

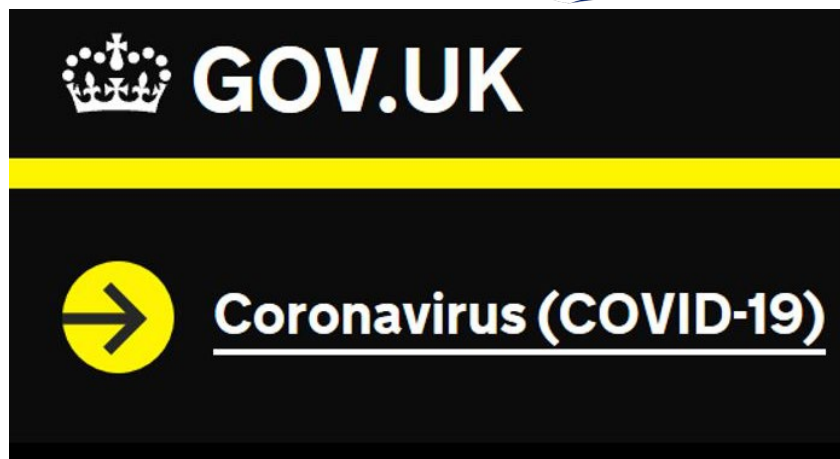


Dear British,

## Returning to Fencing in 2021, what can you be doing?

This latest digest looks to round up what clubs can be doing now in order to prepare for their return to fencing as well as looking at some new initiatives BF have recently released. We can all agree its been a tough time for clubs and members but at BF we are working to ensure that when we can open our doors again we can support our members in all that they may need.

### GENERAL INFORMATION



LOCKDOWN LATEST

**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](#).**

On 4th January the PM announced a national lockdown to counter the steep rise in coronavirus (Covid-19) infections in England.

The national lockdown restrictions mean you should minimise time spent outside your home.

It's against the law to meet socially with family or friends unless they're part of your household or support bubble. You can only leave your home to exercise, and not for the purpose of recreation or leisure (e.g. a picnic or a social meeting). This should be limited to once per day, and you shouldn't travel outside your local area.

You can exercise in a public outdoor place:

- by yourself
- with the people you live with
- with your support bubble (if you're legally permitted to form one)
- in a childcare bubble where providing childcare
- or, when on your own, with one person from another household (going for a walk with someone counts as exercise).

Public outdoor places include:

- parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests
- public gardens (whether or not you pay to enter them)
- the grounds of a heritage site
- playgrounds.

Outdoor sports venues, including tennis courts, golf courses and swimming pools, must close.

There are two exemptions to the national lockdown restrictions for sport and activity:

- Organised outdoor sport for disabled people is allowed to continue.
- Elite sportspeople (and their coaches if necessary, or parents/guardians if they are under 18) – or those on an official elite sports pathway – are allowed to meet in larger groups, to compete and train. (An explanation of how the elite exemption applies in fencing can be found [here](#)).

The full government guidance can be found [here](#).

What this means specifically for fencing and fencing clubs:

- Sports clubs/facilities are required to close to grass roots sport
- No indoor fencing activity in any setting will be able to take place
- 1:1 training/coaching outside in an outdoor public place (not private gardens) is allowed, provided that the fencer does not travel outside of their local area (village, town or city area).

Please note that using metal swords in an outdoor public space is typically not permitted under previous (non Covid-19 related) legislation. Permission must be granted by the landowner/landlord/local authority.

- Fencing competitions will not be able to take place.
- The only exemptions to the above will be for designated elite athletes – in fencing, this exemption will only be used by BF in exceptional cases to prepare athletes for the Olympic Zonal competitions as part of a BF managed elite programme (in line with the government's [Elite Return to Training guidance](#)). Elite activity will be subject to a further risk assessment prior to commencing in light of the current situation.

*Please note that this guidance applies in England – people in [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) must follow the specific rules in those parts of the UK.*

## QUESTIONS AROUND COVID?

If you have any queries regarding COVID 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).

## IN FOCUS



## INTRODUCING THE GB LEAGUE

BF is delighted to announce the GB League, a new initiative to encourage members back into affiliated club fencing once restrictions are lifted.

In anticipation of the restrictions around participating in sport lifting across the UK later in 2021, BF is delighted to announce a new initiative to encourage members back into affiliated club fencing with the launch of the GB League.

**Watch our informational webinar [here](#) to understand more about the purpose of league and how it will work.**

The GB League is a new recreational league which will see BF members (recreational level and above) earn league points for participating in competitive club fencing in designated league sessions held by affiliated clubs.

Georgina Usher, BF CEO, said, *“One of our top priorities this year is to support our clubs as they restart and rebuild. The new GB League offering forms part of our work to encourage members back into club fencing by creating fun opportunities for club fencers to earn GB league points for competitive sparring at club nights.”*

The GB League will remove traditional boundaries of age groups and gender as any 5 hit or 15 hit match between two fencers in a league session will earn both fencers one or more league points which in turn will contribute to overall GB League national leader boards in Epee, Foil & Sabre.

Logistically, running a GB League session is as simple as running a normal competitive fencing club session, with no formal requirements for referees, piste layouts or timed bouts. Organisers will also have access to GB League asset packs, which will include ‘how to’ guides (eg how to register your session and return your results) and social media promotion templates (to use in promoting your club’s league sessions).

The GB League is powered by Playwaze, a digital activity platform customised for our use. Clubs will use Playwaze to set up their sessions, take entries (and payments if the club chooses to charge an entry fee) and enter results. Participants can download the app and use it to set up their own profiles and view the latest GB League Leaderboards.

Hannah Gavin, Development Officer Clubs and Regions, said, *“We appreciate that many clubs are adapting to different restrictions and not all will be able to re-start/re-open at the same time. Once clubs are able to offer competitive sparring we’d encourage them to contact us and get involved with the GB League.”*

Thank to support from the National Lottery there will be no charges set by BF for participation by BF affiliated clubs and members (recreational or above) in 2021. Clubs may choose to apply a small additional fees to their members and apply their standard club visitor fees.

Information about the GB League, including a webinar for clubs can be found [here](#), at the GB League Zone.

Further information on Format, Rules and Regulations, and an FAQs page coming soon.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL**



## ARE WE GETTING THE MESSAGE RIGHT?

There's still time 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 mid February 2021 and key insights will be shared on the BF website. Please share with your members.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

## CLUB ADVICE

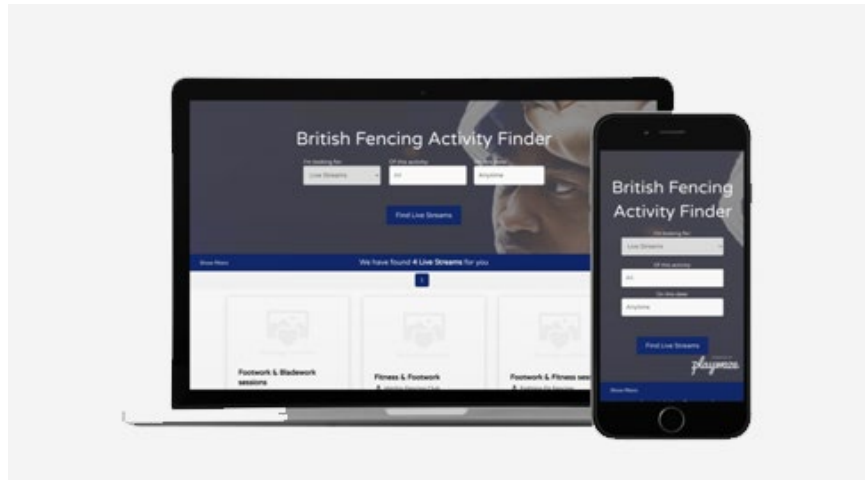
### UPDATE YOUR CLUB'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Make sure all contacts on your club profile are up to date to ensure that the club is kept in the loop with all the latest information.

1. **CLUB ADMINS** - Check your club details are up to date on the Sport80 membership platform. We are still getting a number of undelivered messages when we send emails, to club contacts. Please ask your club secretary to check and update the club profile if necessary.
2. **COACHES AND WELFARE OFFICERS** - It's a good time to check that all your coaches and welfare officers are up to date with their required certificates. Remember you can add them to our online Coach Register and Welfare Officer lists (see our requirements for coaches here and welfare officer guidance here).
3. **COVID-19 OFFICERS** - 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.

4. **MEMBERS** - Encourage your members to check their own details are up to date on the Sport80 membership platform.



## HAS YOUR CLUB LOGGED INTO PLAYWAZE YET?

We launched our partnership with Playwaze back in September 2020 and alongside the track and trace functionality, the platform is also powering the evolved BF activity finder that displays all affiliated clubs, sessions (both virtual/online and physical) and our new BFTV content.

The system is accessible for BF affiliated clubs and profiles are ready to be 'claimed' by club admins. If you need to be re-sent your exclusive link please don't hesitate to get in touch and start your journey (Hannah.gavin@britishfencing.com). Clubs will have control of their profile so they can start to get members signed up for free straight away.

In accordance with BF's Return to Fencing guidelines, all clubs are required to have a COVID-19 officer and a track and trace system in place to restart activity. Hannah Gavin, Development Officer for Clubs and Regions says, *"Clubs need an online system that can be accessed easily in case they have to contact fencing session participants. Paper systems are easily lost and handwriting is sometimes hard to read. An easy, digital system is ideal."*

In preparing to return why not check out our information around running a successful virtual session for your members? It's more important than ever to stay connected.

### FOR CLUBS:

Following our [online content guidelines](#), your club can offer safe sessions to your members. Sessions can be managed and participants can join through your Playwaze profile for free.

### FOR COACHES:

Check out the useful [online guidelines](#) available for coaches wanting to maintain best practise when coaching online. You are insured to deliver online sessions if you maintain your status as a [registered coach](#).

For more information about the Playwaze platform and to view a past webinar around the Track and Trace functionality available please [click here](#).



## **INVITATION TO COMPETITION ORGANISERS TO DISCUSS EVENT RISK MITIGATION PROTOCOLS**

As we plan for the restart of fencing competitions, we would like to hear event organisers ideas and practical contributions on how to run a competition under the guidance and restrictions likely to be in place once fencing resumes.

We also welcome experienced event volunteers who have views on how their event role and working environment can be adapted to minimise risk.

The discussion events will follow a similar format to the Community Discussion Events held previously.

To sign up for the first event which will be held on Feb 11th at 6pm please [click here](#).

Following the first event BF will draft specific guidance which will be presented for further comment at the second event on March 11th at 6pm.

Register your interest for both events [here](#). Invites will be sent ahead of the event time and those interested are invited to join both events if possible.

The full schedule for community discussion events can be found [here](#).

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## **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.**



## [COMMUNITY CLUB RESTART FUND DEADLINE EXTENDED](#)

*Deadline for the Community Club Restart Fund has been extended until 15th February 2021.*

The deadline for applications for the Covid-19 Community Club Restart Fund has been extended until the 15th February 2021. Following feedback from the community, as well as the tightening of lockdown restrictions across the UK at the start of 2021, we have extended the...

## [FENCING FOR EVERYONE: #ITRIEDFENCING IS AVAILABLE ON BFTV](#)

*The series of 8 videos with fun activities and coaching lessons is available on BFTV. Try one or more activities and claim your certificate of participation!*

Fencing is more accessible than ever with the #ITriedFencing activities you can start right now from home on BFTV.

Created during UK's first lockdown in 2020, #ITriedFencing is a great way to introduce fencing to young people in a fun way, adapted to your...

## [NOMINATIONS FOR BF HONOURS AND AWARDS 2021](#)

*The British Fencing Honours Committee invites British Fencing members to nominate individuals for British Fencing awards. The process for so doing is now open and will close on the 28th May 2021.*

The Honours Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the British Fencing Board for British Fencing awards (responsibility for recommendations for Queen's or...

## [CANCELLATION OF BRITISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021](#)

*BF announce the cancellation of the 2021 British Schools Championships, originally scheduled for March 2021.*

Due to the impact of ongoing restrictions across the UK, the British Schools Championships, scheduled for 6-7th March 2021 have been cancelled.

We are in continual consultation with our community and in reaching this decision we have taken into account the feedback that...

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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.

British Fencing 1 Baron's Gate 33-35 Rothschild Road London, London, City of W4 5HT United Kingdom