

— BASKETBALL ENGLAND —

# RETURN TO PLAY

— NATIONAL COMPETITION GAME DAY GUIDANCE —







The following guidance is to be followed by all everyone in the basketball community to guide the sport back to competitive games. The guidance below is an extension of our Return To Play (RTP) Guidance set out by Basketball England which can be found [HERE](#).

Please refer to the to Basketball England RTP Guidance for further detailed advice on hygiene, social distancing, the risks of participating in basketball and other information prior to reading this additional guidance.

Please be aware that these guidelines are evolving and may change.

Currently UK Government Guidance does not allow for non-elite competitive basketball to occur outside the 'Rule of Six'. With the recent changes to the government designed local Tier restrictions, Basketball England have had to redefine the activity levels within the Tiers. Please click [HERE](#) for advice on playing within your Tier.

The government defined 'elite' basketball allows the following leagues to be able to play competitive 5 v 5 basketball: BBL, WBBL, NBL Division 1 and WNBL Division 1, EABL, WEABL, BUCS. Junior basketball (U18 and below) is allowed to take place. Basketball within the educational setting (PE classes, school/college/university fixtures) is allowed.

These guidelines should apply to these leagues.





# GAME PREPARATION

It is mandatory for all clubs, local league providers to devise a 'Game Logistics' plan which outlines:

- What time you should aim to arrive at the venue
- Where screening will take place
- COVID-19 Officer contact details
- Other relevant details
- Site map which includes:
  - Venue address and carparking details
  - Venue entrance and exits and any other relevant details that teams and officials need to be aware of
  - Court configuration
  - Details of use of changing rooms, toilets etc
  - A link to a video walk-through would be preferable

It is expected that this will be sent to opposing clubs/teams and officials at least seven days before the fixture.

We have created a template 'Game Day Logistics Form' which can be found [HERE](#).



# TRAVEL

With the reintroduction of games comes the need to travel. We are asking all players to travel in game kit and all officials to travel in uniform to reduce use of the changing rooms. Where possible, we should avoid carpooling and team mini-buses, however where this is unavoidable the below considerations should be followed:

## COACHES / MINIBUS

- All players and staff must be fully screened before getting into the vehicle
- Face coverings should be worn by all on board
- Hand sanitation is required before boarding
- All high use surfaces on the vehicle should be cleaned thoroughly prior to entry
- Social distancing between individuals on the bus should be adhered to as much as possible
- Face away from each other as much as possible
- If having to sit together, members of the same household or bubble should be grouped together
- Hand sanitation is required as soon as exiting the vehicle
- Keep high ventilation throughout the journey, no air conditioning though due to the high risk of aerosol spread
- Keep eating and drinking in the vehicle to a minimum
- Limit the time you spend at garages, petrol stations and motorway services

## CARPOOLING

- If possible, conduct screening before individuals enter the car
- If it is not possible to take temperatures, then ask screening questions from the **Basketball England RTP**:
  - Any temperature or fever (37.8 °C or above)
  - A new or persistent cough
  - A loss or change of taste or smell
  - Have you been asked to quarantine by NHS Test and Trace
  - Have you returned from a country that you are required to quarantine from?
  - Have you been asked to self-isolate from school or work etc?

**Any positive answers to the above then the individual should not be entering the car and should be asked to return home to self-isolate**

- Share the transport with the same people for each game where possible
- Keep to small groups of people at any one time
- Open windows for ventilation if possible
- Face away from each other as much as possible
- Clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products
- Make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- Driver and passengers to wear a face covering
- Regular hand sanitisation by all individuals
- Limit the time you spend at garages, petrol stations and motorway services
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise your hands often, and always when exiting or re-entering your vehicle
- When finishing your journey wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise your hands as soon as possible



# THE GAME

## ELIGIBLE GAME ROLES

Our current guidance around training environments permits 'up to 30 people per court'. For competitive games there is still a restriction in numbers permitted within the venue in the following breakdown:

