



**COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY ACTION
PLAN**

**FLAG FOOTBALL
COMMUNITY CLUB GUIDANCE FOR ENGLAND**

AMENDMENTS

The table below lists amendments to this guidance since the last version effective on 23 April 2021.

Reference	Summary of change
Introduction	Amended wording to update on return to competition, effectiveness date of guidance and key changes to note
4	To reflect that consideration of creating a safe environment for participation includes officials
20	To reflect that activity can now take place indoors, subject to facility guidance and capacity limits
21	Updated to advise changing rooms may now be used where necessary
29, 30, 31	To reflect that spectators are now permitted
32	To reflect that car sharing is now permitted for the purposes of sport and physical exercise
34	To reflect that overnight stays are now permitted for the purposes of American football activity
51	Updated wording to reflect socialising is now permitted, but must be within legal gathering limits
56	Updated to reflect league games are now permitted
61, 62, 63	Updated to reflect that participation caps and pitch size limits have been removed but that caution is still recommended with mixing different groups
71	To advise that if government guidance in your location requires you to remain socially distant, then when taking part in games and tournament participants in the team area other than squad members ready to take to the field must wear a face covering unless exempt.
86	Updated guidance for managing league tournaments and games in addition to friendly fixtures

The table below lists amendments to this guidance since the last version effective on 12 April 2021.

Reference	Summary of change
Introduction	Amended wording to update position on cross-border travel
31	Amended wording to update position on cross-border travel
80	Updated guidance on cross-border travel for games and requesting sanction for tournaments

The table below lists amendments to this guidance since the last version effective on 29 March 2021.

Reference	Summary of change
Introduction	Amended wording to clarify position on spectators
Introduction	Remove reference to travel in and out of Wales being prohibited
29	Amended wording to clarify position on spectators
31	Addition of wording permitting participants who normally reside in Wales but are currently registered with a club in England to travel to take part in activity

41	Addition of text expanding on original definition of 'someone you live with' to include household and support bubbles
42	Addition of text to include anyone who has been asked to quarantine following overseas travel
60	New addition to clarify that equipment should not be shared between players and must be cleaned after use
80	Removal of requirement to 'stay local'

FLAG FOOTBALL COMMUNITY CLUB GUIDANCE FOR ENGLAND

With effect from: 17 May 2021

We have now reached the final step of BAFA's Return to Play roadmap for non-contact American Football in England. This sees the return of flag league competition and the removal of practice participation caps.

Guidelines to help reduce any potential impact of Covid-19 will remain in place for our sport until otherwise advised by the UK government and we continue to urge all our members to be thoughtful and cautious in their approach to American football activity to ensure the safety and wellbeing of participants.

Please be aware of the following key additions:

- American football activity can now take place indoors provided clubs adhere to the capacity limits advised by their facility providers
- Spectators are now permitted for events, including practice sessions, but must adhere to social gathering limits. Clubs should consider how best to ensure spectators are managed to avoid groups congregating and breaking social gathering limits and work closely with their facility's management team to understand any additional guidelines for spectators that may be in place
- Car sharing is now permitted for the purposes of participation in sport and physical activity but guidelines on travel safety must be followed
- League games are now permitted and new guidance for game / tournament management has been included and must be closely adhered to. This includes guidance on pre- game planning, officiating guidelines and rules adjustments.

Make sure you read this guidance carefully and fully understand the requirements before undertaking any activity. Please also be aware that guidance can change, and restrictions may be reintroduced at short notice.

These guidelines have been produced in line with the most recent version of the UK Government's [return to recreational team sport framework](#) and the [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#) document which details the roadmap out of lockdown for England and explains how restrictions will be eased over time. Our guidance takes account of changes in the law that take effect on **17 May** and will be updated and reissued to take into account of further relevant changes to regulations.

If you have any questions relating to this document, or the guidance contained within, please contact covid-19@britishamericanfootball.org in the first instance.

