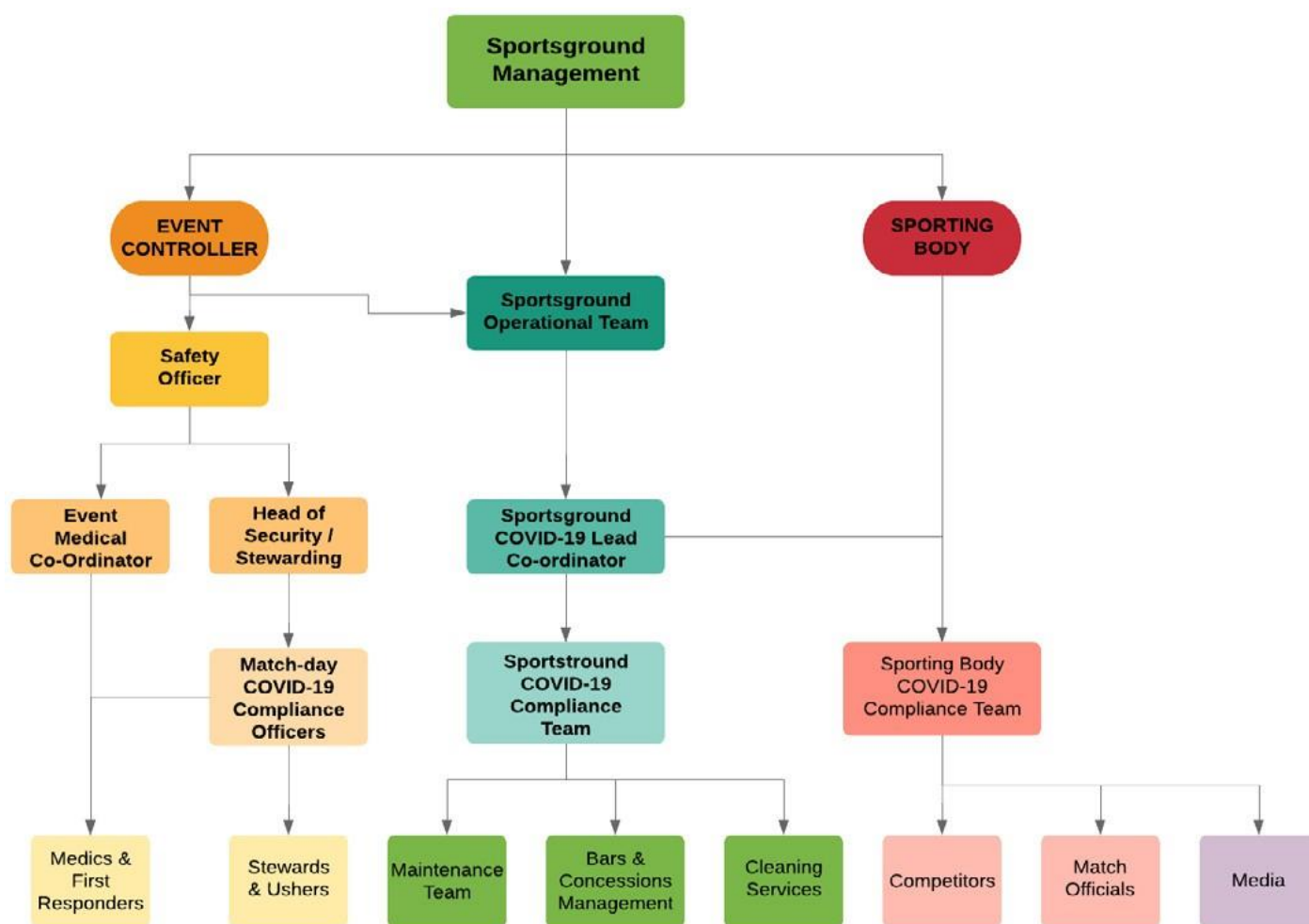
Only following successful trials, with low level of transmission, will Sportsgrounds be re-opened to higher-capacity controlled events.



public who attend an event.

Sportsground Management will have overall responsibility for reducing risk of COVID-19 transmission at their venue. They should work closely with the Event Organisers, Event Safety Teams, and the Sporting Bodies and Competitors to ensure that each party is carrying out their responsibilities. They should provide the necessary supports to allow stakeholders to perform their duties safely.

The organisation chart below shows a typical management structure for managing risk of COVID-19 at a sporting event. Each stakeholder will take on additional roles on top of their normal safety management roles to help implement and manage the control measures required to reduce risk of spread of COVID-19.



Refer to **Section 3.5** of this document for detail on the COVID-19 specific roles and responsibilities of the management team and various stakeholders

3.2 Event Management Plan

An Event Management Plan (EMP) must be prepared for each event. The EMP focusses on operational concerns relating to capacity, access and egress, staffing, crowd movement, hospitality and cleaning. The EMP and associated Risk Assessment should be augmented with specific measures to be implemented to minimise risk of COVID-19 transmission within the grounds.

For regularly occurring games, an Event Management Plan may be prepared for the season with match specific instructions issued prior to each game.

3.2.1 Medical Plan

The Event Medical Co-ordinator should carry out a risk assessment Sportsground to determine if additional medical facilities are required to protect against COVID-19 transmission.

They should liaise with the Sportsground's Lead COVID-19 Co-ordinator to update their medical plan to include location of isolation room on the Grounds, and other relevant information. They may also need to co-ordinate

with the Sportsground facilities team to procure and store necessary PPE and sanitising products.

3.2.2 Security Plan

A security plan should be developed to include measures in place to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission, as outlined in this document. The security plan should include:

- Rules for Entry (accreditation, health declarations, temperature checks, testing)
- Sportsground zoning
- New roles and responsibilities for stewards, including monitoring physical distancing

- Physical distancing and hygiene requirements for all security/stewarding personnel
- Suspected case protocols

3.3 Oversight and Auditing

The guidelines set out in this document require oversight to ensure they are being implemented in advance of an event and monitored throughout. This involves:

- Ensuring control measures are in place ahead of the event
- Monitoring compliance during an event
- Reviewing and auditing systems after an event
- Reviewing ongoing public health advice and updating safety systems as required

The COVID-19 Lead Co-ordinator for each stakeholder will have responsibility for overseeing and auditing their own systems having regard to the other stakeholder requirements.

3.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Sportsground Management and Event Organisers should engage with key stakeholders, including Local Authorities, HSE and An Garda Síochána so to inform them of the event day arrangements and can assist where necessary.



3.5 Sportsground Responsibilities

Sportsground Management are responsible for the safety, security and service needs of all present in a Sportsground. They should also:

- Appoint a COVID-19 Compliance Team (COVID-19 Lead Co-Ordinator and COVID-19 Compliance officers)
- Ensure COVID-19 Risk Assessment is carried out by a Competent Person
- Ensure COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan is prepared
- Ensure adequate controls and procedures are in place at all times
- Revise/update the above when new information becomes available from Government and Health Authorities

3.6 Match Day Personnel

3.6.1 Event Controller

The Event Controller has the status and authority to take full responsibility for all matters related to the management of the event. In addition to their prescribed roles set out in the Code of Practice for Safety at Sportsgrounds and the Event Management Plan, the Event Controller is also responsible for:

- Ensuring that adequate COVID-19 control measures are in place for the safety of persons attending, suppliers and staff
- Ensuring that the COVID-19 response plan is made available to all event personnel
- Ensuring the COVID-19 Compliance Team is in place and aware of their duties
- Keeping updated with Public Health Advice and updating the procedures accordingly

3.6.2 Safety Officer

In addition to their prescribed roles as outlined in the Code of Practice for Safety at Sportsgrounds and the Event Management Plan, The Safety Officer shall undertake the following duties:

- Ensure the COVID-19 Risk Assessment is carried out for the event
- Ensure the Control Measures identified in the risk assessment have been implemented
- Ensure that all match day staff are provided with and participate in necessary training and ad hoc briefings in relation to COVID-19
- Determine the requirement for safe equipment including personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensuring this is provided as necessary
- Ensure Signage relating to COVID-19 is in place throughout the Sportsground
- Ensure COVID-19 compliance officers are in place, aware of their duties and carrying them out effectively
- Ensure staff are aware of COVID-19 symptoms, and the Sportsground's policies and procedures
- Receive updates from COVID-19 Compliance officers and take action as required
- Keeping updated with Public Health Advice and updating the procedures accordingly

3.6.3 Head of Security/Stewarding

The Head of Security / Stewarding should maintain contact and report directly to the Event Controller on all matters, including COVID-19. In addition to their prescribed roles as outlined in the Code of Practice for Safety at Sportsgrounds and the Event Management Plan, the duties of the Director of Stewarding/Head of Security should include:

- Ensuring that, in conjunction with ordinary match day activities, all stewards and security personnel have a clear understanding of their additional roles and responsibilities in the Sportsgrounds with respect to COVID-19
- Assisting the Event Controller in ensuring adequate personnel are deployed, as necessary
- Ensuring that details of all stewards are recorded in the steward register for contact tracing
- Briefing stewards on COVID-19 policies and procedures in place in the Sportsground
- Briefing stewards to follow key principles of COVID-19 prevention measures:
 - Observe Physical Distancing
 - Wear A Face Covering
 - Do Not Touch Your Mouth or Face
 - Wash Your Hands Regularly
- Ensuring that stewards are positioned at all exits, entrances, and key points where control is most needed, particularly at any queues, to ensure physical distance is being facilitated
- Familiarising themselves and their staff with any changes to the layout of the venue, e.g. zoning, one-way systems, etc. and location of isolation rooms

The Head of Security / Stewarding shall also be responsible for ensuring that new safe systems of works which have been implemented as a result of COVID-19 are communicated to all personnel. This will include:

- Check in/ Check out systems
- Points of entry
- Radio management
- Working in close contact
- Ejection of Spectators

3.6.4 Medical Co-Ordinator

The Medical Co-ordinator should update their medical plan for an event to address COVID-19. In addition to their prescribed roles as outlined in the Code of Practice for Safety at Sportsgrounds and the Event Management Plan, the duties of the Medical Co-ordinator should include:

- Carrying out a risk assessment and method statement and updating their medical plan accordingly
- Ensuring that their medical staff have a clear understanding of their additional roles and responsibilities with respect to COVID-19
- Ensuring that their medical staff have the appropriate PPE for treating suspected cases
- Familiarising themselves and their staff with location of isolation rooms

3.6.5 All Employers

Sportsground Management, Event Organisers, Contractors, and Suppliers have a responsibility to provide a high level of service while ensuring the safety of their staff. In particular they should ensure that they have developed a COVID-19 Response Plan in line with the government's Work Safely Protocol. They should listen to ongoing Government and Public Health advice to ensure they are following the most current advice and best practice.

Employers should ensure sufficient staffing contingencies in the event of a staff member reporting experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is unable carry out their duties.

Refer to **Section 11** of this document for further information on the requirements for contractors.

3.6.6 All Event Staff

All staff present on site at an event, including Sportsground Staff, Event Staff, Contractors, Sporting bodies, media and volunteers should follow the instructions outlined in their employer's COVID-19 Response Plan and the Sportsground's Event Management Plan.

All Event Staff should:

- Inform their employer immediately if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and not report to work
- Read their employer's COVID-19 procedures and confirm they understand them
- Practice a high level of hygiene
- Keep a contact log of direct contact with other people
- Be open and honest if they have been in contact with a COVID-19 case
- Wear PPE provided
- Observe physical distancing at all times
- Attend COVID-19 induction training in advance of the event



3.6.7 COVID-19 Compliance Team

Each stakeholder organisation will appoint COVID-19 Compliance Teams as follows:

- Sportsground Compliance Team
- Event Organisers Compliance Team
- Competitors Compliance Team

3.6.7.1 Sportsground COVID-19 Compliance Team

The Sportsground Compliance Team should carry out an audit of the venue before opening to the public and should fill out an Action Checklist to confirm all control measures are in place. A sample control measure checklist can be found at on the [Health and Safety Authority website](#), though it is recommended that a site/event specific checklist be developed for each Sportsground. They Sportsground COVID-19 Compliance Team should be responsible for:

- Ensuring cleaning and disinfection has been carried out to all areas in the venue
- Monitoring Sportsground staff for compliance with COVID-19 procedures
- Providing training and PPE for staff as required
- Ensuring infrastructure is in place, such as has Perspex screens, sanitation stations, barriers for queue management, signage, etc.
- Ensuring seats not in use are appropriately and safely blocked off
- Ensuring Toilet facilities have appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures in place
- Completing Action Checklist in advance of the other parties arriving on site

3.6.7.2 Event Organiser COVID-19 Compliance Team

The Event Organisers Compliance Team may be part of the Stewarding Team or may be part of the Event Safety Team. They should monitor Spectator areas throughout an event and advise and assist Spectators with physical distancing and hygiene measures. They should report to Safety Officer or Head of Security. They should have sufficient training and knowledge of the Sportsground to carry out their duties effectively. They should be able to address any public concerns with respect to COVID-19.