	JUNIOR NBL / EABL / WEABL / ABL / BUCS	SENIOR NBL & WNBL DIVISION 1
GAME DAY ROLE	MAX AMOUNT AT GAME	MAX AMOUNT AT GAME
Players	24	24
Head Coach	2	2
Assistant Coach	4	4
Team Manager	2	2
First Aid/Physio	1	2
Statisticians	2	2
Table Officials	3	3
Referees	2	3
Videographer	1	1
COVID Officier	1	1
Court Manager/Match Promoter	1	1
Livestreaming	0	1

There may be one BE staff representative that will be allowed access to the court for the purposes of observation. They will have a BE Exemption Form with them stating who they are and what their role will be. They have to abide by all BE RTP protocol.

Teams must have named roles within the court setting. These roles should be made clear to all in the environment either with a name badge or similar. It is extremely important for all teams to understand that these are maximum numbers. No spectators, parents or anyone else should be in the venue other than essential game staff.

We must stress that for training, the 'up to 30 people per court' limit remains in place.

Further guidance for junior local leagues is available [HERE](#).

## SPECTATORS

Since Dec 2nd the Government approved spectators at NBL Div 1 games. At elite events and NBL Div 1 fixtures only in Tier 1 and 2 areas, a maximum of 1,000 supporters or 50% of the venue's capacity – whichever is lower – will be allowed access. Clubs should go to [Spectator Guide](#) for further information.

## VENUE

Venues need to comply with the guidance in our RTP Document and must abide by any local rules set out by Government.

Single-court venue - The outline on game numbers and court configuration applies as per above table.

Two-court venue – Unable to play more than one game at a time other than junior basketball classed as below 'Elite Level' - I.e. NBL Championship Men and Women and below. If playing two games at the same time, the tip times are required to be staggered. Physical barrier to separate the two courts - ie a curtain. Support staff around the court always need to ensure they social distance at 2m and ensure they do not enter the second court or engage with teams or officials on that court.

Three-court venue – Able to play two games at a time but games to be played at the opposite end of the venue. Use of the middle court not permitted. Game times to be staggered. Separate entrances and exits to be used for each game. Physical barrier such as a curtain, should be in place to separate all courts.



## ARRIVAL

- Alongside the playing teams, all individuals that encompass the eligible roles per game will have to be screened in line with our **RTP screening protocols**.
- The away team are responsible for ensuring their players complete the screening form before they leave the house. The home team will undertake the temperature check of **ALL** participants on entry to the venue. ProActive Symptom Checker may help this process.
- Officials will have to fill out the ProActive Symptom Checker prior to leaving the house. They should show their 'green light' to the venue staff before having their temperature taken.
- It is advised that all teams and officials arrive in uniform and do not use the changing rooms
- It is recommended for officials (mandated for NBL) to arrive on court at the game 20 minutes before to perform your duties and to warm up
- Teams/players should not be encouraged to arrive early, this avoids them having to remain at the venue longer than they should

## COURT CONFIGURATION

Court configuration poses a significant risk in the game of basketball; therefore, we are asking each club to risk assess their venue and come up with a strategy to mitigate the risks.

The below principles must be observed:

- Maintain social distancing at 2m throughout the venue other than when playing the game
- Avoid the use of 'benches' unless you have no other options. Chairs, stools or on-floor seating to be used at a 1m+ distance between each player
- Sanitiser stations including wipes, spray, hand gel and appropriate waste disposal need to be in place around the court
- Behind 'benches' unless a wall, there must be a minimum of 2m to allow team members to pass behind the seats

- Table officials and statisticians to be 1m+ away from each other on the scoring table
- There should be at least 2m between the end of the scorer's table and the start of the 'benches'