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OFF-FIELD ACTIVITY

CLUB PREPARATION

1. Clubs are only allowed to return to the activity detailed in each stage of our route map when advised they may do so by BAFA.
2. Club management should ensure all appropriate management processes are in place so that they can effectively oversee and maintain the implementation of the measures outlined in this document.
3. It is expected that clubs will draw up their own detailed practice protocols, however the Covid-19 adapted behaviours outlined in this document should be common to all clubs.
4. All clubs need to conduct a risk assessment of their facilities, operating procedures and planned activities prior to returning to American football activity. They should have appropriate measures in place to provide a safe environment for players, volunteers and other relevant individuals **such as officials**. These measures should be aligned with BAFA and Government guidance. The aim is to introduce suitable control measures to reduce the risk of contracting the virus to as low a level as is 'reasonably practicable'. A BAFA risk assessment template is available [here](#).
5. Clubs should upload a copy of their club's Return to Play Risk Assessment in BAFA's GoMembership! system, where it will be reviewed. Where clubs have multiple teams returning to play in different facilities, a separate Return to Play Risk Assessment should be uploaded for each team.
6. Clubs must also make sure they have an Emergency Action Plan for reacting to incidents. An example template is available [here](#).
7. Participants must be made aware that relevant COVID-19 mitigations are in place and complying with these measures as a condition of participation.

CLUB COVID-19 OFFICER / COVID-19 TEAM LEADS

8. Each club should appoint a Club Covid-19 Officer to help assist in ensuring that the club has taken and maintains the appropriate measures to resume activity safely.
9. The name of your Club COVID-19 officer must also be entered in the club details section of the GoMembership! system.

10. All Club Covid-19 Officers should complete BAFA's [ReActivate Covid-19 Awareness Award](#). This training is mandatory for all designated BAFA Club Covid-19 Officers and recommended for all Covid-19 Team Leads and any coaches leading activity, and supersedes any other equivalent training completed. Completion of this training will be tracked by BAFA and certificates should be loaded up within the GoMembership! system as an individual qualification for approval.
11. As we appreciate many of our clubs comprise multiple teams operating across different third party provided facilities, and running to different timings, we know that having a single volunteer club Covid-19 Officer may be impractical. In these instances, we request that each team within the club has a designated Covid-19 Team Lead, reporting to an overall Club Covid-19 Officer.
12. Club management must make sure that the appointed persons will receive all necessary support to undertake their roles.
13. The club must ensure that all members are notified of who their Club Covid-19 Officer is, should they have to pass on their details to a member of the NHS Test and Trace team
14. The Club Covid-19 Officer and any Covid-19 Team Leads should not put themselves at risk whilst carrying out the role. Duties of these roles include but are not limited to:
 - Completing documented risk assessments and ensuring all appropriate mitigations are put in place by the club before any activity is undertaken.
 - Being aware of and understanding government and BAFA guidelines, communicating these with relevant club volunteers and monitoring that these are strictly adhered to especially in terms of the social distancing rules and the practice activity undertaken by the club.
 - Ensuring there is awareness of your club's Covid-19 protocols across club volunteers and participants, and that processes are in place to ensure participants and parents / guardians for those under 18 take individual responsibility to self-assess for symptoms of Covid-19 prior to attending sessions.
 - Making sure a record of attendees practicing or attending games or tournaments is kept within the club. This may be delegated across the club, for example to Covid-19 Team Leads or coaching staff, but must be accessible by the Club Covid-19 Officer at all times.
 - Ensuring all records must be kept for 21 days and used in accordance with GDPR legislation. More information is available from the NHS on '[how test and trace works](#)' and '[maintaining records](#)'. Clubs should decide how these records will be kept and stored, for example on paper or using an online format e.g. Google Docs or a shared drive.
 - Providing safety information and protocols to all players, coaching personnel and parent/guardians prior to the resumption of club activities.
 - Ensuring relevant club volunteers are aware of the need to regularly clean and sanitise all equipment after each session (e.g. balls, flags).