3.6.7.3 Competitors Compliance Officers

The different teams or Sporting Bodies may each have their own Compliance Team. They should liaise with the Sportsground Team to make sure their requirements for COVID-19 safety for the players and officials, in line with competition or tournament rules, are being followed where relevant.

3.6.8 Spectators

Prior to being admitted to the Sportsground, Spectators should be required to read and agree to a Code of Conduct and any updated Ground regulations. The Code of Conduct should include details on key behaviour expected of Spectators while at the Sportsgrounds such as:

- Physical distancing
- Policies of face coverings
- Personal hygiene and etiquette
- Respect for other Spectators

This should be included in the ticketing and communications plans. For example, Spectators may have to read through the Code of Conduct prior to being able to purchase the ticket. A person purchasing multiple tickets will be expected to forward the rules to all those attending the event with them.

Non-compliances with the Code of Conduct may lead to expulsion from the grounds, or prevention of attending future events. Refer to **Appendix 2** of this document for a sample Code of Conduct for Spectators.

All Spectators should also be required to download the HSE COVID Tracker App.

3.6.9 Competitors, Match Officials and Support Staff

All competitors, teams and support staff have a responsibility to make themselves aware of and follow the Sportsground's COVID-19 protocols and the rules of the Sporting Body or Tournament.

3.6.10 Media

All media personnel including broadcasters, photographers, social media and journalists should complete the induction resource and health questionnaire and adhere to COVID-19 site specific rules of the Sportsground.

Media should operate only within their own designated zones and should avoid pinch points such as the players tunnel. They should avoid interaction with other staff, players, contractors, or Spectators. Media must follow the protocols in place for interviews, photography and interaction with players.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Clear and concise communication with staff, competitors, and Spectators is an essential part of managing risk in the Sportsground. A comprehensive and reliable communication plan can be utilised to inform all persons attending the Sportsground as to what measures have been put in place for their safety, and to inform them of what is expected of them. A good communication plan will also allow persons attending the fixture to be informed with up-to-date information and changes as they occur.

4.1 Communication with Spectators

4.1.1 Before the Event

Before an event takes place, management should inform the ticket holders, using all available communication channels, of:

- The safety measures that have been implemented in the Sportsground, and
- Their responsibilities when attending an event

This will reassure attendees of the safety precautions in place for their own safety. It will also assist in the operations on the day as Spectators will know what to expect and will be able to plan accordingly. Spectators should be required to agree to a Spectator Code of Conduct as a condition of entry with the expressed knowledge that they may be denied entry or expelled from the grounds if they do not follow the advice in place. In addition to normal ground rules, communications with ticketholders should give clear concise information informing them, where applicable, of:

- Their responsibilities in terms of hygiene and respiratory etiquette, physical distancing and wearing of face coverings

- Their responsibility to remain at home if they are experiencing symptoms before an event or are a close contact of a suspected case
- Their responsibility to personally assess themselves for fitness to attend, e.g. if they might be considered vulnerable people
- Advice on what to do if they develop symptoms while at the venue.
- Advice for travelling on public transport including the possibility of limited services
- Availability of bike racks and/or changes to parking, or vehicle access to the venue
- Suggested arrival times to account for possible increased queuing and to inform of staggered entry times, if imposed
- Location of entry points and exit routes related to their allocated seating
- Any difference in standard entry procedures or checks they may need to undergo
- Information on their allocated circulation area, if concourses are zoned
- Payment methods at concessions (e.g. if contactless payments, or click and collect methods are being used)
- Changes to the usual available refreshments, e.g. if there is a no-alcohol policy
- Exiting arrangements, particularly if staggered exiting is imposed
- Any other relevant advice

4.1.2 During the Event

During the event, Spectators should be reminded of control measures which may be in place and their responsibilities.

Clear, concise signage should be in place at entrances and throughout the Grounds to indicate:

- Hygiene protocols
- Physical distancing
- Face covering protocols

Floor markings can also be used to indicate queuing positions using physical distancing.

During the event, use can be made of the Public Address Systems, Scoreboards, Information Boards and Screens to give reminders to Spectators of their responsibilities, and to inform them of any changes to procedures.

All messaging should be clear, concise, and consistent and should adhere to the guidelines for signage, visual contrast, and audibility for people with disabilities as outlined in Technical Guidance Document Part M and BS8300: 2009.

4.2 Communication with Staff

Specific training will be needed for all match operations personnel.

Prior to, or on arrival at the Sportsground, induction training should be provided for all Staff detailing the new measures in place at the Sportsground, up-to-date guidance on Public Health, as well as their responsibilities while in the Sportsgrounds. Site induction training should be obligatory prior to all staff/contractors/workers entering the Sportsgrounds.

Any event specific guidance and procedures should also be relayed to the staff prior to them commencing work on event day.

Further briefings may be required throughout the day to update the staff of any changes.

Adequate time needs to be given for additional staff briefings before an event. This could extend the working day at an event significantly. This needs to be considered when assigning shifts, taking into account any requirements for staff changeover, if necessary.

4.3 Signage

Appropriate signage should be installed in key locations (entrances, concourse/circulation spaces, toilets, etc) to remind the public of their responsibilities. The signage should be placed in prominent positions and be clear and legible.

Signage should be regularly reviewed to ensure it is displaying the latest Government guidelines or Event specific protocols.

Signage may take the form of the following:

- Vertical signage prominently mounted in key locations indicating physical distancing, face covering protocols and other relevant information, advice and guidance
- Floor markings indicating physical distancing
- Electronic displays and screens within circulation areas can also show relevant information
- Big screens can also be used to give instruction to Spectators. This may be particularly useful if there are specific exiting procedures that they need to follow

To accommodate for non-English speaking Spectators, all signage to be pictographic where possible.

5. ZONE EX MANAGEMENT

Consideration needs to be given to the Sportsground environs during entry and egress of an event. The management of the “last mile” leading from public car parks, public transport hubs and local amenities will be essential in reducing the risk of spread of COVID-19.

While management of this zone is outside the direct control of the Sportsground Management and Event Organisers, a holistic view of the Spectator journey to and from the Sportsground needs to be considered.

This might include:

- Review of public transport capacity
- Review of access and egress to public transport hubs to allow physical distancing
- Provision of additional parking or liaising with local public car parks
- Spectator behaviour outside the grounds to be addressed in the Spectator Code of Conduct
- Advanced communication with ticketholders as to public transport or parking limitations
- Impact on local businesses and residents, ensuring they can physically distance from the Spectators and implement public health measures
- Prevention of over-crowding in local bars and restaurants pre and post event
- Changes to approach routes which may affect traffic management
- Temporary road closures to accommodate new access and egress routes, if required
- Staggered entry time and egress times
- Prohibiting casual traders

Sportsground Management and/or Event organisers should liaise with Local Authorities, An Garda Síochána, the National Transport Authority and/or local transport providers, and key stakeholders to co-ordinate safe access and egress to and from the Sportsgrounds.





Part 3

Control Measures

6. ACCESS CONTROL

6.1 Accreditation

All persons operating in the Sportsground on an event day should be accredited. The accreditation process must take into account the different zoning in place within the Sportsground, as outlined in [Section 9.2](#) of this document, as well as the specific requirements for each zone.

Only persons who have completed their training and provided a health declaration should receive their accreditation. Those in the Player Zone may need further screening or tests before receiving the accreditation for that zone.

The accreditation must be clear and legible to allow stewards to identify who is authorised to access each zone. Contact details of all accredited individuals, including a contact telephone number, must be retained for a period of 28 days by Sportsground Management or Event Organisers to enable contact tracing.

All names should be submitted to the Sportsground/event accreditation office no later than the agreed specified time before the event.

To maintain physical distancing at the accreditation pick-up point, staggered shifts should be considered to prevent

everyone arriving at the same time. Queuing systems should be put in place with signage, barriers and floor markings as required.

6.2 Ticketing Plan

Entry to the Sportsground should be by ticket only. All tickets should be bought online or in advance. Spectator details should be recorded to facilitate contact tracing. No walk-ups should be allowed.

The ticketing strategy for the event should consider the following:

- Contactless ticket scanning should be used where practicable, rather than tearing of stubs or handling paper tickets
- Tickets for seated accommodation should be to allocated specific seats, or where standing, for specific standing areas or pens
- Ticket sales to be limited to a maximum of 6 per person. The persons attending in a "social-bubble" together should be from not more than 4 households
- Ticket Re-Sale should not be permitted unless the name and contact details can be transferred to the new owner with the ticket. Ticket holders must carry valid ID to confirm identity if requested.

- Patrons who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before the game should be refunded the cost of their tickets
- Clear entry times should be given on the tickets, particularly if staggered zone entrancing is being utilised.

Spectators should be made aware that their contact details will be kept for a period of 28 days to facilitate contact tracing.

Any ticketing plan should go hand in hand with a rigorous communication plan.

6.4 Accessibility

Event Organisers and Sportsground Management should ensure that COVID-19 control measures do not compromise the rights or quality of the experience for Spectators or staff with disabilities. The COVID-19 response plan should have regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2004

Factors to be considered include:

- Control measures should not prevent a person with a disability from attending or accessing the venue
- The Sportsground cannot restrict people from attending for reasons of disability. It is for the individual to carry out their own personal risk assessment and determine the appropriateness of their attendance at the event
- Spectators with disabilities often require attendance with a companion or aid. This will need to be considered when allocating tickets in line with physical distancing
- The identity of the companion might not be known in advance of the event day. This should be considered with respect to contact tracing
- Positions of barriers and infrastructure should not impede the access or circulation route for people with disabilities
- Positions and legibility of signage should have regard for people with different disabilities
- Hand sanitisers should be accessible to people with a range of abilities
- Hand sanitisers, barriers, and other infrastructure should contrast visually with surrounding surfaces, so that they are easily identifiable to people with vision impairment
- Stewards and COVID-19 Compliance Officers should be made aware that some disabled people are unable to wear face coverings
- Stewards and COVID-19 Compliance Officers should be aware that people with hearing impairments may have difficulty understanding them while wearing a face covering and they may need to remove them momentarily, if required, to communicate. They should ensure they maintain physical distancing while their face covering is removed and should follow hygiene guidelines when removing their face covering

7. HEALTH SCREENING

7.1 Testing

Sporting bodies may require nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs + PCR tests for certain personnel. The Sportsgrounds should facilitate these as far as possible, and ensure that members of Group 3 personnel (venue staff, event staff & media), where required, are also tested in accordance with Competition Rules, particularly if they may come into contact with the competitors.

In the case of a positive result, the test provider should contact the HSE. No person who tests positive should be permitted to travel to a venue or take part in an event.

The results of tests should be kept in strictest confidentiality, though any changes or cancellations to the event day programme may need to be communicated with staff and ticketholders by the Sportsground.

7.2 Health Declarations

Before entering the Sportsground on Event days, all staff and contractors should complete a health declaration, in a similar format to the [**HSA's Return to Work Form**](#). This form should either be completed at the staff entry point or returned to Sportsground no more than 3 days prior to an event.

The declaration should confirm that they are not experiencing, nor have they experienced within the last 14 days, any symptoms of COVID-19, nor have they been a close contact of a suspected case. Personnel may also need to confirm that they have not returned from a country not on the green list in the last 14 days, however, this does not apply where alternative arrangements have been put in place for competitors and staff who have travelled for international games.

All declarations are private and should be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Records shall be kept in line with data protection regulations.

7.3 Temperature Checks

Following a risk assessment, some venues and/or sporting bodies may also require temperature checks for all personnel coming on site. All personnel should be made aware of any health checks before arrival. Personnel may not be permitted on site if they are experiencing high temperatures.

7.4 Spectators

Spectators should be advised via all available communication methods to stay at home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. It is up to the individual to carry out a personal risk assessment to determine if they should attend, this particularly relates to those with pre-existing health conditions that may be considered "vulnerable people" in relation to COVID-19 public health advice.

All Spectators should be encouraged to download the [**HSE COVID Tracker App**](#).

Organisers may also request/require Spectator's to complete health declarations as part of their ticketing process.



8. HYGIENE

8.1 Personal Hygiene & Etiquette

8.1.1 Staff

Face coverings must be worn by all staff, match day personnel, and contractors operating in the Sportsground at all times.

Staff should be expected to practice good hygiene in line with HSE guidelines.

8.1.2 Spectators

Hand washing facilities should be available to all Spectators. Hand sanitising units should be placed in key locations at entrances and throughout the concourses and circulation areas for patrons' and employees' use. Spectators should be encouraged to use the hand sanitiser while maintaining physical distancing.

Spectators should be required to wear face coverings at all times when in the Sportsgrounds, except when eating or drinking. Exceptions to this rule include patrons who are under the age of 13 or are unable to wear them because of a physical or mental illness or disability.

Consideration should be given to keeping a supply of face masks at entrances to give to Spectators who may have forgotten to bring their own.

Individuals must be informed via pre-event communications that much of the responsibility for managing COVID-19 risk remains with themselves, particularly in relation to physical distancing, the wearing of face coverings and hygiene.

