

# Cymdeithas Achub Bywyd o'r Môr Cymru Surf Life Saving Association of Wales

## Return to children's sport - 27 March 2021

The Welsh Government (WG) has confirmed that organised group activity for children can once again continue from 27/03/2021. This activity is for children only. Which for this purpose means, anyone under 18.

Whilst most of the procedures clubs need to follow will be the same as those previously undertaken. There are some key changes in protocol that all clubs must follow.

### Key changes

#### COVID officer

Clubs should appoint a responsible person/s referred to as the 'COVID officer', to act as the point of contact on all things related to COVID-19. This really important role could be a new volunteer role or added to a current role within the club. The COVID officer does not need to attend every activity but should have signed off the activity before it takes place.

#### COVID officer tasks:

- ensuring that full risk assessments, processes and mitigating actions are in place before any sport or leisure activity takes place.
- ensuring that SLSA Wales is informed of any incidences of a known or suspected case of Coronavirus occurring from lifesaving activities. This can be done by emailing [covidfaq@slsawales.org.uk](mailto:covidfaq@slsawales.org.uk)
- SLSA Wales recommends all COVID officers undertake the WSA COVID awareness training. <https://wsa.wales/covid-19-awareness-training-for-the-sports-and-recreation-sector/>
- More information on the role can be found [here](#).

#### Spectators

Supporters, parents and other spectators should be limited at this stage to only those persons who absolutely need to attend, e.g. parents or guardians of children who require their attendance for health or safeguarding reasons. These spectators are to remain physically distanced from each other and from the training area whilst attending activities, including accessing and leaving the venue and whilst watching activities.

#### Activity numbers

The Welsh Government's advice regarding limits on numbers does not apply if the organised activity is specifically organised for the well-being or development of children. However, to reduce the risk, SLSA Wales mandate all club activity must be **limited to 30 people maximum** and have the appropriate safety ratios as set out in the SLSA Wales safety policy. Coaches and all over 18's must socially distance at all times, no exceptions. Social distancing should also be maintained for all participants, including those under 11 where possible. You may want to consider the use of face coverings for those over 11 where social distancing may not be possible.



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People who count towards the 30:

- Participants of the activity.
- Coaches

People who don't count towards the 30:

- Anybody who is there to organise or support the activity. This could include water safety cover, IRB crews, COVID officers, attendance takers, COVID Marshalls etc. These people should always maintain a 2m social distance at all times and not take an active role in the training / activity, otherwise they will count towards the 30.

Simultaneous gatherings of groups in the same location are allowed, where there is sufficient space to do so safely and all groups can act independently. This should only be considered where space is sufficient to allow 100sqft per person on land. Staggered start times for each group should be used to facilitate this.

## Risk assessments

Many clubs have already sent off their COVID activity risk assessments to SLSA Wales. These should be reviewed in line with the new WG guidelines.

## Award Training

Many clubs are now looking to complete face to face NVBLQ and other award training. Clubs should prepare for this by creating a new risk assessment, covering first aid and rescues training within their club context. Help on award risk assessments can be found on the [COVID dropbox](#) or via your regional tutor.

Award assessment will be appropriate risk assessed and delivered by SLSA Wales.

Once risk assessments are completed and sent to [covidfaq@sawsales.org.uk](mailto:covidfaq@sawsales.org.uk), training can start for those under 18. Training for those 18 and over must wait until SLSA Wales permits.

## Continuing protocols

As well as the changes mentioned above there are still the key procedures clubs should have in place from the previous return to sport guidelines.

## Track and trace

All clubs should be recording attendance at all activities for the purpose of track and trace.

## Equipment cleaning

Sharing of equipment should be avoided where possible, particularly that used around the head and face e.g. helmets. Where equipment is shared, equipment must be cleaned to the appropriate standard before use according to guidance by another person. Check the latest guidance on [cleaning](#).



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## Changing rooms

Changing rooms and showers are an area of increased risk of transmission and their use is still not permitted. All venues should encourage children to arrive at the facility in sports kit and, where possible, to travel home to change/shower.

## Clubhouse use

Indoor clubhouse use should be minimised at all times and indoor training is still not permitted at this stage. Clubhouses can be accessed for collection of craft and training materials but should not be used as a venue for training. Clubs should have sufficient signage and persons to maintain social distancing at all times.

Where mains water has been turned off or unused since the close of the premises at lockdown, when it is reconnected it will need running through to flush away any microbiological or chemical residues built up while the water supply was disconnected.

## Pre-attendance official symptom check

All participants, officials, and volunteers should undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. No-one should leave home to participate in sport if they, or someone they live with, is [symptomatic](#), has been tested positive for the virus - or suspects they may have been exposed to the virus. They should immediately [self-isolate](#) (as well as their household and extended household),

## Patrols

Many clubs are expecting beaches to be busy should we have fine weather over the Easter break. Clubs are permitted to run patrols but should follow the patrol guidelines set out [previously](#). These can include over 18s but should not be whole club activities and should be limited in numbers to only those required to run a safe patrol.

## Larger events / competitions

There has been no indication from Sport Wales, WSA or WG on when larger sporting events may be allowed. As a result, we still have no dates for any beach or pool competitions for 2021. When indicative dates are given by these bodies we will look to create COVID safe events.

Should you require more assistance on the above. Guidance can be found on the [SLSA Wales COVID Dropbox](#), [WG Guidelines](#) and [FAQ](#) or you can email [covidfaq@sawsales.org.uk](mailto:covidfaq@sawsales.org.uk) and someone will be in touch.

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