- Making necessary representations to club management about any COVID-19 concerns. (Covid-19 Team Leads should raise any issues with the Covid-19 Officer to share first).
- Reporting any areas of non-compliance immediately to club management and ensuring that these are addressed. (Covid-19 Team Leads should raise any issues with the Covid-19 Officer to report first).
- The Club Covid-19 Officer should Inform club management if they become aware of a confirmed case of Covid-19 or if they have been made aware of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms. (Covid-19 team leads should advise the Covid-19 Officer first)
- Ensuring track and trace protocols are followed should the club be contacted

DEALING WITH A POSTIVE CASE OF COVID-19

15. If an individual receives a positive test result following testing for Covid-19, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and asked to share information about their activities and close contacts just before and/or after developing symptoms or testing positive. Participants who have taken part in club activities during this period should be encouraged to identify this activity on their Test and Trace record to support the contact tracing process. Further information is available on the [NHS Test and Trace webpage](#).
16. Should the confirmed case be unable to identify all those they may have had contact with during practice or play at the club, they should advise NHS Test and Trace during their interview and this will be escalated through the NHS Test and Trace system who may make contact with the club directly to see if contacts may be identified. Evidence of risk assessments, practice plans, record keeping, and other relevant documentation may be requested as part of this review and should be readily available to share if requested.
17. Please note, it is not the responsibility of the club to inform members if someone at the club has tested positive for Covid-19. This will be done by the NHS Test and Trace team if deemed appropriate, who will advise anyone identified as a close contact to self-isolate or seek testing if required. An individual's right to privacy must be observed.
18. Should the club have any concerns following a confirmed case that they become aware of, they should contact their local [PHE Health Protection Team](#) for advice and support.
19. In the event that a club becomes aware of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19, either by being notified by the individual or by Test and Trace, BAFA should be notified by emailing [Covid- 19@britishamericanfootball.org](mailto:Covid-19@britishamericanfootball.org) This information is requested to allow BAFA to monitor the number of confirmed positive Covid-19 cases occurring in clubs, and to make sure clubs have the appropriate support.

VENUE AND FACILITIES

20. Organised American football activity can now take place indoors and outdoors. For organised indoor American football activity, clubs should adhere

to the capacity limits advised by their facility providers. This is currently limited by UK Government guidance to providing a minimum of 100 sq ft per person.

21. Changing rooms may be used but participants are encouraged to avoid or minimise use where possible. Where possible, players should be arrive changed and shower at home afterwards.

22. We know that our member clubs are reliant on third party owned or managed facilities. Adherence to the following guidelines should be worked out collaboratively between club and facility. Clubs should request information from their facility provider on venue operations plans, risk assessments and any special requirements relating to Covid-19 to help inform their planning and understand requirements around the following:

- Entry exit and parking arrangements in place at venues to ensure social distancing can be maintained.
- Traffic flow systems and signage at entry and exit points, to ensure that people maintain social distancing rules.
- Socially distanced areas for teams, officials, and spectators.
- Hygiene provisions in place.

More information of the key principles of facility usage can be found [here](#).

23. If not already in place, clubs are also encouraged to request their facility provider create and display a [QR code for their venue](#). This will enable visitors to scan the QR code when they arrive, using the NHS Covid-19 app, and help trace and stop the spread of the virus.

REGISTERING WITH THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

24. BAFA clubs in England who have created their own coronavirus QR code for their venue for people to scan and check-in on arrival with the NHS Covid-19 app should be aware that this may mean they have to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and pay a data protection fee. This may also apply to any other form of QR code or online check-in used to capture information for a venue by a BAFA club.

25. You may need register because you are using an electronic system to gather and store data and most organisations that process personal information are required by law to do so and pay the fee which for small organisations, is between £40-60 per year. If you're subject to the requirement, it's important that you register and pay the fee as otherwise the ICO can impose financial penalties.

26. You do not need to register if you are only using the QR code to capture information to keep an attendance record for your own members. This is because data processing which is only for the purposes of establishing or maintaining membership is exempt. Your organisation must also have already been exempt from the requirement to register with the ICO.