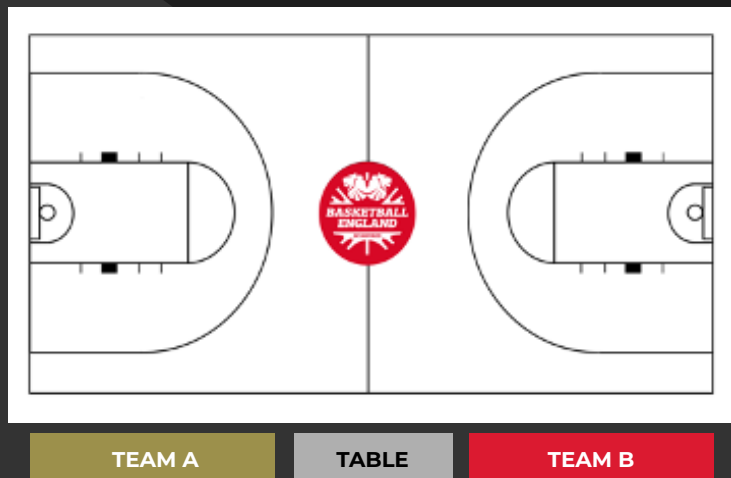
There will be difficulties with each set up that may have to be worked through by each venue. At all costs, separation of players, staff, officials and spectators (once permitted) must be a priority.

These are examples of ways you may be able to configure the court to reduce the risk of transmission.

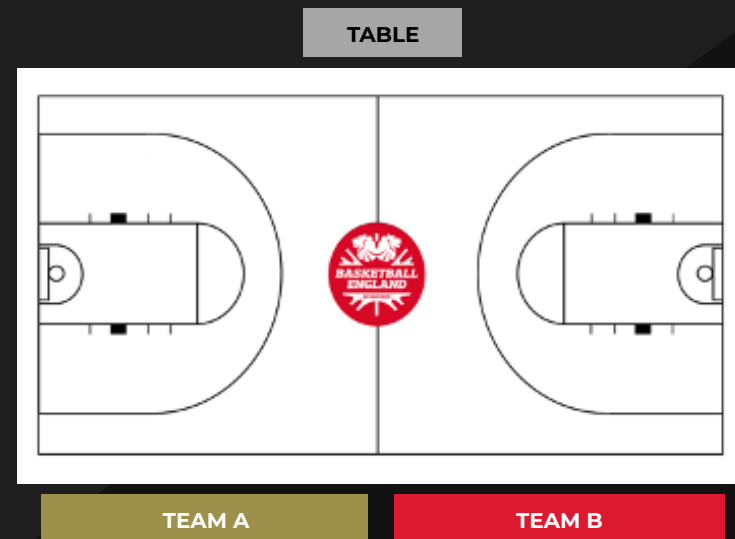
- Traditional
  - Benches and table officials on same side of the court
- Benches opposite table
  - Both benches on the opposite side of the court to the table
  - More available space for the benches to operate
  - Easy for table officials to link with referees and see substitutions, but less able to communicate with the coaches
- Benches on opposite side or ends to one another
  - Table remains in the centre of the court
- Wrap around
  - Benches start in the traditional position and then wrap around the ends of the court



