

Guidance on In Person Student Activities for Sports Clubs

Updated 6th October 2020

The Students' Association is getting ready for the start of a new academic year in 2020/21. Full Time Officers and Staff are working hard to give you the best possible experience this year. The health, safety and wellbeing of GCU students and staff will continue to be our highest priority during this Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and as rules around social distancing are eased.

In Person Sports Activities 2020-21

As you will be aware, Scotland is currently in phase 3 of the route map at the moment, and the Scottish Government has indicative dates for indoor and outdoor sports activities to begin. Our approach is to have a phased return to face to face activities when it's safe to do so following government, insurance and university guidance. This is a fluid situation and we envisage that our approach will need to be flexible. **For the avoidance of doubt there should be no face to face activities organised by Sports Clubs until otherwise advised.**

Resuming Sports Training

At this stage we have not made any sports facility bookings and have suspended all hire drive transport. We are in communication with our regular facility providers to be able book as soon as we are able to. We are expecting that there may be a reduction in capacity at facilities and this may impact on the numbers that may be able to attend. Initially travel may be restricted and activities may be need to local. Access to on campus storage may be restricted and forward planning required. Overall, organising your sports club will be different this year, so the planning and activities you undertake will not be the same as previous years.

Team Fixtures and Competitions

BUCS are currently planning to resume team leagues in January 2021, more information on [BUCS Return To Play HERE>>](#). All fixtures are managed through the [BUCS Play App](#), please download this app if you are involved in organising the BUCS fixtures for your team. We are in discussions with local institutions about organising friendly team sport fixtures. More information to follow. BUCS and SSS are still planning their competitions programme and we will communicate with your when we have more information.

Preparing to Return to Face to Face Activities

As part of the preparation for the year ahead we will be sending you a Committee Pack. In the pack will be documents to help you plan for the year. This will include your sports club risk assessment which you will need to review to include COVID-19 preventative processes and measures. Preventative measures may include pre-session sign up for track and trace and all of the requirements of submitting details afterwards, each club may be asked to have a COVID Coordinator. We strongly encourage all Committee Members to attend the online training session to learn about new procedures and systems, tasks and roles and what to expect in the year ahead.

Booking a Group Trip Abroad

At this stage we are not authorising any group trips abroad, this may change when government, insurance and university guidance permits this type of group activity to be undertaken safely.

Online Events

Our insurance provides stipulates for online events that “no activities should take place which need close supervision to ensure the safety of members” and that “each individual should be aware that they are responsible for ensuring their home environment is suitable and safe for the activity they are engaging in”.

Membership

Sports Club Membership is currently suspended on the Students' Association website. We are anticipating that we may need to change the pricing structure of both the Sports Membership Fee and the Club Joining Fee. More information will follow soon.

Current Scottish Government Guidance

www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/

www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-3-update-30th-july-2020/pages/3/

Sportscotland

For sports specific information on COVID 19, please go to Sportscotland website:

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/>

Support and Help

If your sports club have questions or you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any of the above please contact:

Gordon McTweed, Activities Manager,

g.mctweed@gcu.ac.uk

(Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm).