



COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL JUNIOR LEAGUES

Please find below guidelines for junior local leagues in accordance with Basketball England's "Return to Play" Guidance documents and the venues own risk assessments.

It is the responsibility of each individual junior local league to ensure that the participating clubs are aware of and adhere to the guidance prior to and when playing games at the venue.

Leagues must ensure there is a minimum gap of 30 minutes between games and where multiple courts are being used tip times must be staggered to ensure that no more than two teams arrive at any one time. There must also be a 30 minute gap between consecutive games finishing and starting on the same court so that teams finishing games can leave the premises promptly before the next two teams enter the venue, and so that chairs, tables and other equipment used can be cleaned between games.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAGUE ENTRY – LEAGUE/ASSOCIATION

Before local leagues/area associations can operate, each league/association must:

- Ensure they are affiliated with Basketball England – email support@basketballengland.co.uk for further information
- Complete the COVID-19 Return to Play Declaration Form found [HERE](#)
- Appoint a COVID-19 Officer – email support@basketballengland.co.uk with the name of the club/area association, name of the COVID-19 Officer and email address of the COVID-19 Officer
- Complete the Level 2 COVID-19 Risk Assessment

LOCAL LEAGUE ORGANISERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING ALL PARTICIPATING CLUBS HAVE THE ABOVE IN PLACE PRIOR TO THEIR FIRST FIXTURE.

- On a single full-size court, each team to have a maximum of 12 persons per game (including players, and a minimum of one coach and one support staff). There should be four Officials in place (Table Officials and Referees). To allow just 30 people on and around a court during a fixture. Spectators at this stage will not be permitted to attend any games unless required to support a player with disabilities or special needs.
- For mini-league cross-court fixtures on a single court, 30 people total must be split across the two courts, with a divide such as a curtain down the middle of the single court to separate the two mini courts, this includes all players, coaches, support staff and officials. Therefore if four teams are competing the 30 needs to be split between these four teams and officials.
- Please note that in a change to conditions announced previously, players who turn 18 during the season are now able to continue playing in U18 teams and competitions.

- If the league is using a two-court venue with games going ahead side by side, a physical barrier should separate the two courts - ie a curtain and the team benches cannot be back to back between the two courts.
- If using a three-court venue, games should only go ahead on courts one and three only. No games on court two, to allow teams to flow through the venue safely and mitigate risks during the game.
- Where possible, separate entrances and exits to each court should be utilised

ARRIVAL

- League organisers and match officials to arrive 30 minutes prior to league start time
- Teams to arrive no more than 20 minutes prior to tip time. Teams that arrive early must wait in their cars or outside the arena in a socially distanced manner until the league is ready to begin screening.
- Screening and registering of players, coaches and support staff will take place outside the venue
- Players must arrive dressed ready to play as changing rooms and showers will not be available
- Players to socially distance (2m apart) outside the entrance
- Each official, player, coach and support staff to be screened and temperature checked by the (deleted) prior to entry. Appropriate action to be taken if any person answers positively during the screening process.
- It is the leagues responsibility to collate copies of all screening documents and make sure they are all filled out properly by both teams and all officials prior to games commencing. The documents should then be passed onto the Club COVID-19 Officer Should there be a COVID issue the league will contact each club to inform them. The league should keep officials screening information.

ENTRY

- Participants to enter arena via nearest entrance and go straight to the court
- **All players, coaches and support staff to sanitise their hands on entry**
- Once players enter the sports hall they must place equipment (drinks bottle, footwear, anti-bacterial wipes and hand sanitiser only) within their own individual station on the team bench for the duration of game. Please only bring what is required for the game.

DURING GAMES

BASKETBALL ENGLAND RTP GAME GUIDELINES MUST BE FOLLOWED BY OFFICIALS/PLAYERS/COACHES/SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE DURATION OF THE GAMES TO INCLUDE

- Have plenty of hand sanitiser available courtside with regular stoppages for application
- Hand sanitiser (minimum 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol) is advised:
 - Before and immediately after game
 - When being substituted on and off the court