27. You also don't need to do this if your venue has a QR code members scan on arrival, but this was not created and is not administered by your club. For example, the people who hire your pitch from require all your members to do this as a condition of use. You also do not need to do this if you are simply recording attendance using pen and paper. Records should be kept no longer than 21 days, in line with data protection regulations.
28. If you are unsure whether or not you need to register, please contact the ICO via their helpline on 0303 123 1113, or visit www.ico.org.uk.

SPECTATORS

29. Spectators are permitted to view events on both public and private land but need to adhere to social distancing rules and social gathering limits (groups of 30 outdoors and six people/two households indoors). Spectators are allowed indoors, but the total number of all participants, coaches, officials and spectators must be aligned with the ventilation rates permitted by the particular venue.
30. Clubs should consider how best to ensure spectators attending private facilities are managed to avoid groups congregating and breaking social gathering limits and work closely with their facility's management team to understand any additional guidelines for spectators that may be in place. avoided.
31. Spectators should minimise shouting or raising their voices. There is an additional risk of infection where people are shouting or singing in close proximity to others (particularly indoors and when face-to face).

TRAVEL AND OVERNIGHT STAYS

32. Participants are encouraged to follow best practice for travel. Car sharing is permitted for participating for sport and physical activity. See the government's [safer travel guidance](#) for passengers for further information.
33. Cross-border travel between England and Wales is permitted, and between England and Wales and Scotland - with the exception of travel to or from any areas of Scotland in Protection Level 3 or Level 4. Please check what local restrictions on organised outdoor activity are in place before visiting another UK nation to participate in sport. Should you travel to a different nation to take part in American football activity, you must always strictly adhere to local regulations.
34. Overnight stays to take part in American football activity are permitted as long as they are in line with social contact rules for the nation you are in (i.e. 'rule of six'/two households).

BAFA MEMBERSHIP

35. Only individuals registered in the BAFA GoMembership! System are eligible to participate in sanctioned National Leagues American football activity. The only exception to this is new club members – who may undertake three trial sessions as long as their details are captured as per BAFA's existing three trial session process. New members MUST be registered after their third trial session.
36. Accurate player, coach and support staff data including full name, email address and phone number is collected upon registration and is available to designated club administrators to help enable detailed Test and Trace record keeping.
37. To support maintaining records for Test and Trace, participants should only take part in activity sessions with their registered BAFA club team and age group.
38. Players, coaches and support staff registered for any BAFA football format may participate in non-contact flag American football activities with their registered BAFA club team and age group.

TEST AND TRACE

39. [Test and Trace](#) is England's way to ensure that anyone who develops symptoms of Covid-19 can quickly be tested to find out if they have the virus, and also includes targeted asymptomatic testing of NHS and social care staff and care home residents. It helps trace close recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notifies them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus.
40. The gathering of contact information from anyone attending American football activity in a secure and safe manner, will assist the Test and Trace service to identify any clusters of cases, contact those who may have been exposed to the virus, and request them to take appropriate steps to prevent potential onward spread.
41. In order to support Test and Trace, Club Covid-19 officers for BAFA affiliated clubs are required to keep a record of the name, contact number, date of activity session and timings for all those attending organised American football activities within the club. This may be delegated across the club, for example to Covid-19 Team Leads or coaching staff, but must be accessible by the Club Covid-19 officer at all times.
42. Ensure all records must be kept for 21 days and used in accordance with GDPR legislation. More information is available from the NHS on ['how test and trace works'](#) and ['maintaining records'](#). Clubs should decide how these records will be kept and stored, for example paper or using online

format e.g. Google Docs.

43. Clubs may be spot-checked by BAFA to make sure this information is accurately captured and there may be sanctions failing to produce records or ensure members are registered.

PARTICIPANT SELF-ASSESSMENT

44. Prior to attending practice or games, all participants in American football activity must self-assess themselves for symptoms of Covid-19. No one should leave home to participate in activity if they, or someone in their household (including support bubbles if they have been in recent contact), have symptoms of Covid-19 currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss, or change, to their sense of smell or taste.

Any individual who displays such symptoms must follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation.