8.2 Personal Protective Equipment

Sportsground management should ensure the provision and maintenance of PPE to ensure safety at work where it is not reasonably practicable to control or eliminate hazards. The level of PPE required for various tasks should be considered in the Risk Assessment. Mandatory training in the safe use and disposal of PPE should be provided. PPE recommended to reduce virus transmission include Gloves and Face Coverings. However, it should be noted that gloves should not replace the need for regular handwashing.

Where disposable gloves are worn, personnel must ensure the following:

- Hands should be washed before putting gloves on, between glove changes, and when gloves are removed
- Gloves should be changed frequently
- Gloves should be changed after use - personnel should not reapply the same pair of gloves

The following personnel should wear a face covering while operating in the Sportsground.

- All Sportsground Operational Staff, ground staff, catering and cleaning staff
- All Event staff, Sportsground stewards, security, medics and volunteers
- All media, except commentators during the event and PA announcers
- Group 1 & 2 personnel, except competitors and match officials
- Any other personnel, to be agreed with Event Controller and/or Sportsground management, where wearing of a face covering would not inhibit that person's ability to perform their roles and responsibilities

Consideration should be given to keeping a supply of Face Coverings at entrance points to distribute to Spectators who have forgotten to bring their own.

8.3 Cleaning to Prevent Contamination

8.3.1 General Cleaning Protocols

All areas of the Sportsground that are in use for the event must be cleaned prior to use. These areas include player areas, media working areas, Spectator viewing areas, offices, meeting rooms and sanitary facilities. Cleaning should be carried out in accordance with **ECDC Guidelines**.

Enhanced cleaning procedures should be in place to prevent cross contamination at shared touch points in back of house areas as well as areas open to the public, including but not limited to:

- Taps and washing facilities
- Toilet flush and seats
- Door handles and push plates
- Electronic touch-sensitive door release buttons
- Light Switches
- Handrails on staircases and ramps.
- Escalators
- Lift controls
- Sign-In Touch Screen Displays
- Food preparation and eating surfaces
- Communications equipment
- Office equipment
- Rubbish collection and storage points
- Welfare facility areas

Contact/touch surfaces and communal changing/sanitary and catering facilities should be cleaned at least twice daily.

The use of a neutral detergent for the cleaning of surfaces in general premises (i.e. not for premises where a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 has been) should be sufficient.

8.3.2 Cleaning Spectator Viewing Areas

Seats and handrails in Spectator viewing areas should be cleaned prior to each event.

Where a game takes place less than 72 hours before the previous event, an enhanced sanitisation of the seats and handrails in will be required to decontaminate any surfaces that the public may be in contact with.

8.3.3 Cleaning after a Suspected Case

For cleaning of areas where a suspected case has come in contact, refer Section 13.4.3 of this document.

9. MANAGING PHYSICAL (SOCIAL) DISTANCING

The physical distancing (also known as social distancing) of people to prevent transmission is one of the key methods of prevention of COVID-19 spread. The paragraphs below set out recommendations for control measures that can be applied to allow physical distancing to be maintained by staff and Spectators at an event.

The physical distancing measures outlined in this document are based on 2-metre distancing as far as reasonably possible. However, scope has been given to reduce distancing in areas that can be classed as "Controlled Environments" and in line with Public Health advice. The recommended measures for Controlled Environments are outlined in Appendix 1 of this document.

9.1 Reducing Non-Essential On-Site Personnel

The number of personnel on site during an event should be limited to essential match-day staff only. Essential Staff are the people required to deliver an event. Stewarding and security numbers should be limited to the smallest number that can safely perform their duties in each zone. It is acknowledged that additional staffing may be required to manage physical distancing and queuing in circulation areas.

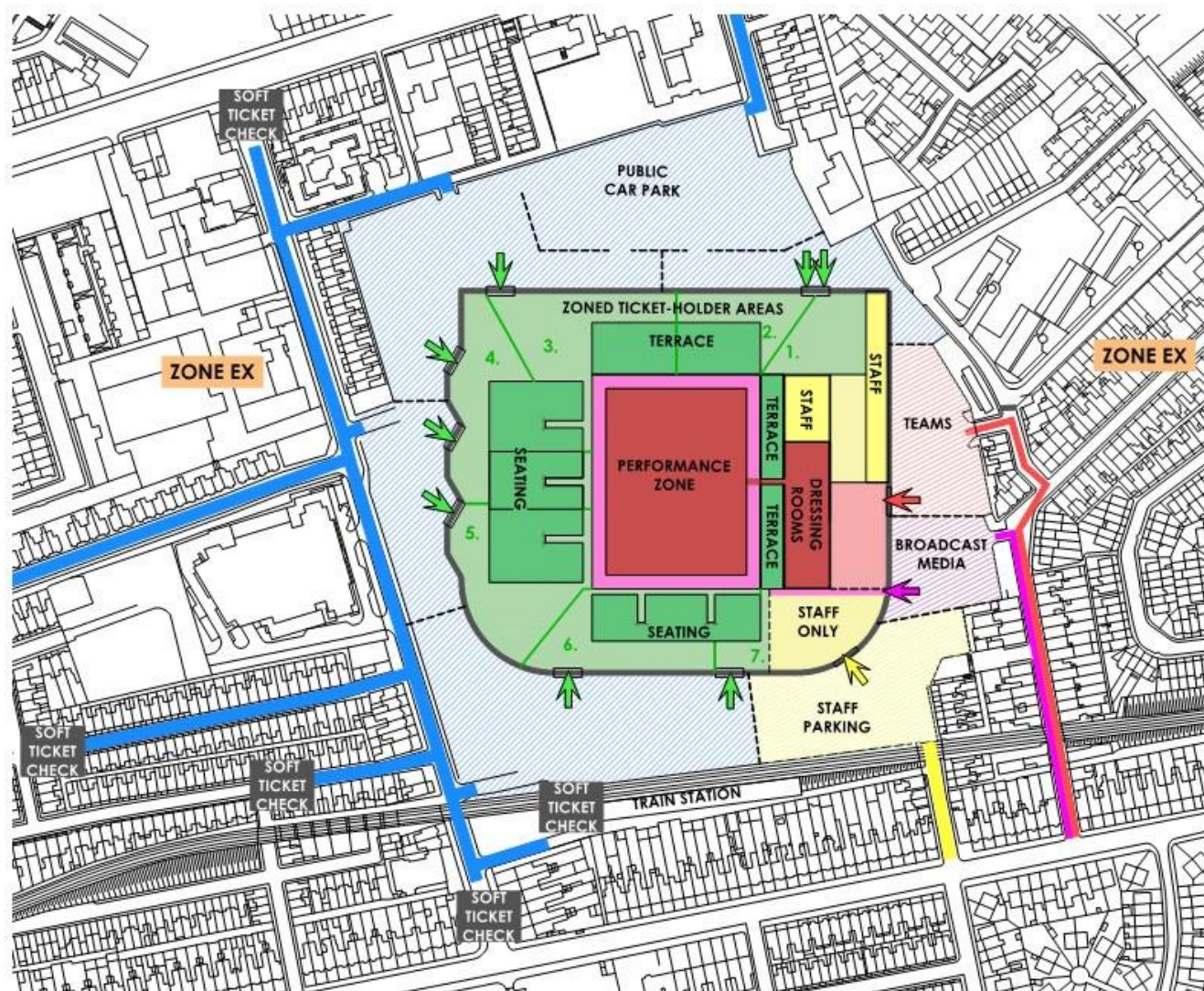
9.2 Zoning

Sportsground should be divided into separate zones to limit contact between personnel in different groups, and

where practicable, to limit contact between those seated in different parts of the venue.

Each of these zones may have different protocols and control measures applied to them. Access to a particular zone should be restricted only to cleared, accredited personnel. Access between zones should be limited. Zones should ideally each have their own dedicated entry and exit points, where practicable.

A map of the Sportsground defining all areas/zones, routes and access and egress points should be produced, clearly setting out the zones. See below an example zone map. Note, the zone colours outlined below are indicative only. Colour zoning should be in line with Sporting Body guidelines, or coloured entry routes already existing in the Sportsground.



SECTION 3 - CONTROL MEASURES

A description of typical zones is given in the table below:

Zone	Location	Persons Allowed in the Zone	Restrictions
Red	<p>Performance Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch Dressing rooms Team entrances Players tunnel Substitutes area Referee's room Anti-doping rooms Flash interview space Coaches box. 	<p>Group 1 & Group 2 and other essential personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors, Coaches, Management & Technical Staff Team or Sporting Body COVID-19 Managers Referee Team Anti-Doping teams Hawkeye Medical Teams, Pitch side emergency crew, ambulance staff Security assigned to the zone Pitch Side Broadcast Media and accredited members of press Dressing Room Cleaners Venue Maintenance (only if required) Event Safety Team (only if required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Strictly Regulated. PCR Testing may be required
Amber	<p>All interiors of the Sportsground including backof house areas.</p>	<p>Group 3 personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sportsground Management Sportsground Staff Maintenance and Cleaning Crews Concessions Staff Event Staff Event Safety Team Security Medical teams and ambulance staff Press/Media <p>Amber Zone Personnel should have No Contact or Access to competitors or their coaching/management team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Declarations before entering. Inductions Face coverings Temperature checks may be required. Other controls outlined in this document
Green	<p>All areas within the Sportsground that are accessible to the public</p>	<p>Group 3 personnel & Group 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ticketholders/Spectators All those permitted in Amber Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Public Safety Advice Ticket holders to comply with the Spectators Code of Conduct even when outside the grounds
Blue	<p>Buffer Zone between Sportsground entry point and first external control points or soft ticket check</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ticketholders/Spectators All those permitted in Amber Zone. Local residents and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Public Safety Advice Ticket holders to comply with the Spectators Code of Conduct even when outside the grounds
ZoneEx	<p>External Zones – The last mile leading from public car park, public transport hubs, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ticketholders/Spectators All those permitted in Amber Zone. Local residents and businesses Members of the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Public Safety Advice Ticket holders to comply with the Spectators Code of Conduct even when outside the grounds

The zones may be further subdivided depending on the size and layout of the Sportsground. For example:

- The Red Zone may be divided into zones for competitors and management, etc. with separate sub-zones for the area around the pitch for the Ball Team, Pitch Side Media, ground staff etc. who should remain physically distant from competitors
- The Green zone should be further sub-divided as far as possible to separate those sitting in different parts of the Sportsground. Each green subzone should have its own entry point, Spectator viewing area, toilet facilities, and food/beverage concessions (if being provided).

The Sportsground security officers and stewards must be clearly briefed about the Sportsground zoning system. All staff working in the Sportsground must be asked to respect the system and to cooperate fully with stewards.

9.3 Spectator Ingress

While attendance figures at the Sportsground will be lower, the rate of entry will also be reduced due to physical distancing during queuing, the removal of some entry points where physical distancing can't be maintained, additional requirements for checks and screening, and changes to the normal familiar entry routes which may be confusing to the ticketholder.

Control measures that may be put in place to help maintain adequate entry rates are outlined in the following paragraphs.

9.3.1 Ticketing

To prevent over-capacity, it is essential to control and manage the ingress. In order to reduce crowd build up, it is recommended to have entry by advance ticket purchase only. A Ticketing Plan will assist in this. Refer to **Section 6.2** of this document for further information on ticketing plans.

9.3.2 Access to the Sportsground

Public Transport capacity to and from the Sportsground may be limited due to physical distancing requirements on the carrier. Public health advice in relation to use of public transport during the different restriction levels should also be adhered to.

Early communication to ticket holders of the potential limits of public transport is essential. Patrons should be encouraged to walk or cycle, if possible. Locations of bicycle racks, bike rental stations and car parks should be communicated to ticketholders in advance.

Refer to **Section 9.2** of this document for further guidance on Zone Ex (The external area outside the environs of Sportsground including transport routes to/from the Sportsground).

9.3.3 Staggered Entry Times

The majority of Spectators tend to arrive at a game in the 30 minutes before kick-off, which can lead to crowd build-up at entrance gates, reducing the ability to maintain physical distancing.

Consideration should be given to assigning time slots for entry to different Spectator Viewing Areas. The allocated time should be printed on the tickets and communicated to the ticketholder in advance.

9.3.4 Segregation of Access Routes

Creating segregated viewing zones within the Sportsground will reduce instances of close contact. Where these sub-zones are provided, they should ideally have their own segregated entry and exit routes to prevent cross-contamination between zones.

Routes to a particular Spectator viewing area should be clearly identified with signage and in pre-event communications.

9.3.5 Segregation of Access Routes

If searches are required for security purposes, the following control measures should be considered:

- Communicating with the ticket holder in advance to inform them of:
 - Expected entry/search time, and to arrive early
 - Rules of entry and prohibited items
 - Venue bag policy
- Strictly No Bag policy, or no Large Bags (over A4 size)
- Fast lanes for persons with no bags
- Scheduled entry time slots for different Spectator viewing areas
- Clear signage, public address announcements and stewards reminding people not to join the queue and to return home if they are experiencing symptoms
- Soft Ticket checks to ensure people do not join the queue without a ticket, or don't join the wrong queue for their allocated seating area

9.3.6 Turnstiles and Entry Lanes

To maintain physical distancing during ingress, alternate turnstiles and entry points may need to be closed, thus reducing the number of entry points.