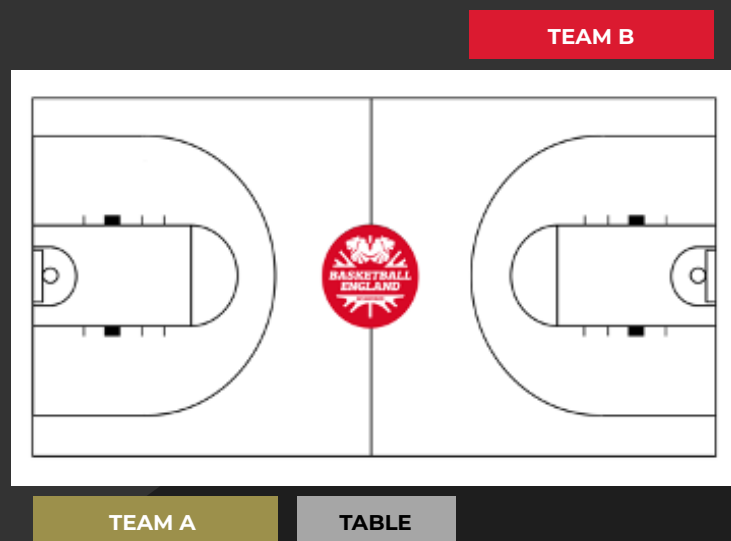
## TRADITIONAL



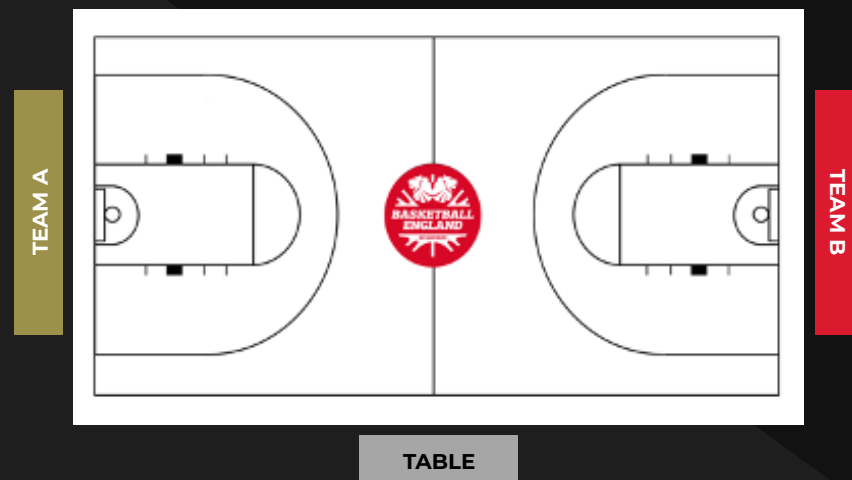
## BENCHES OPPOSITE TABLE



## BENCHES ON OPPOSITE SIDES



## WRAP AROUND





## GAME RULES/LOGISTICS

- Normal game rules apply
- Two ball rotation system with a member of the home staff cleaning the spare ball between use
- Hand and ball cleaning at quarter and half time to be conducted by the home team staff
- Time-outs and quarter time breaks should be conducted by each team near their team bench ensuring 1m+ social distancing at all times. Players are permitted to enter the playing court during this time. Any fluid spillages need to be cleared before play commences.
- Understanding that hand sanitiser should be applied by all players during timeouts therefore officials may need to moderate the length of time for time-outs
- Substitutions should occur directly from the bench rather than from the substitution chairs
- At time-outs and other breaks in play, officials should attempt to limit contact with the table officials and should maintain a 1m+ distance between themselves whenever possible
- Referees and officials to allow suitable time for anybody treating an injured player, to follow suitable hand hygiene guidance following treatment of the injury before returning to the bench prior to the game recommencing
- Officials to report any RTP issues using the **reporting form**
- Appropriate sanctions will follow the guidance in **Appendix 8** of the RTP
- Use of a canteens or other food outlets during games is the responsibility of the venue and club, they should ensure that one-way systems are in place to mitigate large numbers of people congregating in common areas



## PPE

- All non-playing staff (except referees unless choosing to do so) are to wear a face coverings
- Players are required to wear face coverings at all times when not playing
- Table officials and statisticians are strongly recommended to wear face visors as well as face coverings and space at least 1m+ apart as this will help reduce the risk to them of COVID-19 transmission
- Use of whistles by referees are allowed but shouting is not recommended. The aerosol spread from whistles has been assessed as a low risk, however shouting increases that risk. Talking loudly should be all that is needed.
- Cleaning of the balls or other equipment should be followed by the hand hygiene guidance outlined by the RTP and completed by team staff

## AFTER THE GAME

- Score sheets should be signed off by the officials but hands cleaned after signing the paperwork
- Immediate hand washing after the game finishes
- We strongly encourage not showering or changing in the communal areas. If this is permitted by the venue then their guidance should be followed
- No congregating in the carpark afterwards
- Back-to-back games must have suitable time between each game for full cleaning of surfaces as described in the Basketball England RTP
- Depending on the venue, the amount of time required to clean the facility after the game will be different. Therefore it may not be possible to play 'back-to-back' games on the same day.



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