



Dear British,

## Wishing you a Merry Christmas from all at BF

This is just a quick round up of BF's latest news and an opportunity for all of us here to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We know this year has been a challenging one but we will be together fencing once again soon.

Thank you for all your hard work and what you do for clubs and communities, it doesn't go unnoticed.

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### COVID LATEST UPDATE AND GUIDANCE FROM BF

There is a lot of information to take in around COVID-19 and how it will affect sports clubs in the future.

Make sure you keep checking in on the Club page on the website [here](#).

#### TIER GUIDANCE

All the latest guidance can be found [here](#) on our website in a summary table.

Key things to note;

- U18s are able to participate in organised indoor fencing following the BF guidelines in groups of 15 (excluding coach/welfare officer/covid officers) in all three tiers.
- For those age 18 and over in Tier 1 they will be able to participate in organised indoor fencing (sparring and lessons) following the BF guidelines in groups of 6.
- In Tier 2, those age 18 and over indoor can participate in socially distanced classes with no interaction between households/support bubbles (ie no actual fencing). BF will be publishing sample Tier 2 compliant activity sessions that clubs can choose to run.
- In Tier 3, those age 18 and over – no indoor fencing, except between members of households/support bubbles.
- 1:1 lessons can take place in all tiers at all age groups but restrictions apply with regards to interactions, travel and location.

Please note – this may change if detailed guidance from DCMS changes.

We continue to try and push for additional permitted fencing activity for those age 18 and over in Tier 2, recognising the work that our clubs are doing to reduce the risk of transmission in indoor environments. We will update this document in response to any update on this or relevant updates from the Government or Sport England.

There are no restrictions on travel for sport or exercise to Tier 1 and Tier 2, although in Tier 2 you should reduce the number of journeys you make where possible. You are advised not to travel into or out of areas that have a very high (Tier 3) alert level, including for sport, unless this is necessary to enable individual exercise (or exercise for people from the same household or support bubble). As of the 30th November, we do not know if this restriction applies to travel where it is necessary to enable disability sport, sport for educational purposes, or supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s to take place.

## QUESTIONS AROUND COVID?

If you have any queries regarding this or any other announcements please contact us using this [form](#).

Please note that we may not be able to answer your questions until we have received further clarification (which we will in the first instance publish on our website).

## COVID-19 OFFICERS - REGISTER THEM NOW

We are requesting that clubs as part of their return to play practices appoint a COVID-19 Officer.

To register your COVID-19 Officer on the membership platform please see instructions [here](#).

The COVID-19 Officer will act as the primary point of contact for BF, Home Nations, facility/venue operators, and club members for matters relating to COVID-19.

It is expected that most club committees will appoint an existing committee member or coach to act in this role.

Resources, sample risk assessments and guidance for clubs and COVID-19 officers can be

found [here](#).

Responsibilities of the COVID-19 Officer should include:

#### Guidelines

- Keeping up to date with changes in local government guidance and BF/Home Nation guidelines.
- Ensuring that the measures within the published guidelines and any subsequent updates are implemented and communicated to all participants as appropriate.
- Working with facility/venue operators to support the implementation of any additional guidelines specific to the facility/venue.

#### Communications

Be the first point of communication with BF/Home Nations, facility operators and club members in relation to COVID-19 issues and risks.

Club Protocols: establishing, communicating and executing club/session-specific protocols for:

- hygiene
- the use/management of equipment
- the monitoring of social distancing practices in the club – including movement/flow of people and use of changing and toilet facilities

For community clubs, the COVID-19 Officer must:

- Be a member of BF
- Be registered with BF. A separate email will be sent to Club Secretaries asking them to register their COVID-19 Officers.
- Be clearly named on any club website and communicated to all participants.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT - KEEP UP TO DATE**

It is more important than ever to keep your club risk assessment up to date. BF have put together a short video guide that you can watch [here](#). If you have any questions please e-mail Hannah - [hannah.gavin@britishfencing.com](mailto:hannah.gavin@britishfencing.com).

There are also support resources available on our website in the COVID Zone [here](#).

#### Risk Assessments

- Work with the coaches, welfare officer and club committee members to create the “Club Return to Fencing Risk Assessment”
- The COVID-19 Officer can sign off the elements of the “Club Return to Fencing Risk Assessment” which relate to COVID-19 measures. (The Club Risk Assessment must, in turn, be approved by the club committee).
- Regularly review the Club Risk Assessment – minimum on a monthly basis and in response to any change in guidelines issued by government/BF.
- Ensure that there are protocols for signing-off individual session risk assessments and that these are retained for insurance purposes.

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# FUNDING

## BF LAUNCHES COMMUNITY CLUB RESTART FUND

The COVID-19 Community Club Restart Fund is designed to help BF affiliated community clubs restart session activity after the enforced shutdown, attracting their club members back into fencing. It will prioritise those experiencing short term financial hardship and who have genuine concerns with being able to make sessions financially viable or are facing the potential ceasing of operations.

As part of the FIE's Global Support Plan National Federations were allocated €4000 euros (£3310) to support the recovery of fencing at a national level. BF has contributed an additional £1689, providing a total of £5000 to be awarded as grants of up £250 for BF affiliated clubs (one application per club).

The fund is intended to support clubs to restart and run group sessions for British Fencing members to help grow/retain people in the sport over a prolonged period of time.

Eligible session costs that the fund could support include costs associated with facility hire, meeting Covid-19 regulations, equipment and coaching fees.