45. In addition, any participants who are undertaking quarantine due to recent overseas travel or who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace because they are a contact of a known Covid-19 case, must not participate in activity.
46. Clubs should ensure that as a minimum a regular reminder process is in place to make sure participants take individual responsibility to complete a symptom self-assessment before attending practice or games. Other assessment processes including paper or online forms or apps may be used by clubs to manage self-assessment.
47. Participants resuming activity should be asked to confirm that they have read and understood the risks associated with playing American football and the transmission of Covid-19 and are happy to comply with the safety measures in place. This should be completed by a parent or guardian for members under 18. A template form is available [here](#).

PHYSICAL DISTANCING – BEFORE AND AFTER PRACTICE OR GAMES

48. BAFA clubs should adhere to the government managed social distancing guidelines in force at the time, before and after any activity, and during breaks.

49. Clubs should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet- up times should reflect this – arrival no more than five minutes before the start time of a session is recommended. This includes arriving changed and ready to begin the warmup, if possible, to minimise time spent waiting or in holding areas.
50. No formal presentation ceremonies or other activities that encourage gathering such as group photographs should take place during or after an activity and the focus should be on reducing numbers in attendance at any one time.
51. Participants socialising after practice or games and reminded that they must adhere to current government guidance on legal gathering limits should they do so.
52. Participants should be strongly advised to comply with public health restrictions and avoid high risk behaviour outside of your club setting to reduce the risk to their fellow club members when they do attend.

SAFEGUARDING

53. The lockdown period will have affected children in many ways. While most will have had a positive time with family, others may have had negative experiences and could be at increased risk. Please continue to follow the process outlined in your club Safeguarding Policy and report any concerns to BAFA by contacting our safeguarding team at safeguarding@britishamericanfootball.org
54. There will be no alteration to the standards we had in place pre-Covid 19, therefore DBS checks will still need to be in place for designated roles, including coaches, and for any new recruits to roles, prior to any activity resuming with children and youth teams.
55. Coaches and those working with children should familiarise themselves with the Covid- 19 resources for supporting young people developed by the [NSPCC](#).

ON-FIELD ACTIVITY

PERMITTED AMERICAN FOOTBALL ACTIVITY AND PRACTICE PLANNING

56. Participants are permitted to undertake non-contact flag and touch American Football activity in line with BAFA rules and regulations. This includes intra-club and inter-club friendly **and league games**, non-contact skill development (ie, ball handling, route running) or fitness activities.
57. Coaches should risk assess and plan appropriately for each session in advance, be aware of their responsibilities and be clear on expectations with participants. Practice planning should reflect the requirement for regular scheduled breaks for hand and equipment hygiene – before, during and after sessions.
58. Head coaches and team management should ensure all session activities are clearly communicated in advance to coaching staff and players to set expectations. Holding coach and team meetings using virtual conferencing tools such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams prior to your first session is highly recommended where possible in order to brief participants and answer any questions.
59. As per [BAFA Competition rules and regulations](#) item 3.8, mixed age ranges may practice alongside each other in the same facility or field but must operate distinctly from each other. No game like scenarios should take place across (or mixing) any age ranges.
60. Coaches must work to BAFA recommended coach to player ratios, which are:
 - For 4 to 8 years – one adult to every 6 children (1:6)
 - For 9 to 12 years - one adult to every 8 children (1:8)
 - For 13 to 18 years – one adult to every 10 children (1:10)
 - For 18+ years – one supervising adult to every 10 participants (1:10)

PERMITTED NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS AND PITCH

61. There are now no longer any caps on participant numbers or pitch size. However, clubs are strongly advised to exercise caution to avoid overcrowding and ensure that adequate space is provided to allow participants to socially distanced when not active.
62. We continue to recommend that wholly separate groups sharing a pitch space – for example two different age range teams using one pitch, remain wholly separate throughout the activity and should be separated by a minimum 2m 'safe zone'.

63. Staggered start and finish times and designated pitch entry points for different groups are still highly recommended to minimise any risks.