Additional entry lanes can be created at gates using temporary barriers and stewards with handheld ticket scanners.

Where temporary barriers are used, access for fire brigade vehicles as well as emergency egress from the Sportsground need to be considered. Standard Operating Procedures should be developed for the removal of temporary lanes in an emergency. These lanes should be dismantled after the event has started and the majority of ticketholders are inside, so as not to impede egress.

Physical distance queueing system should be managed by stewards and floor markings are to be put in place where possible to encourage physical distancing while queueing.



9.4 Spectator Viewing Areas

Spectators should be physically distanced from each other when viewing the event. This can be done by separating individuals or separating groups of “Social Bubbles”.

Refer to **Section 13** of this document for methods of calculating capacity based on physical distancing.

As part of the risk assessment, the risk involved with various seating or standing configurations needs to be assessed. Some of the risks that might arise are outlined in the following paragraphs.

9.4.1 Brush Past

Where people are sitting or standing in rows, it will be necessary for them to pass each other to leave the area to access the facilities. To do this they would breach physical distancing guidelines. While the HSE states that there is little risk if you are passing quickly, one should keep their distance as much as possible. To help manage this risk, the following measures might be considered:

- Requesting Spectators to turn their backs as they pass other Spectators, avoiding face-to-face contact
- Requiring Spectators to wear face coverings when seated and when on the move
- Requesting Spectators to remain in their seats throughout the event, if able

9.4.2 Alternating Rows

Persons traversing one row would likely be within social distancing of the row in front and behind them. Consideration should be given to using alternate rows to limit people crossing within minimum recommended distances of each other. These free rows may also be used as lateral gangways if required for example where aisles are insufficiently wide to allow a two-way flow.

9.4.4 Standing Spectators Migrating

While seated Spectators can be allocated a particular seat number, this is more difficult in terraces and flat standing areas. Spectators may migrate to get a better view, to meet people they know or to get into covered areas in the event of rain. The risks associated with this behaviour include breach of physical distancing and intermingling between different social bubbles. The following control measures should be considered

- Addressing this issue in a Spectators Code of Conduct, to include a commitment for Spectators to follow the advice and requests of stewards who may ask them to spread out or move to a different area
- Increased monitoring in standing areas by stewards and/or CCTV
- Access control to standing areas
- Dividing standing areas into different zones or pens, separated by barriers to prevent overcrowding in any one area. This would include prevention of access from one standing area to the next. Ideally tickets would be sold to an assigned standing area. Any use of temporary barriers should not impede emergency egress or circulation by creating trip hazards or blocking direct access to exits.
- Demarcation of physical distancing using floor markings

9.5 Concourses & Circulation Areas

9.5.1 Capacity & Use

The holding capacity of the venue should also consider the physical distancing capacity of the concourses and circulation areas. If the number of Spectators cannot be accommodated in the circulation areas, then either the overall viewing capacity should be reduced to the maximum concourse capacity, or consideration should be given to closing the food and beverage facilities so that the circulation area is used for one-way directional flow in and out of the Sportsground, and for toilet access only. Refer to **Section 13** of this document for methods of calculating capacity based on physical distancing.

Stewards should encourage physical distancing of Spectators in concourses and should aid with queue management. The density levels in circulation areas should be monitored at all times and access to these areas may need to be managed by stewards at the entry points from the Spectator viewing areas.

Prominent directional and information signs should be put in place indicating locations of toilets and other facilities and physical distancing.. These can be supplemented with floor markings indicating physical distancing. Monitors and Screens can also be used to provide information to patrons. Other control measures that may be considered include:

- Segregating as far as practicable, without impeding emergency escape routes, the different facilities serving the different Spectator zones
- Allocating time slots for use of the facilities by different Spectator zones
- Providing additional amenities where space allows, for example providing temporary toilets or food concession externally,
- Not showing the live event on monitors and screens in the concourses

SECTION 3 - CONTROL MEASURES

- Removing any tables and requiring people bring their food/drink to their seat

More measures specific to the different facilities are outlined in the following paragraphs.

9.5.2 Lifts

Lifts will likely only have capacity for 1 or 2 people when physically distancing. As such, they should be reserved for patrons with mobility issues, and staff that have to transfer equipment between levels.

All other staff and patrons should be advised to use the stairs and escalators where possible.

9.5.3 Food Concessions & Bars

Queueing systems for food/beverage concessions should be set up by the concession managers. These may include floor markings, signage and a one-way queuing system. Where tensile barriers are used to define queues, they should not impede emergency escape routes by creating trip hazards or blocking access to exits.

The following should also be considered to reduce queues in the circulation areas:

- Reducing menu options available to speed up service
- Provision of pre-prepared/pre-packaged food and beverages to speed up service
- Click-and-Collect services using apps, or online pre-ordering.
- Encouraging Contactless payments

The sale of alcohol at an event should be in-line with government guidance at the time of the event and should be subject to risk assessment. The Sportsground's alcohol policy should take cognisance of COVID-19 government guidance in the sale and supply of alcohol. The following

should also be considered when deciding whether to provide alcohol:

- Spectator profile including their history with alcohol consumption and behaviour at similar events
- Lowered inhibitions caused by alcohol consumption could lead to more breaches of physical distancing and hygiene
- Removal of bar queues gives more circulation space
- Reduced pressure on the toilets where no alcohol is served

If alcohol is to be sold, consideration should be given to limiting number of drinks sold per person to help prevent over consumption.

9.5.4 Smoking Areas

Sportsgrounds should adopt a no-smoking policy to prevent congregation in line with physical distancing advice.

9.5.5 Toilets

The number of patrons entering toilets at any one time should be limited. The following measures should be considered to allow for physical distancing in toilet facilities:

- Queuing systems for entry. Where tensile barriers are used to define queues, they should not impede emergency escape routes by creating trip hazards or blocking access to exits
- One-way systems within the toilet facilities
- Alternate urinals and sinks to be closed off
- Floor markings and signage indicating physical distancing
- Use of disposable paper towels to speed up hand drying and reduce the risk of aerosol dispersal

9.5.6 Vomitories and Gangways

9.5.6.1 During the Event

During ingress and egress, vomitories (for access to the Spectator viewing areas) will primarily be used in a one-directional flow, however during the event Spectators will require access to the facilities.

In order to facilitate two-directional flow while physical distancing, vomitories should be 2.6m wide where 2m distancing is employed, or 1.6m wide where 1m distancing is being used. Refer to [Section 13.4.1.4](#) of this document for further information.

Where vomitories are less than 1.6m wide, controls should be put into place to ensure that Spectators can pass through in one direction only at any one time. This might include using a one-way system using alternate vomitories as “in” and “out” with lateral gangways or alternate rows used to connect them.

9.5.6.2 Egress

To prevent build-up of pressure at vomitories and queuing on gangways control measures should be put in place to ease pressure at exiting. These measures may also assist in reducing the demand on public transport and throughout Zone Ex after the event. Control measures to be considered include:

- Exiting people row by row starting the back row.
- Staggered egress, e.g. exiting different blocks are Spectator zones at different times.

Refer to [Section 9.2](#) of this document for further guidance on Zone Ex.

9.6 Spectator Egress

Flow rates through exits will be slower while trying to maintain physical distancing. Exiting times may need to be extended to reduce pressure on the exits, but also on the public transport systems which may be operating at reduced capacity. The areas ahead of bottlenecks, or “reservoir” areas, may lead to increased density facilitating the breaching of physical distancing limits. The areas should be controlled or eliminated.

Control measures to ease pressure at egress may include:

- Staggered Egress, allocating specific time slots for egress from each section of Spectator viewing areas
- Row by Row exiting, starting with the back row. The “church model” of leaving seats will prevent people queueing alongside people seated beside aisles
- Reconfiguring or providing temporary barriers to control flow and maintain channels separating lines of Spectators egressing
- Re-directing exit routes to different exits to distribute the exiting evenly around the Grounds allowing for

SECTION 3 - CONTROL MEASURES

more rapid dispersal of persons from the vicinity of the venue

- Provision of stewards to monitor, direct and advise Spectators along the exit routes
- Provision of additional exit routes, e.g. opening additional gates that are normally only used for staff
- Increasing exit widths, where possible, to allow more Spectators to pass through while physically distancing

For example, consideration could be given to providing additional public transport services on event days, temporary road closures at exit time, etc., to promote physical distancing outside the venue. Refer to **Section 9.2**

of this document for further guidance on Zone Ex.

9.7 Staff Distancing

Staff areas should be separated from the patrons, and from the different staff bubbles, as far as practicable. Staff should be assigned separate entry and exit routes from the patrons where possible.

Scheduling staggered shifts will reduce the demand on facilities at start and end of shift and at breaks.

Changing Rooms and Lockers should be laid out to optimise physical distancing.





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10. SPORTSGROUND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Sportsground Management and Facilities team will be responsible for implementing engineering solutions and management procedures to help reduce risk of transmission. In addition to those measures for the management of Physical Distancing as outlined in Section 8.0 of this document, other control measures should be put in place to improve hygiene, disinfection and ventilation. A number of these possible control measures are outlined in the following paragraphs.

10.1 Food & Beverage Concessions

A number of measures to reduce physical distancing at food and beverage concessions are outlined in **Section 9.5.3** of this document. These include queuing systems and methods to speed up service.

Other measures that might be considered include:

- Installation of screens between patrons and staff, especially at point of sale
- Installation of new payment facilities for contactless card payments
- Recyclable or biodegradable cutlery and additional bins as required to dispose of them accordingly
- Removal of condiment stations
- Staff to hand out pre-packed condiments and disposable cutlery
- Wearing of gloves by all staff passing food/beverages to customers

10.2 Toilets

In addition to physical distancing measures outlined in **Section 9.5.5** of this document, the following measures should be considered:

- Appropriate signage with instructions for washing hands in accordance with HSE guidelines
- Disposable paper towels should be provided along with warm water and soap
- Bins should be open, or pedal operated so patrons do not have to handle them

10.3 Ventilation

According to the ECDC, poor ventilation in confined indoor spaces is associated with increased transmission of respiratory infections. This may be an issue for internal concourses, as well as player dressing room and staff areas.

Below are steps to consider which can improve indoor ventilation. These steps should be considered in consultation with a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) professional.

- Increase natural ventilation, opening windows or external doors, if safe to do so
- For mechanical systems:
 - Ensure any HVAC systems are fully serviced and maintained
 - Increase the percentage of outdoor air
 - Increase total airflow supply
 - Disable demand-control ventilation controls that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy
 - Improve central air filtration
 - Increase air filtration to as high as possible without diminishing design airflow
 - Ensure exhaust fans are operating at full capacity
 - Minimise recirculation as much as possible
 - Consider running the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after spaces are occupied, in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations

10.4 Back of House Areas

10.4.1 Staff Toilets, Showers & Changing Areas

Limit the number of users within toilets, showers and changing rooms to ensure physical distancing. This may require staggering shifts so that staff are not trying to access changing rooms at the same time.

Signage should be installed to promote physical distancing and hygiene. Ensure soap and hand sanitiser dispensers, disposable tissue dispensers and other similar devices are regularly checked, cleaned and maintained.

Staff should ensure that personal belongings are stored safely in lockers. In the event of a suspected case, any loose items may need to be disposed of or quarantined to allow for enhanced cleaning.

Staff facilities should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

10.4.2 Kitchens & Stores

The same food safety requirements apply now as did before COVID-19. Any changes to the nature and extent of the business must be reflected in the food safety management system/HACCP documentation. Ensure that all employees have been trained in any new COVID-19 standard operating procedures.

Hand sanitiser should be placed at all entrances to cold rooms and storerooms. Signage to be put in place to promote hygiene and physical distancing. Access systems such as biometric touchpads, keypads or swipe cards must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

11. SUPPLIERS & CONTRACTORS

Standard health and safety procedures are to be followed as instructed by the health and safety officer for the Sportsground. All supplier and contractor health and safety documents should be updated to include COVID-19 in the company policies and procedures.

11.1 Requirements for Suppliers and Contractors

All suppliers and contractors who come on site must sign a health declaration prior to entering. Their employee's details are to be provided for the company records and they also must provide the following information.

- **Insurance.** Before commencing activities onsite all contractors are advised to contact their Insurance Broker / Insurance Company
- **Safety Statement.** Safety Statement and associated Risk Assessments should be reviewed to take account of COVID-19
- **RAMS (Risk Assessments / Method Statements).** Risk Assessments and Method Statements for all work on site should be reviewed to address the risk of COVID-19. Particular emphasis will be required on "Close Working", i.e. where persons cannot maintain physical distance
- **Daily Briefing Document.** Daily Briefing documents (Safe System of Work Plans / Site Induction briefings etc.) should address COVID-19

All contractors should also ensure that their sub-contractors have the necessary measures in place to reduce transmission. Contractors should follow the same accreditation process as all Sportsground and Event Staff for access to different zones of the Sportsground on Event Day. They should be required to complete inductions and provide a health declaration before entering the Sportsground.