- Time-outs
 - End of Quarters and Half-time
 - It should be easily accessible for ease of use at all times by all individuals during the games
- Ball washing/wiping down with wipes prior to starting
- No shared water bottles
- All water bottles clearly labelled with the individuals name on it
- No 'crates' of water to be provided by clubs/coaches
- No handshakes, high fives or other bodily contact. Avoid lifting team-mates and opposition players from the floor where possible
- Suitable COVID-19 disposable bins provided next to each team bench
- Bench – chairs, stools or sitting on floor should be used and spaced 1m+ apart with appropriate markings to show appropriate distance between individuals
- Team benches will be on opposite sides of the court where feasible
- Substitutions should occur directly from the bench, no need to go to the score table
- Shouting should be avoided at all times due to the increased risk of aerosol transmission
- League to provide two match balls for each game, one to be wiped down as the game continues
- Ball wiping by officials at all major stoppages (at the end of quarters/ time-outs)
- Face coverings are mandatory for all coaches, table officials and all other support staff
- Any staff involved with floor cleaning should wear face coverings and be mindful to wash hands immediately at half time and full time. There is no requirement to wear gloves as long as hand washing regime is followed.
- The cleaning of any blood/mucus/sputum/vomit should be in adherence with local policies
- Time-outs will remain at one minute however officials will use their discretion to accommodate suitable time for hand sanitisation. Every team should conduct their timeout with a minimum of 1m between each player or staff member for the duration. Both teams to conduct the timeout on the court if unable to distance at the bench.
- Officials to monitor social distancing during timeouts and between quarters

REFEREES AND TABLE OFFICIALS

- Arrive in playing kit and do not use the changing rooms
- It is recommended to arrive at the game in adequate amount of time to perform duties and to warm up
- Please enter the court 20 minutes prior to tip-off
- It is recommended that there is a designated area for ball wiping that is away from the main Table Officials i.e. at either end of the court. Referees are responsible for the condition of the ball
- If possible, referees should attempt to limit amount of time near Table Officials
- Substitutions can occur directly from the bench rather than from a chair next to the Table Officials
- Table Officials advised to maintain distancing appropriate to carry out their tasks to reduce risk of infections

- Table Officials are to wear a facial covering
- Referees and Table Officials are strongly recommended to wear face visors and space at least 1m apart
- Referees can stop the game if they feel that social distancing is not being adhered to or inadequate hygiene regulations are being used
- 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
- There will be the following sanctions could be implemented for clubs that breach the Return To Play protocols:
 - An official warning by the Local League organisation
 - Basketball England Sanctions: Re-education of the RTP, potentially leading to a club being placed into a lockdown situation as a result of continued failures to adhere to the guidance in this document and therefore putting members of the basketball family at risk

END OF GAME

- No handshakes, high fives or other bodily contact
- Immediate hand washing or hand sanitising for a minimum of 20 seconds at end of game
- Showers and changing rooms will not be available for use

DISINFECT EQUIPMENT

- Please ensure that ALL balls, equipment, chairs, tables etc used during the game are wiped down using antibacterial wipes immediately following each game. All wipes to be placed in the bins provided before exiting.

LEFT BELONGINGS

- Please be aware that if players, coaches, support staff or officials leave water bottles, clothing or equipment we will not be able to keep them and they will be thrown away. Therefore, please ensure that the sports hall is cleared of all equipment and clothing at the end of the game. If participants leave items of clothing or equipment it is the responsibility of the club to take it with them and arrange for collection.

EXITING THE BUILDING

- Following the game participants must promptly exit the sports hall in an orderly and socially distanced manner following the one-way system out of the venue via nearest exit
- Sanitise your hands using the sanitiser provided at the exit point
- Once teams have left the building, they must not congregate in the car park. Please leave the venue promptly, as there may be another game finishing or starting after yours.

TOILET AND CHANGING FACILITIES

- Changing rooms, lockers and showers will not be available for use
- Toilet use should be kept to a minimum but toilets will be available
- To access toilets participants will use the nearest available
- After using the toilet users should wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds and clean the toilet with the cleaning products provided

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All clubs/leagues/associations must keep a register of participants names (including officials) and contact numbers for each game for 21 days following each game for the NHS track and trace service. Details to be disposed of safely 21 days after date of the game.
- In the first instance we request that players/coaches/support staff/officials do not travel to the venue if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. However, signs detailing COVID-19 symptoms will be visible at the entrance point.
- All internal and emergency exit doors will remain open and fans turned on during games for increased ventilation and reduce contact points where feasible
- Social distancing rules should apply at all times when players are not on the court in a playing capacity
- It is mandatory for coaches, support staff and officials to wear face coverings whilst games indoors
- Players must bring their own drinks with them. Drinking water will not be available from the water machine or taps
- COVID-19 Bins will be provided for waste. To be emptied between games by venue staff
- Parents and spectators are not permitted in the arena for games. Chaperones to children may wait outside in a socially distanced manner or in their cars unless the child has disabilities or special needs. Toilet facilities will not be available for chaperones.
- Players and coaches should avoid leaving the court unless it is to go to the toilet
- If required, first aiders to wear appropriate PPE and ensure hands and equipment are sanitised before and immediately after treatment. Waste to be disposed of safely.