

# BRITISH FENCING



## RETURN TO FENCING

JUNE 2020

HONESTY  
RESPECT  
EXCELLENCE

## RETURN TO FENCING

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*Produced in collaboration with:*



WELSH FENCING



ENGLAND FENCING



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the framework for support to help our community club and delivery partners to safely return to fencing when the time is right. This plan has been developed in collaboration with our Home Nations, through the Return to Fencing Work Group.

The aim of this plan is to provide direction for our fencing community on what steps they should take and when, in line with Government advice to prepare, restart and rebuild their operations.

***We recognise that different Home Nations will lift restrictions on sport at different rates and in different ways.*** And there may be restrictions re-imposed if a second 'spike' in cases occurs. The

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intention is that this document will provide a framework which will allow flexibility for Home Nations, clubs and individuals to access the relevant advice and tools at the right time.

We do not have timelines for the reopening of indoor facilities across the UK or a view of when and how the 2m social restrictions will ease. We will keep members updated as we get more information. Until the 2m rule eases it is unlikely that a person will be able to hit another person outside their household with a sword (either in a lesson, sparring or competitively). It is essential therefore that we use this opportunity to think of innovative ways that we can adapt fencing to still support our community whilst forms of restrictions remain in place. We must all stay agile as timelines and government guidance will alter as the impact of actions and measures are continually evaluated across the UK.

## 2. THREE KEY PHASES FOR THE SAFE RETURN TO FENCING

This plan is focussed on three phases. At any point in time Home Nations and Clubs may be in different phases depending on their local government guidance and their circumstances.



## 3. AREAS OF CONTENT

We will be focusing on ensuring our members and partners have the tools, guidance and support network for planning their return, covering a host of topics such as health & safety, the new world of coaching, communications to parents and fencers as well as COVID-19 compliance and guidance on how activity programmes could be adapted taking social distancing measures into account.

We have considered four essential aspects of our plan covering people, places, programmes and partnerships and protection.

### **PEOPLE**

Supporting the people who deliver fencing, run clubs and participate in our sport, focussing on protecting the health and wellbeing of all

### **PLACES**

Providing specific guidance to facilities on how to introduce the new recommended safety measures. And supporting clubs in identifying and applying for available funding.

### **PROGRAMMES & PARTNERSHIPS**

Guidance on discipline specific adapted activity programmes and how to deliver fencing safely.

### **PROTECTION**

Everything we're building to support a safe return to fencing - the protection and safety of all of our members and the wider fencing community is of paramount importance.

## 4. SUPPORTING OUR PEOPLE

PEOPLE		
PREPARE	RESTART	REBUILD
<p><b>Status</b> With clubs closed, we need to keep the fencing community connected, informed and active, with a focus on wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Support</b> COVID-19 website zone</p> <p>Guidance for clubs and coaches in running safe online sessions.</p> <p>#FittoFence resources from our ADP, opened up and provided to members</p> <p>Videos, webinars on a range of topics</p> <p>Regular social media content/updates.</p> <p>Weekly digest keeping members informed</p> <p>Discussion groups and online training and development to ensure workforce (club officials and coaches) and is able to support members now and are ready to resume</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Participants and coaches can return to places (clubs and schools) who re-open and deliver within Government guidelines covering areas such as social distancing and limited capacity numbers.</p> <p><b>Support</b> Guidance and tools provided to club managers and coaches to help them deliver fencing within the restrictions.</p> <p>Information, templates, webinars and guidance documents on a range of topics including performing risk assessments, kit hygiene/cleaning, activities that fall within government guidance</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Participants and coaches can return to full/normal training where available. Club managers/operators can eventually revert back to normal operating procedures with an increased focus on hygiene.</p> <p><b>Support</b> Coach guidance and interactive content on a range of topics</p> <p>Coach Education Discounts on targeted courses (when they resume) to ensure you have the workforce to meet the needs of your programmes.</p>
<p>Community Discussion groups to facilitate sharing of best practice and ask questions on a range of topics.                      Online training and development - provided by BF and our partners                      Signposting funding opportunities                      Communicating government guidance</p>		

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### 5. SUPPORTING OUR PLACES (CLUBS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER PROVIDERS)

<b>PLACES</b>		
<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>RESTART</b>	<b>REBUILD</b>
<p><b>Status</b> Fencing clubs and providers remain closed. Guidance on the return to fencing activity provided and preparations commence</p> <p><b>Support</b> COVID-19 resources for clubs.  Eg Posters and other resources for clubs to adapt and display in their venue and share online.  Activity Support Tips to help with preparing for re-opening and information on how participants can enter, move around, and exit sessions in a fun and engaging way.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Fencing clubs and providers can re-open. Restricted activity can take place subject to Government guidance</p> <p><b>Support</b> Guidance, hints, and tips on new ways to deliver activities in line with any restrictions in place.  Opportunities to participate in workgroups to share best practice on club topics such as fundraising, marketing</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Fencing clubs and providers can ease the restrictions on their delivery and move towards becoming fully operational.</p> <p><b>Support</b> ??Guidance and templates for financial planning to assist with long-term sustainability.</p>