11.2 Deliveries

The following measures should be considered to manage deliveries of goods to the Sportsground:

- Agree a delivery protocol with suppliers
- Schedule deliveries to allocated times. Deliveries should only take place before opening
- Enforce physical distancing during all delivery transactions
- Encourage paperless delivery acceptance / acknowledgement, e.g.
 - do not sign for documents, just give them your name on delivery
 - request invoices to be sent via Email
- Ensure that hand sanitising/washing facilities are available convenient to set down and goods inward locations
- Wear suitable PPE when accepting deliveries
- Excess packaging should be removed by the driver if possible
- Deliveries of food should comply with HACCP delivery protocols
- The delivery areas should be cleaned and disinfected regularly



12. SUSPECTED CASE OF COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

While staff and Spectators should not attend the Sportsground if displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have had contact with a suspected case, the following outlines the response plan that should be put in place by the Sportsground and Event Organisers should someone present with symptoms during the course of the event.

12.1 Staff, Media & Competitors

If any of the Groups 1, 2 or 3 personnel on site, suspect themselves, or is suspected of having symptoms, they must report/be reported to their COVID-19 Compliance Officer.

The COVID-19 Compliance Officer must

- Ensure the person is wearing their face covering or provide them with one if they are not wearing one
- If a face covering is not immediately available, they should be provided with a disposable tissue and advised to cover their mouth and nose with the tissue when they cough or sneeze and put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- Accompany the person to the agreed isolation room for their Group, keeping a two-metre distance between the person and themselves and other individuals
- Assess whether the unwell individual can immediately be directed to go home
- Advise them to contact their doctor
- Assist the person in arranging transport home or to a hospital for medical assessment. Public transport should not be used
- Arrange with the Sportsground Facilities Management for cleaning of the isolation room, the person's work area, and pending a risk assessment, any other areas that the person may have had contact



- Log the incident
- Alert the Event Controller and/or Sportsground Management of a suspected case

12.2 Spectators

Ticketholders should be advised in advance not to attend an event if they are experiencing any symptoms, have been in close contact with someone experiencing symptoms, or have travelled outside the Green List countries. This should be re-emphasised at arrival by stewards and signage at key locations.

The Spectator Code of Conduct should emphasise that, should a Spectator develop symptoms of COVID-19 while at the Sportsground, they should leave the grounds immediately, if able to do so, proceed directly home and contact their doctor as soon as possible. If they are feeling unwell or have no means of transport other than by public transport, they should present themselves to a steward. Should a Spectator present themselves to a steward or staff member, a medical response team should be called, and the Spectator escorted to the nearest isolation room. Their seat number, and contact details should be taken to facilitate contact tracing if requested by the HSE, and to allow for enhanced cleaning of that area. The medical assessor will assess if they are safe to travel or should be taken to a hospital.

12.3 Isolation Room

Isolation rooms should be provided and used to quarantine a person who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. This is to facilitate the person remaining in isolation prior to going home, or to facilitate the attendance of a doctor.

Multiple isolation rooms may be required depending on the size and orientation of the Sportsground. The route(s) to the isolation room(s) needs to be quick and easily accessible with as little human interaction as possible.

Each isolation room should have the following in place:

- Ventilation, e.g. fresh air / openable windows
- Tissues
- Hand sanitiser
- Disinfectant and/or wipes
- PPE: Gloves and Masks/Face Coverings
- Waste bags
- Pedal operated closed bin

Isolation Rooms must be professionally sanitised following use by a suspected case. See Section 13.4.3 below.

12.4 Response to a Suspected Case

12.4.1 Group 1 and Group 2 Suspected Case

If someone in Group 1 or Group 2 is suspected of having COVID-19, the team management should be made aware as they may need to expedite replacement of the person in question at the event. They should also liaise with the Sporting Body, the Event Controller and Sportsground Management to decide on the next course of action.

12.4.2 Group 3 Suspected Case

If a Group 3 staff member is suspected of having COVID-19, Sportsground Management and the Event Controller will need to liaise with the medical co-ordinator and the HSE to assess whether to post-pone or curtail the event. Consideration may also be given to closing part of the Sportsground, or just the facilities where that person was situated either for the duration or until the area can be properly sanitised.

12.4.3 Cleaning Spaces After the Presence of a Suspected or Confirmed Case

The isolation room will need to be deep cleaned in accordance with ECDC Guidelines as will the areas where the person may have been working. The area should be cleaned with a neutral detergent, followed by decontamination of surfaces using a disinfectant effective against viruses, including:

- Virucidal Products, or
- 0.05% sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) (dilution 1:100, if household bleach is used, which is usually at an initial concentration of 5%)
- For surfaces that can be damaged by sodium hypochlorite, products based on ethanol (at least 70%) can be used for decontamination after cleaning with a neutral detergent
- Cleaning of toilets, bathroom sinks and sanitary facilities need to be carefully performed, avoiding splashes. Disinfection should follow normal cleaning using a disinfectant effective against viruses, or 0.1% sodium hypochlorite
- All textiles (e.g. towels, curtains, etc.) should be washed using a hot-water cycle (90°C) with regular laundry detergent. If a hot-water cycle cannot be used due to the characteristics of the material, bleach or other laundry

products for decontamination of textiles need to be added to the wash cycle

The cleaning team should provide a risk assessment and method statement for carrying out cleaning of areas where a suspected case has been in contact.

Part 4

Capacity Analysis

13. CALCULATING CAPACITY

13.1 Safe Holding Capacity

The calculation of the safe holding capacity should be based on the same principles as outlined in the Green Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds. The maximum capacity should be based on the least of the following capacities

- Entry Capacity
- Holding Capacity
 - Reduced Viewing Capacity
 - Concourse Capacity with Physical distancing in place
- Normal Egress Capacity
- Emergency Exit Capacity

How each of these capacities may be affected by the control measures required to mitigate risk of spread of COVID-19 is outlined below.

13.2 Determining Physical Distancing Requirement

The method of measurement adopted in this document is based on Method One of **SG02 Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds: Planning for Social Distancing at Sports Grounds**. SG02 Method One bases the physical distancing measurement on a circle centred on the head, inscribed in a square, i.e. the nose-to-nose distance between people. This gives a nose-to-nose measurement which would be congruent with the origins of the physical distance rules which are based on studies of the distance of travel droplets emitted during speech, coughing or sneezing. The assessment of the capacity a Sportsground should be based on the minimum physical distance as recommended by NPHET at the time of the event taking place. For example 2m between people, or reduced if the mitigation measures outlined in **Appendix 1** for Controlled Environments are in place. A risk assessment will determine the appropriate distancing for each event.

Percentage capacity may be also considered in lieu of physical distancing measures in lieu of public health guidelines as a result of vaccine rollout progress and/or decreasing community transmission rate.

13.3 Entry Capacity

While attendance figures at the Sportsground will be lower, the rate of entry will also be reduced due to physical distancing while queuing, the removal of some entry points where physical distancing can't be maintained, additional requirements for checks and screening, and changes to the normal familiar entry routes which may confuse the ticket holder.

The new entry capacity should be based on the formula:

Number of Channels allowing physical distancing X Reduced Entry Rate X Number of Hours available for entry.

The **Code of Practice for Safety at Sports grounds** recommends an entry rate of not more than 600 persons per hour per lane/turnstile under normal circumstances. Simulation modelling has estimated reduced flow rates of between 12% and 28% to maintain physical distancing. As such, it is recommended that entry rate during COVID-19 is based on an average 20% reduction. i.e. a reduced flow rate of 480 persons per hour per entry lane.

These figures may be subject to change pending the outcome at the trial games.

Using staggered entry times to spread out Spectator arrival will assist in reducing crowd pressure at entry.

Consideration should also be given to the capacity of the transport systems to the venue. Refer to **Section 5** of this document for further guidance on Zone Ex.

13.4 Holding Capacity

Holding capacity is normally determined by the number of seats provided and/or space available in standing viewing areas and terraces. During COVID-19, consideration also has to be given to the holding capacity of the Concourses. If the concourses or circulation areas cannot support the capacity of the viewing areas, then either the capacity should be reduced accordingly, or the amenities within the concourses closed so they become circulation routes in and out of the Sportsground only.

13.4.1 Percentage Capacity

As physical distancing guidelines are relaxed, capacity limitations may still remain in place to limit the size of gatherings in one place and to ease pressure on public transport and amenities pre and post event.

In such cases capacity may be based on a percentage of the normal capacity of the venue.

Selection of the appropriate capacity for an event will be subject to Public Health advice at the time of the event and a risk assessment carried out by the event organisers.

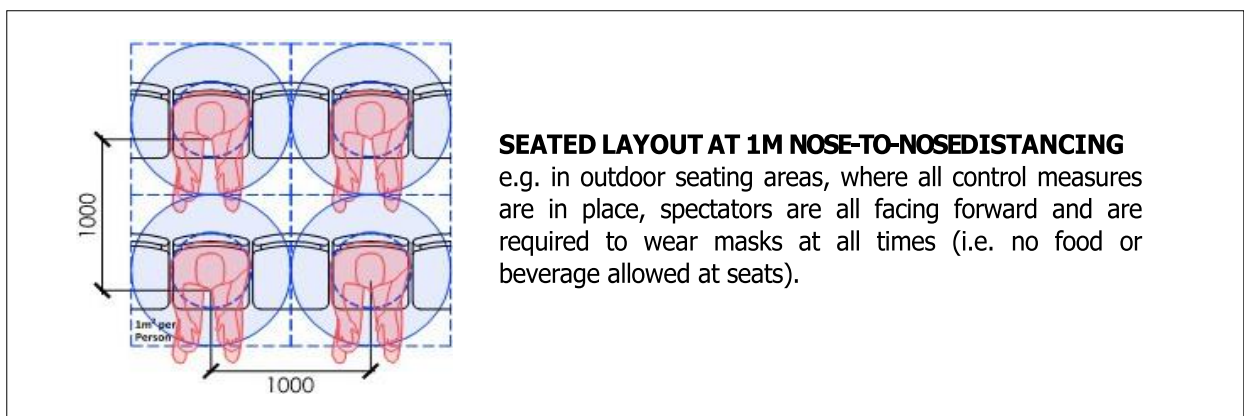
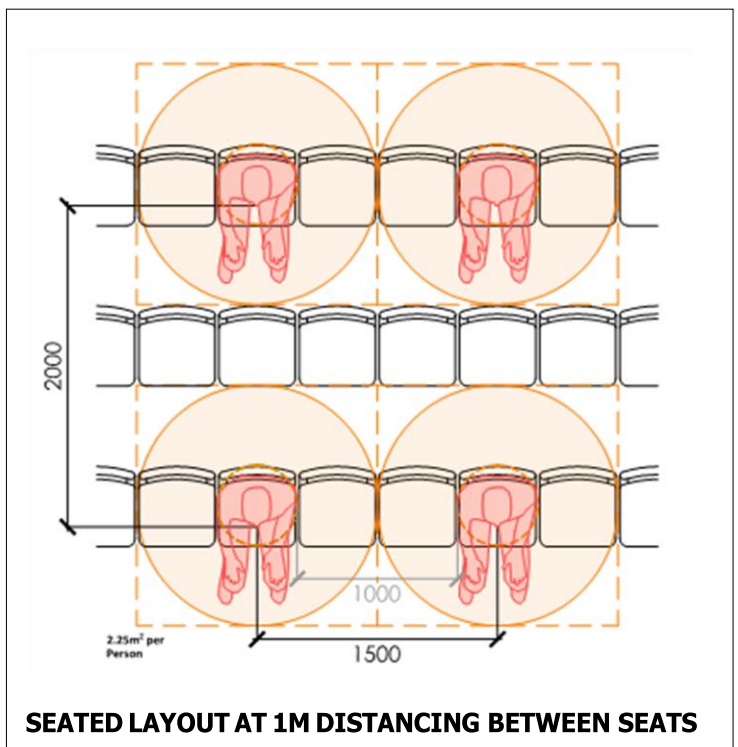
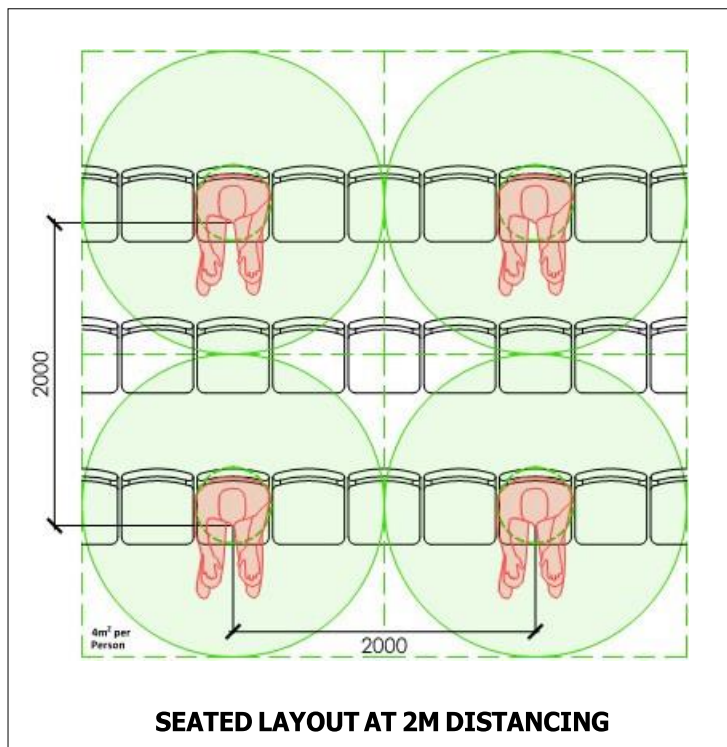
13.4.2 Seated Capacity

13.4.2.1 General

A number of factors may be considered to optimise the seating capacity of an area, including

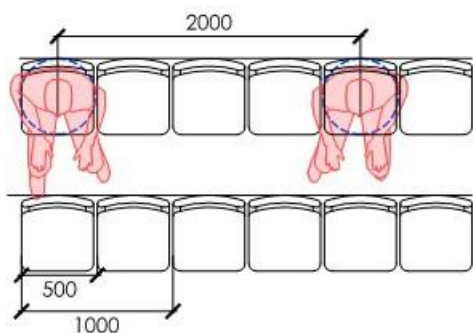
- The physical distancing dimension being adopted
- Seat Width
- Aisle Width
- Management of Exiting
- Allocation of seating in groups, or singly.
- Using Alternating or Successive Rows

Below is a diagram showing the relevant dimensions allowed per person using Method 1 from SG02.

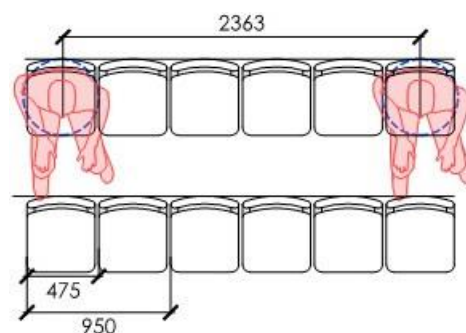


13.4.2.2 Seat Width

The seat width may have a big impact on the seating capacity. For example, where seats have a width of 500mm or more, then at 1m distancing a person can be seated in every second seat to achieve the 1m distancing. However, if a seat has a width less than 500mm, the 1m minimum distancing would only be achieved if every third seat was used.



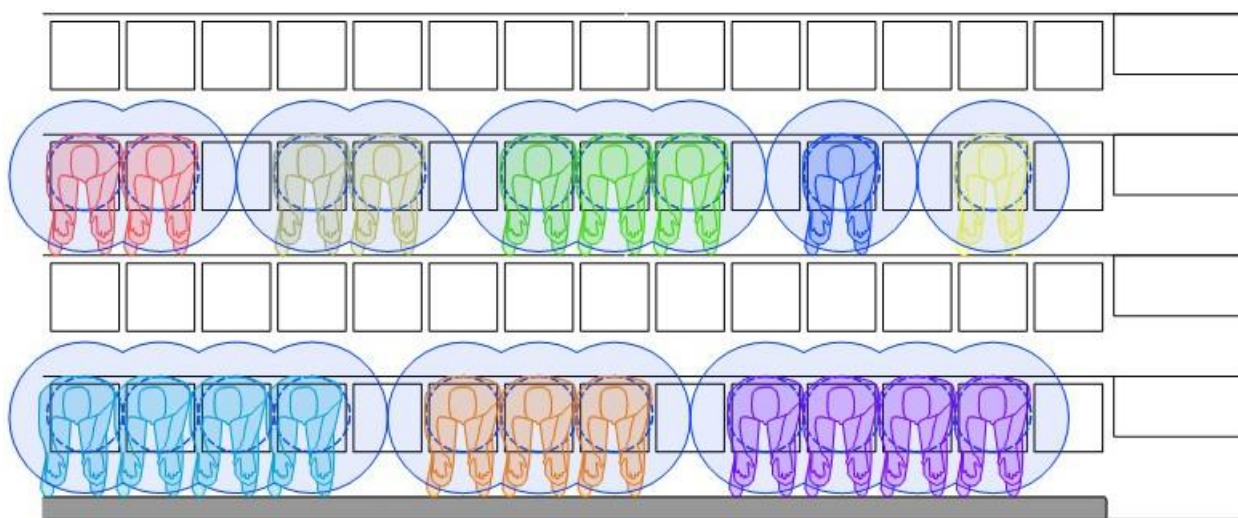
SEAT WIDTH OF 500MM OR GREATER



SEAT WIDTH <500MM

13.4.2.3 Grouping

The allocation of seats on whether they are occupied singly, in pairs, in threes, etc. can optimise the capacity of a seating block. In this method persons in the same social bubble may sit together. Group bookings should take account of the maximum number of people from different households that are allowed to socialise together based on the guidelines in place at the time of the event. (e.g. maximum 6 persons in one bubble sitting together, or as recommended by Public Health advice). Distribution of seats can be done based on proportions of tickets sold singly, in pair, in threes, etc. at previous events, or using crowd modelling or ticketing software.



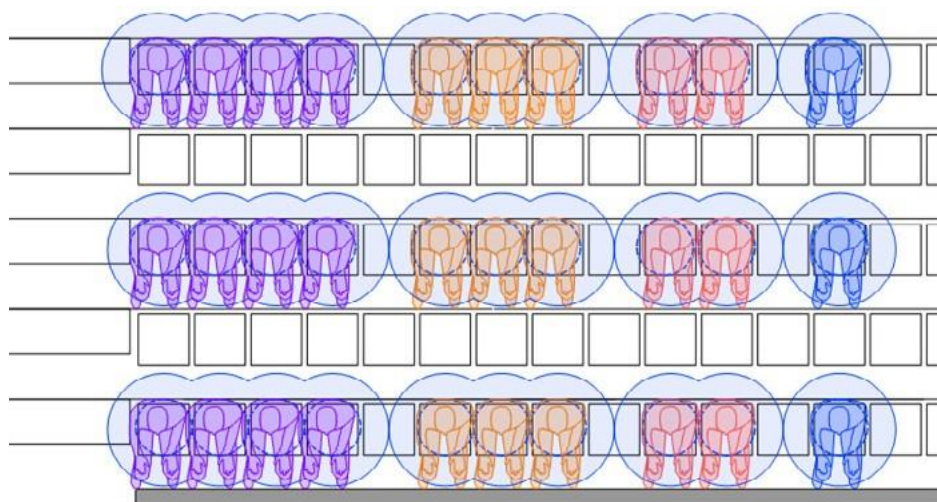
SEATING IN SOCIAL BUBBLES OF SINGLES, PAIRS, THREES, & FOURS

13.4.2.4 Gangways

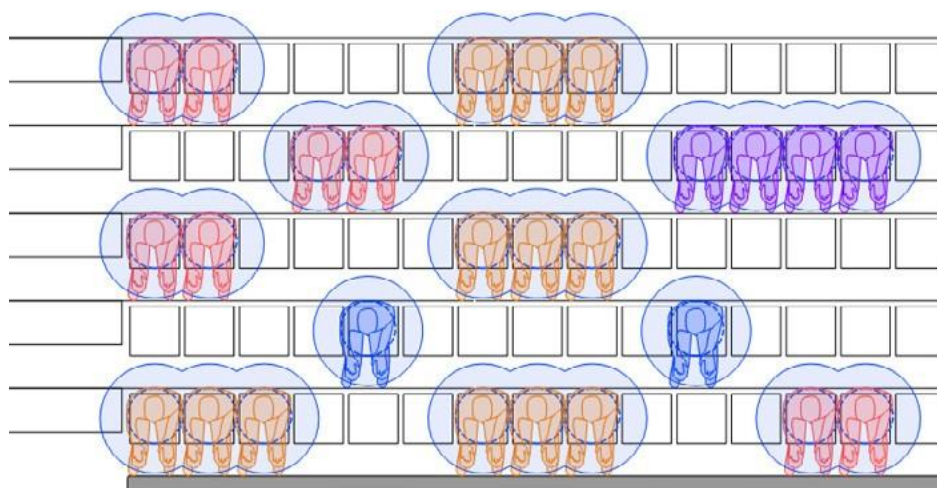
It may be necessary to eliminate the seats next to narrower gangways and aisles. Persons queuing on the gangway to exit may be within physical distancing limits of people sitting for a significant amount of time. Alternatively, the exiting arrangements can be put in place to prevent queuing. Refer to [Section 9.6](#) of this report for further information.

13.4.2.5 Alternating or Successive Rows

The seating capacity may be optimised by allocating seats in either alternating or successive rows depending on the particulars of the venue. Sportsground Management must assess each seating area to decide how best to optimise capacity while mitigating risks (e.g. minimising brush past). Below are some examples of seating laid out in alternating and successive rows.



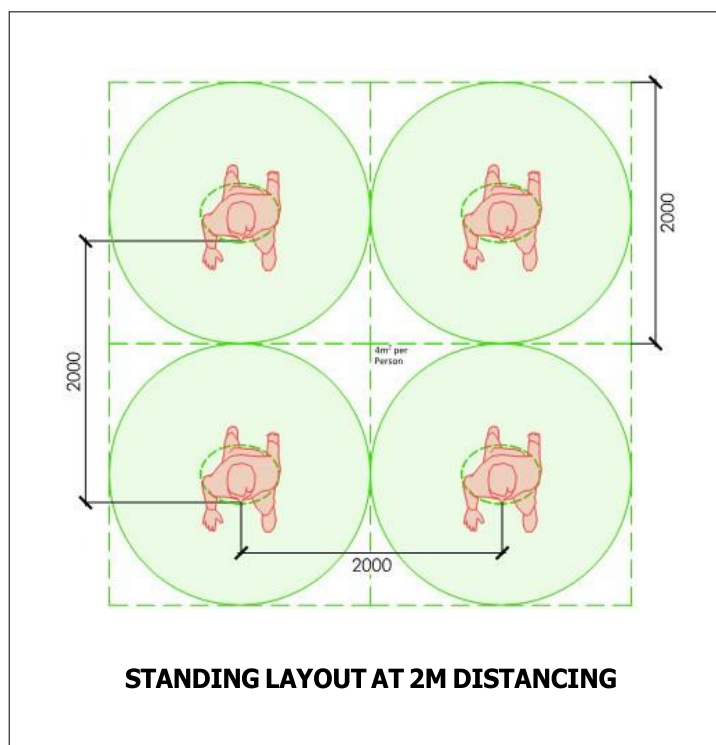
ALTERNATING ROWS



SUCCESSIVE ROWS

13.4.3 Standing Viewing Capacity

For standing capacity, in the terraces or flat pitch side viewing areas, the capacity should be based on a density. The density required to allow 2m physical distancing is 4m^2 per person.



These densities assume that the Physical Condition (P) factor and Safety Management (S) factors as described in the Green Guide for Safety at Sportsgrounds are at 1.0. These may be reduced following a risk assessment. If, for instance during the trial games it is found that physical distancing of standing Spectators is difficult to manage or maintain, the (S) factor may need to be reduced, thus reducing the capacity of the standing area.

13.4.4 Concourse & Circulation Area Capacities

Similar to the standing capacity, the circulation area capacity should be based on a density of 4m^2 per person for 2m physical distancing, with (P) and (S) factors applied as required, or reduced in line with public health guidance on physical distancing.

Provision should also be made for queuing areas to food and beverage concessions and toilets, while allowing for two-way circulation through the space.

If the Capacity of the Circulation Areas is less than that of the Spectator viewing areas, then the maximum capacity should be taken as the capacity of the Circulation Area.

Alternatively, all facilities, excluding toilets should remain closed during the event and the circulation area treated as a transverse area only for entering and exiting and toilet access. Stewards should discourage people from standing or waiting in the circulation spaces unless queuing for the toilets.

13.5 Egress Capacity

Egress at the end of an event under normal circumstances is based on the width of the exit and the flow rate.

During COVID-19 the ability to maintain physical distancing during egress should be considered. This will involve creating channels, (either virtual for the purposes of calculations, or physical aisles with barrier separation) In addition, the rates of flow will be slower in order to allow people to maintain physical distancing, and there may be a reduction in egress points, as some may be taken out of use to allow distancing.

The egress capacity during COVID-19 should be based on the formula:

Number of Channels allowing physical distancing X Reduced Flow Rate.

Consideration should also be given to the capacity of the transport systems from the venue. Refer to [Section 5](#) of this document for further guidance on Zone Ex.

13.5.1 Reduced Flow Rates

Flow rates for egress under normal operational conditions are measured at 82 people per meter per minute for level surfaces, and 66 people per meter per minute for stepped surfaces.

In maintaining physical distancing while exiting the grounds, the rate of flow will be reduced. According to SG02 crowd modelling has been used to determine likely average flow rates when maintaining physical distancing.