TEAM EQUIPMENT

64. Clubs should carry out the following to make sure all equipment is regularly sanitised:

- Balls should be regularly sanitised throughout, including at the start and at the conclusion of activity.
- Each player should have their own set of flags which they will keep for the duration of the practice or game. Flags and belts should be sanitised at regular intervals during activity, and at the conclusion of practices or games by either the individual, coach, team manager or Club Covid-19 Officer or Covid-19 Team Lead. During games, players should sub-out if equipment sanitisation is required.
- Each pitch area should have antibacterial wet wipes or spray available to enable this. At the end of each practice or game, the Covid-19 Officer or Covid-19 Team Lead should ensure any other equipment which has been handled (such cones) is sanitised.

65. Playing Equipment such as flag belts and flags must not be shared between individuals in the same session, and all equipment used by participants and collected back by the team afterwards must also be thoroughly sanitised after use.

66. Cones should be put out and collected by the same person on each pitch - preferably by a coach.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING – DURING PRACTICE OR GAMES

67. Close contact face-to-face exposure between participants must be limited to fleeting duration only throughout activities – a max of no more than 3 seconds during drills is recommended.

68. Normal physical distancing and legal gathering limits apply before (including warm ups) and after any activity takes place or when taking breaks.

69. Particular attention must be paid to ensure participants who are not currently active don't congregate in groups and breach social distancing rules – avoid queues to participate in drills, ensure practice plans are designed to avoid this and keep people moving, set clear expectations before practice and consider additional mitigations such as encouraging participants to wearing a face covering when not active.

70. Coaches and others supporting organised activity should attempt to keep physically distant at all times when giving players instruction, observing and giving feedback, but it is recognised that this will not always be possible. In such circumstances the responsible Club Covid-19 Officer should

consider appropriate mitigating actions as part of their risk assessment, for example, recommending the wearing of a face covering.

71. **When participating in games and tournaments, if government guidance in your location requires you to remain social distanced from anyone who is not in your household or support bubble, those in the team area must wear a face covering except for squad members preparing to enter the field or those who are exempt for age, health or disability reasons. This is because participants may find it difficult to distance in a crowded area like a sideline or forget themselves during the flow of the game.**
72. Huddles – it is recommended that where possible team huddles do not take place before, after and during practice or non-contact game activities. If these are essential, it is recommended that teams all face in the same direction to receive instructions.
73. Team scoring celebrations involving person-to-person contact are not permitted.
74. No pre or post-game handshakes, or alternatives of any sort e.g. elbowbump or foot taps are permitted.

EQUIPMENT AND ETIQUETTE

75. Participants should be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser to practices and games and use it at regular intervals in activity.
76. Participants should bring their own clearly labelled or otherwise highly distinguishable water bottle to practice and not share it under any circumstances. No communal water buckets or bottles are to be used.
77. Participants must not share towels, toiletry products, clothing such as practice jerseys or bibs, water bottles, boots, gloves, mouth guards, or disposables such as tape or ice packs.
78. As the virus is transmitted from respiratory secretions, mouthguard etiquette is very important. Players should refrain from touching or removing their mouthguard, and if they do so must sanitise their hands. Mouthguards must not be left on shared surfaces or public places but be placed in a personal container and stored with personal possessions.
79. Shouting - There is an additional risk of infection in close proximity situations where people are shouting or conversing loudly. This particularly applies when face to face. Coaches and participants who are not currently active should refrain from shouting, and players active on the pitch should avoid shouting or raising their voices where possible, and especially facing each other during.

80. No spitting or mouth rinsing is permitted during practice or play

FIRST AID, HEALTH AND HYGIENE

81. Injuries during practice and play should still be treated as participant wellbeing is utmost. Physios and other medical personnel should take care to protect themselves and others through rigorous cleaning and personal hygiene, including increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting equipment and surfaces. Wearing face coverings is recommended for both medics and patients, where this is possible and practical.

82. After contact with an injured participant, physios and other medical personnel should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact or the minimum social distancing was maintained. They should also avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose.

83. Physios or other medical personnel, should keep a record of each participant they have come into contact with for test and trace purposes.

84. See [further information](#) for those who may need to act as a 'first responder' role in a sports setting.

85. If you are not wearing face coverings and need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into an appropriate bin supplied at the venue or place in a plastic bag and take home. Wash your hands afterwards for 20 seconds.