Georgina Usher, said *"We know that many of our clubs are facing additional cost barriers in restarting community activity and that for some the extended lockdown has significantly impacted reserves and financial viability. We are very grateful to the FIE for their financial contribution which has enabled us to create this Community Club Restart Fund to support our clubs."*

For more information around eligibility criteria, costs, fund priorities and application process please [click here](#). Please read this document carefully before completing the form.

## A GUIDE TO SPORT ENGLAND FUNDING

Hannah Gavin, BF's Development Officer alongside Virginia Bailey, BF's Head of Participation gave an in-depth look at one of Sport England's flagship funding pots, Return to Play Small Grants, as well as touching on some tips and tricks to help clubs with their applications.

Whilst the presentation did focus heavily on those funding opportunities available at Sport England we also touched on what is on offer elsewhere.

You can view a recording of the presentation [here](#), just submit your name and e-mail address. The session lasts just over 20 minutes and can be watched in your own time. If you have any questions

or want to follow up on anything around funding please e-mail [hannah.gavin@britishfencing.com](mailto:hannah.gavin@britishfencing.com).

All further information can be found here on our funding page and we will continue to update this with new opportunities and information.

## SPORTS RECOVERY FUND PETITION

If you have a moment to help sport, please support the petition [here](#) which calls on the government to instigate emergency funding in the form of a Sports Recovery Fund to ensure sports clubs, fitness and leisure facilities can remain open and survive the coming difficult months.

If possible please share with your members too.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL



## ARE WE GETTING THE MESSAGE RIGHT?

BF Members *and* non-members are invited to contribute to this anonymous survey. It takes less than ten minutes and is designed to gather data and feedback on BF communication channels and content. The survey will be used to improve and expand content across our audiences and help us ensure our messages are useful, entertaining and effective.

Sophie DeVooght, Media and Communications Manager at BF, says, "We've shared a large amount of content across our platforms in 2020, including podcasts, videos, resources, articles and news posts. The survey will help us to know what is working, what we should do more of and highlight areas to improve."

The survey will remain open until the end of January 2021 and key insights will be shared on the BF website. Thank you to all our readers for your input:

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

# THE SEARCH FOR #BFIMAGE2020 BEGINS- ENTRIES NOW OPEN

BF is delighted to announce the search for the British Fencing Image of the Year 2020 has begun. The #BFImage2020 competition, supported by Nikon School UK and Pulseroll, is a chance to celebrate memorable moments captured in fencing.

**To submit an image, post it with the hashtag #BFImage2020 on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.**

Entries close 4th January 2021 at 5pm. Category and overall winners will be announced in late January 2021. Images will be judged by a guest panel including Lucy Keyte from Pulseroll, winner of the #BFImage2019 Hanene Basson, and GBR Foilist Kate Beardmore.

The category and overall winning images will be published in the April 2021 edition of *The Sword*, British Fencing's magazine. The category winners will receive prizes including products from Pulseroll. The overall winning photographer will also receive a £60 electronic voucher for Nikon School UK online photography workshops.

Nikon School UK provides photography training that aims to educate and inspire. Their partnership with British Fencing began in 2018.

Evie Millar, Events Administrator at BF, said *"2020 has undoubtedly been a different year for us all. We are looking forward to seeing lots of innovative images reflecting how fencing in the UK has adapted throughout 2020."*

For more information please see our website [here](#).

## NEWS

Please link on the articles below to see a selection of the latest news from BF.

**Remember to keep up to date on our website.**

### [GEORGINA USHER: ASK ME \(ALMOST!\) ANYTHING](#)

*BF's CEO Georgina Usher invites members to a friendly Ask Me Anything evening Q&A session on December 22nd at 7.30 pm.*

### [UK SPORT CONFIRMS 1 YEAR INVESTMENT OF £418K INTO FENCING](#)

*As part of an indicative four year award of £1.6m, UK Sport confirms a one year £418k award to support long term Olympic success in fencing.*

British Fencing welcomes the news today that UK Sport has awarded a one year investment of £418k to support the long term success of elite fencing in the UK. The funding is part of an indicative four year award totalling £1,672,485 to create a pathway to Olympic success in 2032.

From UK Sport, "UK Sport has today signalled its intent for...

## [CLUB OF THE YEAR WINNERS ANNOUNCED](#)

*BF is delighted to announce the winners of the club of the year categories in the 2019-2020 community awards. Including the community club of the year, sponsored by Playwaze.*

## [OCTOBER OPERATIONAL UPDATE 2020](#)

*A summary of BF operations since our last update in July to the end of October as we continue to serve our members and work at all levels to support the future of our sport.*

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the executive team at BF has continued to operate, supporting our members and advocating for our sport as we work towards a return to fencing.

We provided our last Operational Update in July (you can see that update [here](#)). Since then, our community across the UK has adapted to the introduction of various local and national lockdown restrictions, and...

## [LONDON TO HOST 2022 COMMONWEALTH FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS](#)

*England Fencing formally announces that the 2022 Senior & Veteran Commonwealth Fencing Championships will be held in London.*

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**We will continue to update our COVID-19 advice [here](#).**

**You can also subscribe to our new weekly FENCING DIGEST email featuring the previous week's latest news and announcements. [Sign up here](#).**

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**HONESTY  
RESPECT  
EXCELLENCE**



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Why am I receiving this? Click [here](#) to find out!

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Please Note: The Club Digest is targeted at England based clubs and will focus on England initiatives. Some content maybe relevant and useable for other Home Country based clubs. More information is available on the British Fencing website.

By clicking this [Unsubscribe](#) link, you will unsubscribe from all our communications.

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