For distancing of 1m, the reduced flow rates expected are:

- 72 persons per channel per minute on level surfaces
- 54 persons per channel per minute on stepped surfaces

SG02 have not calculated for 2m but do specify a reduced flow rate for 1.6m distancing of 46 people per channel per minute on level surfaces and 34 people per channel per minute on stepped surfaces. Based on proportional reduction in flow rate between their 1m and 1.6m distancing rates, we can extrapolate that for 2m distancing the reduced flow rates expected would be:

- 36 persons per channel per minute on level surfaces
- 27 persons per channel per minute on stepped surfaces

13.5.2 Exit Times

The Guide to Safety at Sportsground recommends that it should take no more than 8 minutes for a person to reach the start of a free-flowing exit route. This may be difficult to achieve while physically distancing.

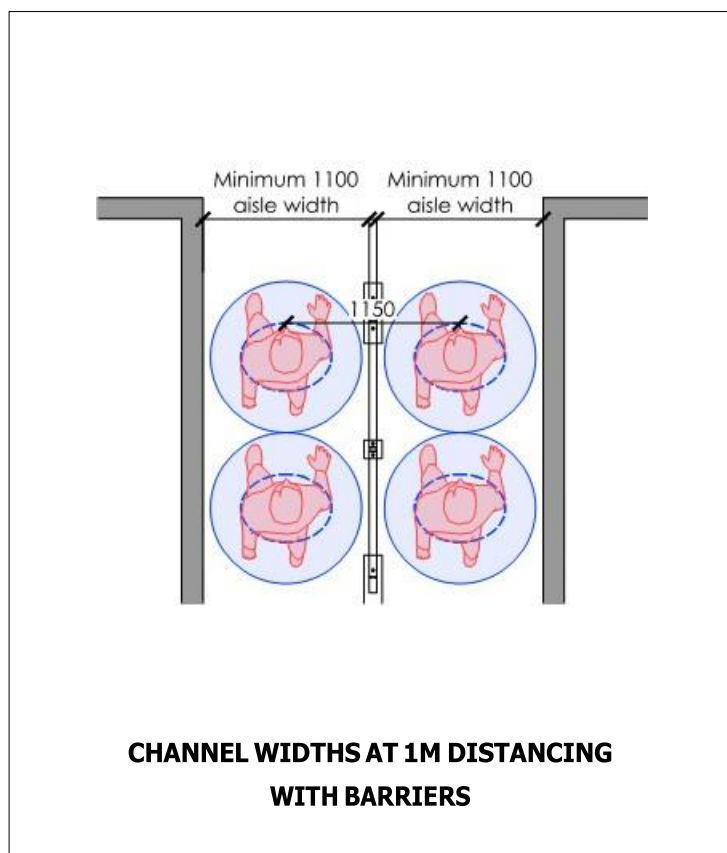
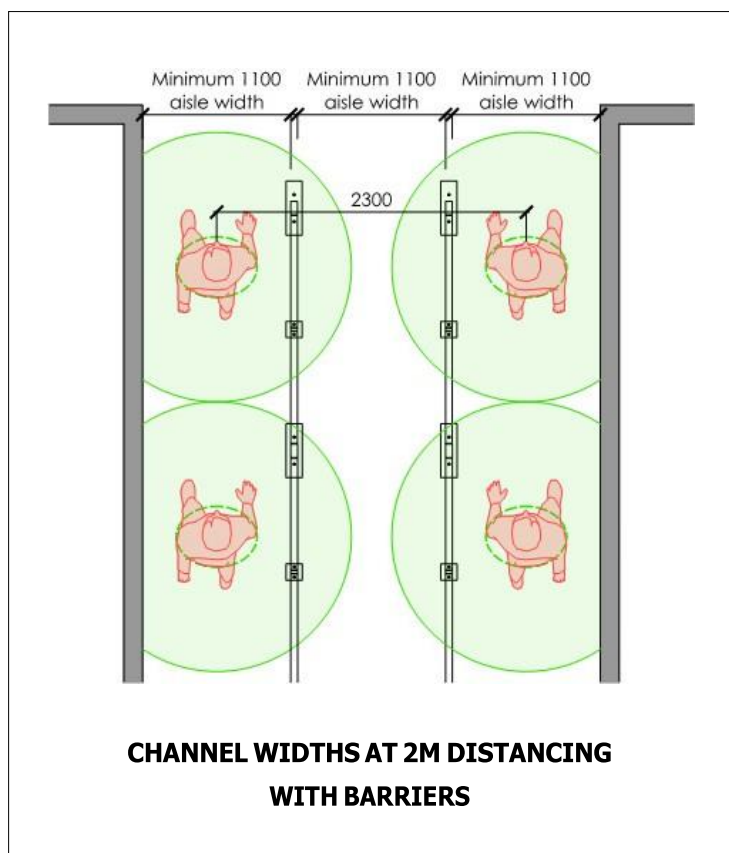
Measures should be put in place to minimise queues and ease discomfort of Spectators waiting to exit. These might include holding people in their seats to stagger exit times for different sections or exiting people row by row. Care should be taken to reduce exit time as much as possible once people are moving from their seat towards an exit.

13.5.3 Channel

13.5.3.1 Channels with Physical Aisles

Where barriers are provided, the minimum width of a channel or passageway in accordance with the Guide for Safety at Sportsgrounds is 1.1m. This is required to comply with accessibility guidelines.

When the 1.1m aisles are side by side, as indicated in the figure below, 2m distancing cannot be achieved between neighbouring aisles. As such, alternate rows may need to be left sterile.



The addition of new barriers should be assessed in relation to emergency exiting. Temporary barriers may cause trip hazards or impede access to exit points.

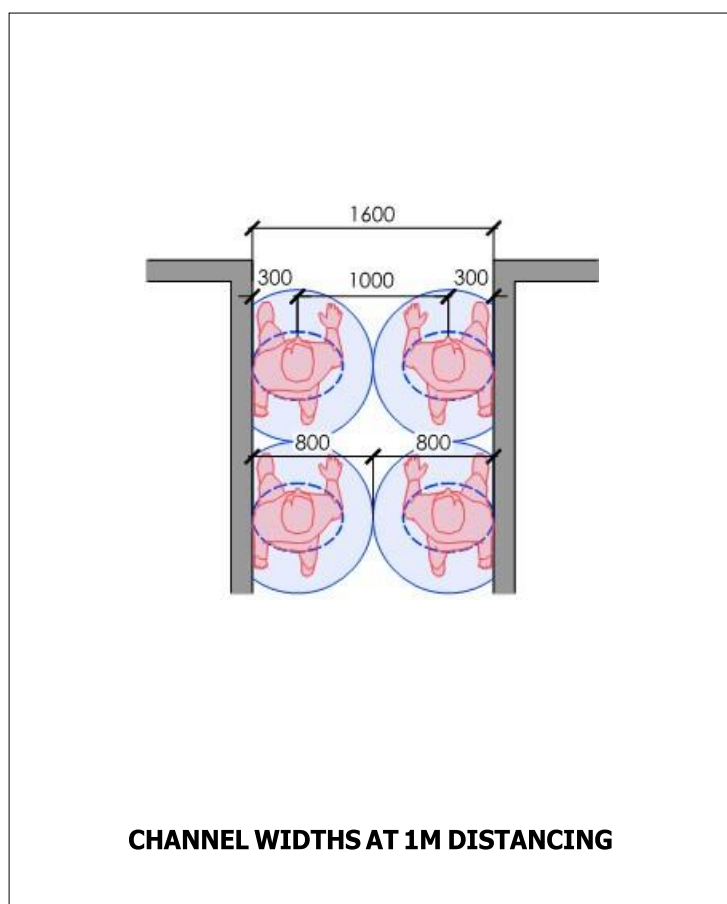
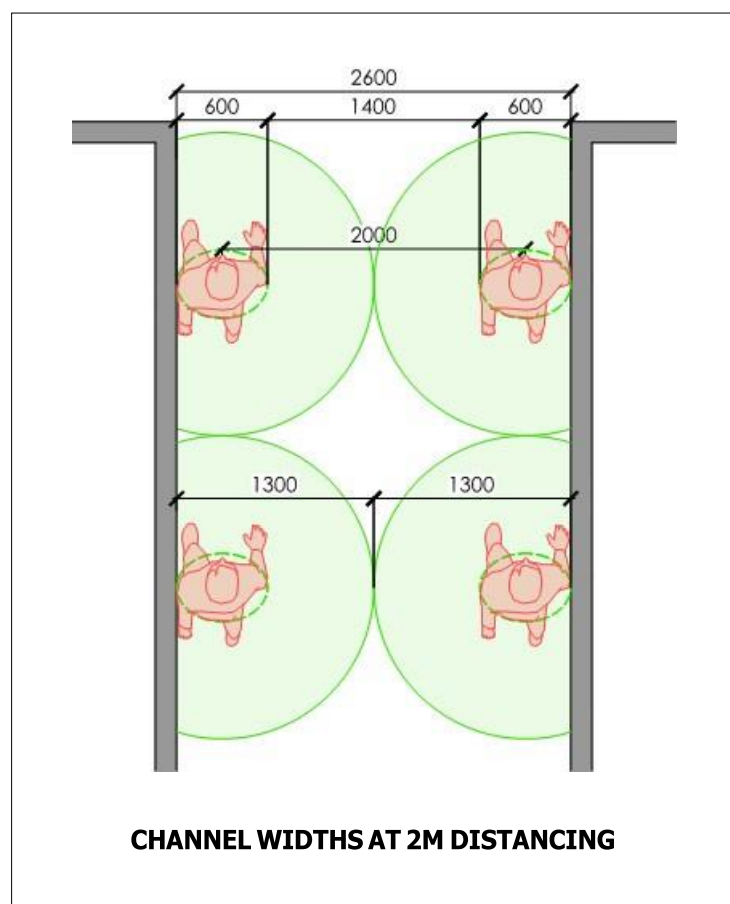
13.5.3.2 Channels without Aisles

Where under normal circumstances the capacity of a channel was based on the width(m) X flow rate, during COVID-19 it is necessary to divide a channel into a number of virtual aisles to maintain physical distancing.

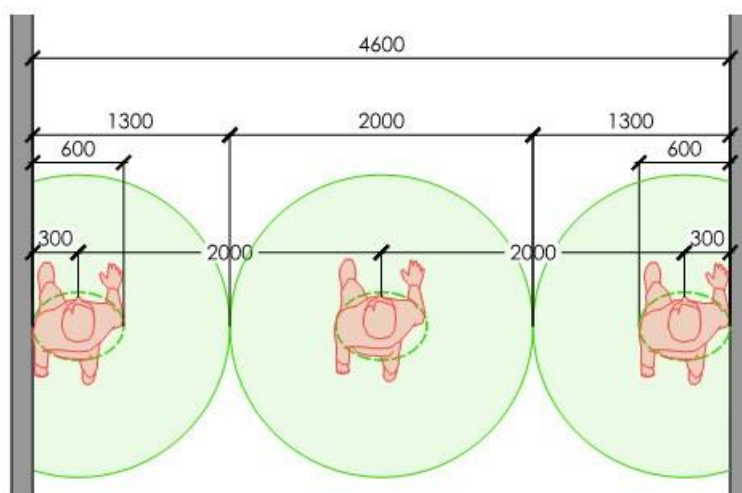
The minimum width required for a channel to allow two-directional flow, or 2 persons walking side by side while maintaining physical distancing would be:

- 2.6m where 2m physical distancing is required
- 1.6m where 1m physical distancing is required

This measurement assumes those on the outside can walk as close as possible to the edge. See diagram below.

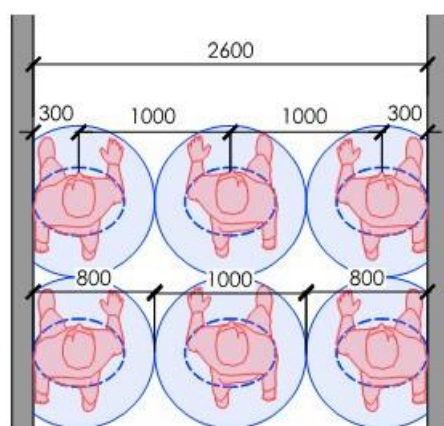


This method should be extrapolated for wider aisles and exit routes. For example, at 2m distancing, 1.3m will be needed for each of those walking along the edge, plus another 2m for each additional person, as indicated in the diagram below.



CHANNEL WIDTHS AT 2M DISTANCING

At 1m distancing, 800mm will be needed for each of those walking along the edge, plus another 1m for each additional person, as indicated in the diagram below.



CHANNEL WIDTHS AT 1M DISTANCING

13.6 Emergency Capacity

In the event of an emergency, it is felt that the exigencies of the situation over-ride the recommendations for physical distancing to prevent COVID-19 spread. The normal emergency egress calculations outlined in the Guide to Safety at Sportsgrounds should be used.

All Spectators should exit the grounds immediately or as instructed.



Appendices

APPENDIX 1: CONTROLLED AND UNCONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTS

A1.1 Definition

The Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan defines a Controlled Environment as

“one where the number of people and the ways that they interact can be actively managed. The owners or organisers can control the number of people coming in and out, and there is space to physically distance. Controlled environments are those where the number of people present and the ways that they interact can be controlled, where there is a recognised organiser, where people are seated and generally remain in that same seat for the event, physical distancing, hand hygiene can be monitored, and contact tracing can be facilitated. For example, a sports club AGM, watching indoor sport, youth club meetings, AA meetings, conferences, training events, theatre performances.”