## 6. SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

<b>PROGRAMMES &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b>		
<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>RESTART</b>	<b>REBUILD</b>
<p><b>Status</b> No events, coach education courses to take place due to social distancing and practical nature of assessment.</p> <p><b>Support</b> #Fit2Fence Activity content continues to be provided for clubs, coaches and participants.</p> <p>Videos to support home</p> <p>Athlete Development Programme Camps moving online, online ADP learning platform in development</p> <p>Working with our partners such as Maslaha (Muslim Girls Fence) London Youth, BUCS, Scouts to adapt delivery programmes and prepare for restarting</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Activity programmes can be delivered in clubs and providers within the guidelines. No events, competitions or coach education courses to take place. Specific support</p> <p><b>Support</b> #Fit2Fence Continuation of home activity to enable participants who can't access their clubs.</p> <p>Guidance to help with planning fun and safe sessions whilst continuing to follow Government guidelines.</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Activity programmes continue. Re-introduction of some coach education and possibly some small competitions and events</p> <p><b>Support</b> #Fit2Fence - Continuation of home activity to enable participants who can't access their clubs.</p> <p>Explore with the community innovative ways and adaptations to the sport to deliver sessions and events.</p> <p>Hints and tips on how to deliver new sessions that are safe and engaging for participants whilst adhering to the government guidelines</p> <p>Guidance to support the safe return of events in your clubs.</p>

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### 7. PROTECTING OUR MEMBERS AND AFFILIATED CLUBS

<b>PROTECTION</b>		
<b>PREPARE</b>	<b>RESTART</b>	<b>REBUILD</b>
<p><b>Status</b> Status No insurance cover provided for sessions delivered in clubs. Insurance cover for online sessions provided by BF Registered Coaches to BF Members</p> <p><b>Support</b> Free 90 day Introductory Membership extended for new members who wish to participate in online activity.</p> <p>New DBS online service for clubs enabling faster and more efficient DBS processing</p> <p>Additional online welfare training to ensure club child protection structures in place.</p> <p>Health and safety guidance on areas such as: risk assessments, COSHH information, cleaning and risk mitigation and operations to help re-introduce activity and support a safe return to fencing</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Activity insurance provided for sessions delivered by BF Registered Coaches in line with the government and British Fencing or relevant Home Nation guidance.</p> <p><b>Support</b> Continuation of support to club operators to assist with any health and safety queries.</p> <p>Continuation of safeguarding training and support</p>	<p><b>Status</b> Restrictions and 'normal' training can return in clubs with full comprehensive insurance.</p> <p><b>Support</b> Club officials can access further help from through BF and partners</p> <p>Continuation of safeguarding training and support</p>



### 8. NATIONAL EVENTS/RANKINGS

National rankings will continue to be frozen until we can be confident enough people from across the UK can participate in national ranking competitions. We will provide a sensible notice period before scheduling national ranking competitions to allow people to arrange travel and accommodation. We also expect participants and coaches will require time to return to training before any national competitions are scheduled.

We would love to be able to set some firm dates to restart competitive fencing in 2020, however until there is more certainty over social distancing easing it is very difficult to make firm plans.

We expect large scale events and mass gatherings to be in the final stages of Government easing. Because of these factors, large national events are anticipated to be re-introduced beyond our initial three step approach and separate updates will be provided on this.

### 9. RETURN TO FENCING WORKGROUP

A BF Working Group has been set up specifically support delivery of the BF Return to Fencing plan.

The Working Group, coordinated by the BF executive team, consists of

- Representatives of each of the Home Nation Bodies
- Georgina Usher, BF CEO
- Clare Halsted, BF Medical Officer & member of the FIE Medical Commission
- Johnny Davis, BF Olympic TM
- Hannah Gavin, BF Clubs & Regions Development Officer
- Liz Behnke, BF Equality and Safeguarding Manager

The purpose of the group will be to review and update this plan, produce and agree guidelines and best practice advice for community fencing taking into account the advice issued by the Government(s).

Where appropriate the resulting documents will be presented to the respective Boards for agreement.

### 10. RETURN TO TRAINING FOR OLYMPIC ATHLETES

Following UK Government guidance on the return to training for world class athletes, our BF Olympic Team Manager, Johnny Davis has led discussions with those identified athletes (and their coaches) still focusing on Olympic Qualification to ensure that any plans to support them under the Return to Training opportunity are appropriate to their needs.

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The resources detailed in this plan will be available on the BF website.

The information, phases and planned support in this document are subject to change, and we will provide regular updates on our website.