

## Covid 19 Update for athletes, and parents of Young athletes who attend coached training sessions.

England Athletics issued new guidelines (to reflect the new Government guidelines on opening up sport) in late July. These enable sports venues to open, and also the numbers that are allowed to train to increase. To be able to benefit from those changes, club and venues have to establish "Covid Secure Environments" for training (CSE).

We have implemented all the actions needed for the club sessions to comply, & these are:-

1. A club Covid Officer must be in place
2. The venue / Environment must develop a Covid action plan & Risk Assessment
3. All activity must comply with Government guidelines on social distancing.
4. All clubs and coaches must capture pre-activity health questionnaires, including contact details which can be shared upon request with the Government's Test & trace initiative. You can only attend sessions, if you are symptom free and have not tested positive with the last 14 days (please note you may still be weakened and have trouble breathing, so to protect yourself you are advised not to train if that is the case, until you feel well enough to do so).

In addition any session attendee who tests positive for the virus, has to notify UK Athletics via an online form: <https://www.uka.org.uk/governance/health-safety/covid-19-form/>

5. Clubs, coaches & Event/ Venue Managers must ensure that everyone at the session maintains good hygiene and that provisions are in place to allow for this.
6. Sessions that include children and young people under the age of 18 should be more meticulously planned to ensure their needs are catered for.

We submitted all the documentation to Rotherham MBC on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>, in the hope that we would have access to use the stadium for training from the 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Unfortunately RMBC are battling against an increased Covid infection rate in the borough, (although this fell last week to 30 new cases, whereas it had been 64 in the previous week) and this has meant they were unable to agree the opening of the stadium on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We have urged them to open the stadium as soon as possible, since that offers the most safe and secure venue for training.

In the meantime, the club committee has agreed that we would implement the CSE for club coached sessions – despite not having access to the stadium.

This means that coached groups will now use venues for training which have been checked and risk assessed, and this will enable us to benefit from the coach athlete ratio to increase to 1:12 from 1:5.

The groups will continue to be planned and organised by the coaches, although the young athlete group structures may change from what has been in place for the last 5 weeks or so. Coaches will contact the athletes to advise of group members, training times & venues/ meeting points.

In addition to that all attendees for the sessions MUST register for the session by using the on line web application (accessed via the club website) which can be done via mobile, or lap top / desk top computer.

*[Guidance notes on how to access and use the web based app will be made available.](#)*

The club will supply the contact data to the test & trace system, if requested. They will then contact you and advise of what action is to be taken.

If you test positive for Covid you have to SELF-ISOLATE for TWO WEEKS.

And if someone in your group tests positive?

You will then be contacted by TrackAndTrace and it is possible that you also will have to SELF-ISOLATE for TWO WEEKS.

Please note that all attendees are covered by the submitted athlete health check– the athlete, the parent / guardian of any young athlete who brings them, and any other household sibling who attends.

It is now evident that a failure to observe social distancing is the key reason for increased cases of infection generally, and this was the reason for the local measures introduced by the Government last Thursday in areas in the North / North west. Please ensure that all attendees to training sessions comply with the recommended social distance (2m) at all time – the last thing we want is for a return to full lockdown or a maximum of 5 athletes per coach being re-imposed.

Membership subs

Membership subs for 2020 must be paid by the end of August, if you have not already done so. Anyone who has not paid by then will not be included in the power of 10 results, for any competition performances, and may not be insured for training or competition. Payment can be made by online bank transfer, and we also now have a terminal for contactless payments which will hopefully be available at Herringthorpe.(In the car park)

Steve Gaines

Secretary / Covid Officer