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre defined Controlled Environments as *“Public and private venues or workplaces”*. Examples given are workplaces, schools,

museums, swimming pools, galleries, cinemas, stadiums, conference facilities and casinos, food businesses,

restaurants and cafes.

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and the Department of Health further clarified that *“Businesses/services such as museums, cinemas, theatres and art galleries are deemed to be controlled environments, with appropriate protective measures in place such as physical distancing between people. These venues can continue to operate where appropriate physical distancing and all other protective measures can continue to be maintained”*

Uncontrolled Environments are defined by the HPSC as *“settings where people have open access to the premises and generally don’t know each other and are unlikely to be in close contact with each other for an extended period of time. Examples include supermarkets, retail stores, shopping malls and takeaway-only food outlets. Additional details on controlled and uncontrolled environments can be found in Appendix 1. Inclusion criteria: This guidance covers food and consumption businesses such as restaurants and cafés (controlled environments). Exclusion criteria: This guidance does not cover retail outlets e.g. take-away food outlets (uncontrolled environments).”*

A1.2 Requirements in Controlled Environments

For a Sportsground to be considered a Controlled Environment, the following provisions should be in place:

- Regulated entry by ticket only to ensure the capacity is kept at a level that allows physical distancing
- Limiting group bookings to the maximum number of people from different households allowed to gather indoors at one time, in accordance with NPHET guidelines. (e.g. maximum 6 tickets to be bought in one booking)
- Requiring all attendees to sign-up to the Spectator Code of Conduct as a condition of entry, along with the ability to expel them from the grounds if they breach the code
- Keeping contact details for the person making the booking. Explain that the reason for keeping these records is to provide them to Public Health for contact tracing in the event that someone becomes ill with COVID-19. These records should be kept for a period of 28 days
- ID checks should be carried out at entrances, if feasible
- Use of a communications plan and additional signage instructing ticketholder not to enter if they have symptoms
- Ensuring enough space on concourses and circulation areas to prevent intermingling between queues for concessions, toilets, etc.
- Use of floor markings in concourses and circulation areas to facilitate compliance with the physical distancing advice, particularly at queues for food and beverage concessions and toilets
- Use of vertical signage to direct customers to facilitate movement within the premises while maintaining physical distance
- Use of Clear signage indicating locations of and routes to toilets and other facilities for customers.
- Regularly reminding customers to follow physical distancing advice and practice personal hygiene using the PA system, stewards, or screens
- Ensuring adequate hand hygiene and toilet facilities are provided. Provision of additional pop-up hand hygiene stations if necessary
- Scheduling of frequent cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and toilet facilities
- Spectators should remain in their seat or viewing area except when using facilities
- Limiting the number of staff per group of Spectators to the smallest number that is practical and safe
- Guidelines issued by Fáilte Ireland and HPSC regarding food and consumption businesses should be followed for all food and beverage concessions
- Flags and other loose items distributed to fans should be prohibited
- Face Coverings to be worn at all times while in the Sportsground by staff and Spectators except when eating or drinking
- Physical distancing of 2-metres should be maintained between Spectators. However, if this is not possible, this can be reduced in controlled environments subject to a risk assessment, and having regard to Public Health Advice in place at the time of the event
- Physical distancing of at least 1-metre between seats indoors should be maintained
- For indoor hospitality areas refer to the guidance provided in Fáilte Ireland's guidelines for opening restaurants and bars

A1.3 Other Considerations

The following control measures should be put in place where practicable

- Installing screens at food and beverage concession counters and ticket offices, for the protection of concession staff and patrons.
- Contactless Payment systems to be installed at food and beverage concessions and ticket offices.
- Click and Collect systems for food and beverage concessions using apps and online pre-ordering, to reduce queues in the concourses.



APPENDIX 2: SPECTATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The following is a sample Spectators' Code of Conduct. All sportsgrounds should adjust this to their particular event

All Spectators must adhere to the following Code of Conduct during COVID-19:

- Do not attend the event if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, are a close contact of a COVID-19 case, or have travelled from outside the green list countries in the last 14 days.
- It is your responsibility to personally assess your ability to attend if you might be considered a vulnerable person.
- Be aware that the contact information given at ticket purchase and your seat allocation will be kept for up to 28 days to facilitate contact tracing.
- Download and install the HSE COVID-19 Contact Tracing App prior to arrival.
- Make sure in advance that you are sure where your entry point to the grounds is.
- Be aware that Public transport may be operating at reduced capacity. Please walk or cycle to the grounds where possible
- Proceed directly to the event and home afterwards. Limitations on local amenities, restaurants and bars, may mean they are not in a position to facilitate pre/post event patrons.
- Please practice physical distancing and hygiene while travelling to and from the venue. Please have respect for the areas surrounding the venue, including local businesses and residents.
- Arrive in good time to allow the necessary check and procedures, or if a time is specified on your ticket, arrive at that time.
- Be aware that your temperature may be checked before entry.
- Please follow the directions of the stewards and any signage provided.
- Please be respectful to Sportsground staff and stewards. Verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Please observe physical distancing at all times and in all parts of the grounds.
- Avoid contact with others who are not in your social bubble.
- Please proceed to your allocated seating or standing area and remain there until exiting unless using the amenities such as toilets and, food and beverage concessions.
- Be aware that requirements for physical distancing and reduced facilities may lead to increased queuing times for amenities.
- When moving past others in a seated area, please avoid face to face contact with other Spectators.
- If in a standing area, remain within your social bubble and in the zone allocated on your ticket.
- Maintain good hygiene. Wash our hands frequently or use hand sanitiser dispensers provided
- Avoid touching your face whenever possible.
- Please wear your face coverings at all times, except when eating or drinking, unless you are under 13 or are unable to wear them because of a physical or mental illness or disability.
- Please observe respiratory etiquette – always cover your mouth if needing to cough or sneeze.
- Refrain from hugging, high fives, or any close contact with people who are not within your social bubble.
- If you are attending with other members of your social bubble, please make sure they have read and understood these guidelines.
- Failure to follow these rules may lead to a denial of entry, or expulsion from the grounds.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

APPENDIX 3: RISK ASSESSMENT - TYPICAL HAZARD

Below is a list of typical hazards which may be considered when assessing a Sportsground in relation to COVID-19. The list below is non-exhaustive and does not include hazards that might be specific to your venue.

A3.1 Management Issues

- Lack of information for staff and patrons around Public Health Advice
- Queuing and milling round in concourse leading to lack of physical distancing
- Programmes, flags and other loose paraphernalia handed out to patrons
- Duration of game in relation to time in close proximity to large numbers of people
- Lack of physical distancing outside the venue in “Zone Ex” at entry and exit

A3.2 Physical Issues

- Insufficient hand washing facilities to maintain hygiene
- Entrance Lanes do not allow physical distancing
- Seating layout to allow physical distancing
- Seating in rows leading to brush past for people trying to get in and out of their seat
- Toilets, sinks and urinals – shared touchpoints and lack of physical distancing
- Shared touch points (handrails, lift buttons, etc.)
- Food and Beverage Concessions – shared touchpoints (cash, credit card machines, utensils and condiments) and physical distancing (queuing)



APPENDIX 4: GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Circulation	The free movement of people within a sports ground.
Competent person	A person shall be regarded as competent in an identified role where he or she has sufficient training and experience to meet the national occupational standards relevant to the tasks within that role. Competency includes an awareness of the limits of one's personal knowledge, skills or experience
Concourse	A circulation area, covered or uncovered, that provides direct access to and from Spectator viewing areas, via stairways, ramps, vomitories, or level passageways, and serves as a milling area for Spectators for the purposes of refreshment and entertainment, and/or provides access to toilet facilities, and which may also form part of the ingress and egress systems of the ground.
Close Contact	For COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spent more than 15 minutes of face-to-face contact within 2 metres of someone who has COVID-19, indoor or outdoor is living in the same house or shared accommodation as someone who has COVID-19 sat within 2 seats of someone who has COVID-19 on public transport or an airplane spent more than 2 hours in an indoor space with someone who has COVID-19, subject to a risk assessment
Contact Tracing	Process of identifying persons who may have come into contact with an infected person ("contacts") and the subsequent collection of further information about these contacts.
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Control
Entry Point	Any controlled entrance, such as a turnstile, door or gate, through which Spectators enter a ground and are counted
Event	Any event, whether it relates to sport, entertainment or any other form of gathering, to which the public is admitted. An 'event' (or 'event day') commences as soon as the first event staff enter the premises and ends only after the last event staff have departed.
Event Management plan	An event management plan covers all the safety and organisational aspects of an event.

APPENDIX 4: GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Event Organisers	An Event Organiser shall be the persons or organisation responsible for hosting and organising an event. They may be the Sportsground, a Sporting body, Tournament, or other organiser (e.g. charitable organisation)
Flow Rate	The number of persons per metre width per minute passing through an element of an ingress, egress or circulation route.
HSE	Health Service Executive
Isolation	Separation of infected individuals and healthy individuals
Lateral Gangway	Channel or the passage of Spectator through Spectator viewing areas running parallel with terrace steps or seat rows.
Local Authority	An administrative body in local government that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.
Management	Person or persons in overall control of the premise whilst people are present.
NPHET	National Public Health Emergency Team
NSAI	National Standards Authority of Ireland
Operations Manual	A manual which sets out the way a sports ground operates on a daily basis. It should include but not be limited to the stewarding plan, medical plan, planned preventative maintenance schedule, fire risk assessment, communications plan, event day procedures, contingency plans, capacity calculations, site plans and details of safety equipment.
Personal protective equipment (PPE)	All equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work which protects them against one or more risks to their health and safety.

APPENDIX 4: GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Physical Distancing	Physical distancing, also called “social distancing,” means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 1m / 2m from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.
Risk Assessment	Overall process of risk identification, risk analysis, and risk evaluation
SGSA	Sportsground Safety Authority
Spectator	Any individual in attendance at a sports ground who is not accredited by the competition organiser to participate in and/or deliver the competition.
Spectator Viewing Area	Any area of a ground or structure in the ground provided for Spectators, either seated or standing, to view the event, also referred to as Zone 2.
Sports ground	Any place where sports or other competitive activities take place in the open air and where accommodation has been provided for Spectators, consisting of artificial structures or of natural structures artificially modified for the purpose.
Viewing accommodation	Any area of a ground or structure in the ground provided for Spectators, either seated or standing, to view the event, also referred to as Zone 2.
Vomitory	An access route built into the gradient of a stand or terrace which directly links Spectator viewing areas to concourses, and/or routes for ingress, egress or emergency egress.
WHO	World Health Organisation
Zone Ex	Ahe external zone (also known as ‘the last mile’) which lies immediately beyond the outer perimeter of the sports ground, consisting of a network of routes or areas, often leading to transport hubs, and whose management is considered key to the safe and secure arrival and departure of Spectators

APPENDIX 5: KEY REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- Latest Public Health Advice from the HSE
- Department of the Taoiseach: Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19
- Sports Grounds Safety Authority. Guide to Safety at Sportsgrounds SG02. Planning for Social Distancing at Sports Grounds
- Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation: Work Safely Protocol
- Department of Education: Code of Practice for Safety at Sportsgrounds, 1996
- S.I. No. 151/2000 Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulations 2000
- Technical Guidance Document Part M
- BS8300: 2009: Code of practice for Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people.
- National Standards Authority of Ireland: COVID-19 Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide
- World Health Organization. Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19
- World Health Organization. Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of COVID-19 – Interim Guidance 29 May 2020
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Technical Report – Disinfection of environments in healthcare and non-healthcare settings potentially contaminated with SARS-COV-2
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems in the context of COVID-19
- Sporting industry protocols with respect to COVID-19 from the following sporting bodies:
 - Irish Rugby Football Association
 - Gaelic Athletic Association
 - Football Association of Ireland
 - Union of European Football Associations
- Other published industry specific guidance documents including:
 - Fáilte Ireland Guidelines to Re-Opening All Sectors
 - CIF (Construction Industry Federation) Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures
- Public Health advice for other jurisdictions, including New Zealand, Australia, France and the UK
- UK Events Research Programme
- Netherlands Fieldlab Events
- German University of Halle Leipzig Concert
- Review of COVID-19 Measures applied at international Sporting Bodies and Stadia, including:
 - EU - Germany (Bundesliga), France (French Open), Italy (Parma Empoli), Spain (Palau Sant Jordi)
 - UK – RFU, EFL, World Snooker Tournament
 - New Zealand - AFL and Rugby
 - Australia (Australian Open and AFL)
 - ASM Global Venue shield reopening programme
- USA - Katie Keenan Director of Live Event Operations at the NFL, Brendan Meehan, Commercial Director of Corporate.ie and Matt Davidson, Associated AD-Event Management at University of Nebraska provided valuable information on the experience of returning fans to sporting and cultural events in the USA



Coronavirus
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