ORGANISING AND PARTICIPATING IN LEAGUE AND FRIENDLY FLAG GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS

86. League and friendly games are now permitted, as long as the guidance in this document is strictly adhered to. Please refer to the additional BAFA rules adjustments for Covid-19 here, covering both flag and contact football as well as guidance for officiating - <http://rules.bafra.info/covid-19/>

You should follow any competition management guidelines for tournament management, and in addition you must also adhere to the following requirements:

- Where games do take place between teams in differing home nations (ie between teams in England and Wales), the guidance that should be followed is that of the home nation where the game is taking place.
- When planning games, clubs must keep themselves up to date on any enhanced local restrictions that may impact on the host team or travelling team, particularly related to travel, and be aware that the guidance in place may change at short notice.
- Club risk assessments should be updated to reflect preparations for organising and participating in games and tournaments and should be uploaded on the BAFA GoMembership system

- Club management should read the appropriate sections of BAFA's [Covid-19 officiating guidance and recommendations](#) to ensure that the needs of the game officials are included in all preparation and planning for the tournament / game.
- Management of spectators must be considered. Spectators must adhere to social distancing rules and social gathering limits. Only participants registered with BAFA or BAFRA any providers of gameday medical cover should be present on the playing area.
- No spectators are permitted within the team area and during league fixtures the team area is limited to squad members and a maximum of five other individuals involved in the game
- When not in active game play, participants must socially distance in the team area. Team should be extended to the full length of the playing area to enable this.
- **If government guidance in your location requires you to remain social distanced from anyone who is not in your household or support bubble, those in the team area must wear a face covering except for squad members preparing to enter the field. This is because participants may find it difficult to distance in a crowded area like a sideline or forget themselves during the flow of the game.**
- The host club should clearly communicate any Covid-19 related venue requirements – for example, one-way systems, designated entry points, availability of toilet facilities onsite – to the visiting team ahead of the game taking place.
- The host club should ensure sanitising materials are available for any equipment including balls
- The host club should capture contact details from all participants aged over 16 attending their tournament / game for track and track purposes. This includes visiting teams, officials and those providing gameday medical cover. Contact details should comprise a name, contact telephone number and an email address (if available). This information should be held by the Club Covid-19 officer of the host club for no more than 21 days. Visiting teams are requested to prepare this information to pass over to their hosts in a timely way. This may be sent electronically.
- Staggered arrival and departure times and designated pitch entry points for each team are highly recommended to minimise any risks.
- Before the start of any game, the Club Covid-19 officer or Covid-19 Team Lead should hold a short, socially distanced, briefing with the head coaches for each team reminding them of their responsibilities aligned to BAFA's return to play guidance.
- Any roster checks should follow competition management guidelines and ensure that social distancing is considered
- BAFRA officials should follow [Covid-19 officiating guidance and recommendations](#)
- All other individuals acting in the capacity of game officials should observe the appropriate sections of BAFA's [Covid-19 officiating guidance and recommendations](#)
- Inter-club locally organised non-contact friendly game activity between two teams does not require BAFA sanction – however **any plans for friendly game activity involving multiple teams and games on the same day, such as a tournament, must be sanctioned by BAFA before taking place.** To request sanction, please contact covid-19@britishamericanfootball.org detailing your plans, venue, the teams involved, estimated numbers attending and attaching a copy of your risk assessment for the event. Please give at least 14 days' notice for approval.

If you need help or support, please contact covid-19@britishamericanfootball.org for guidance.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, please visit www.britishamericanfootball.org/Covid-19

If you have any questions, please contact:

covid-19@britishamericanfootball.org - for Covid-19 safety and other off-field activity related questions

info@bafca.co.uk - for coaching specific queries

adultflagfootball@britishamericanfootball.org - for queries relating to mixed or women's adult flag football

sreeni.shaji@britishamericanfootball.org - for queries relating to U11,U14 or U17 flag football

registrations@britishamericanfootball.org – for questions relating to BAFA team or individual membership