

Return to Training 18th August 2020

Coach's Conference Q & A

Q. How often are you getting information from the Government and Sport England etc are they giving regular status updates?

A. We are speaking with other members of the Contact Sport group and to Sport England on a weekly basis for updates. There is a joint effort to work with the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and Public Health England (PHE) to gain approval to move to the next stage of social distancing relaxation.

Q. I have a question about the sparring development squad. Are they back training and if so, in what format are they back?

A. Any activity taking place at the National Taekwondo Centre is taking place under elite training guidance and controls with the permission of DCMS. Activity that is not taking place at the National Taekwondo Centre (in clubs) is as per the (Phase 1) BT Return to Training guidance with full social distancing measures.

Q. So, there is the situation where we are teaching outdoor classes and not allowed to use mitts for kicking and have to keep everyone 2m apart... and then right alongside us in the park, we have a children's football club match going on with full on tackling and contact? It does seem like one rule for one group and another rule for another? How do we justify this lack of balance between sports to parents and members?

A. Some community level team sports have had their return to play plans and higher phases approved by DCMS and PHE.

Many individual sports have not, especially combat sports, and Taekwondo is in this category.
Frustrating but the current position.

Q. What about people/clubs not following the guidelines?

A. People / Clubs not following the guidelines are places themselves and their members at risk.

Anyone wishing to report a suspected breach, can report this by using the local police authority website – search “How do I report a Covid breach” and it will come up

BT is not a Covid enforcement body

However, in the event of a serious negligence claim against a coach, the coaches indemnity insurance may be at risk of being invalid.

Q. Any indications on Dan Gradings this year?

A. BT's central Dan grading is still in the diary and scheduled for 6th December at the National Taekwondo Centre in Manchester. A final decision on whether this will go ahead will be taken at the end of September.

Senior Masters wishing to conduct their own Dan grading events must ensure that the gradings are thorough, fair and follow the current government guidance relating to social distancing at the time of the grading.

If sparring and other close proximity work is not permitted due to Covid restrictions, examiners must find alternative and robust methods to test the candidate's abilities.

In addition, as Dan gradings are supposed to be a “lifetime experience”, examiners must ensure the event is sufficiently prestigious and high value for the participants.

Many masters have decided to wait until Covid restrictions have been lifted before conducting Dan grades to ensure the quality of the grading.

Q. What about insurance for students, if the club can't get back?

- A. All members who are training in any form, online, outdoors or in limited indoor sessions are covered as long as their membership is current.
Members who do not renew their BT licences, as the club is still closed, should renew them once the club restarts and they begin training. The membership will automatically start up from the new month.

Q. Can you please confirm that outdoor class sizes in England are only limited by the amount of space available to maintain distance?

- A. Outdoor classes are limited to maximum gatherings of 30 people (the coach counts as 1 of the 30 people) from any number of households at any one time in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.
Clubs doing this need to note on their risk assessments and implementation plans that they are operating under Out of School Setting (OOSS) government guidance and adhere to the social distancing guidance of 2m.
In Scotland outdoor classes are limited to a maximum gathering of up to 15 people from up to 5 households (the coach counts as 1 of the 15 people and 1 of the 5 households) in Scotland.

Q. What can I do if my centre/facility won't allow my classes back in?

- A. Speak to your Local Authority or County Sports Partnership Development Officer in the first instance then contact the Facility Manager with their backing to highlight the benefits of Taekwondo on the physical and mental health of the local community and the need for your sessions to start back. (weight-loss, improved physical fitness and mobility, improved mental health such as increased confidence and self-esteem etc)
Also send the facility the clubs full risk assessment and implementation plan to demonstrate you are Covid prepared and a good model.

Q. Can you confirm there is no limit on numbers training inside as long as individuals not from the same household keep 2 metres apart?

- A. As long as everyone in your indoor session can socially distance in accordance with the Government guidance and BT Return to Training guidance, there is no limit to the numbers taking part. Current guidance recommends a 9 square metre (100 square feet) area for each individual participating who is from a different household.

Q. Will the AGM be on Zoom?

- A. The AGM is scheduled for the 5th December and at the National Taekwondo Centre in Manchester.
If Covid restrictions prevent this, BT will make alternative arrangements for voting and attending.
That decision will be taken in October

Q. It appears that if people shout loudly then the government changes their decisions quicker (e.g. Exam Results, Recreational cricket) can BT/ BT Members doing anything to "shout louder"? Particularly where obvious discrepancies between activities exist?

- A. This is the sad reality – with large team sports and sports with financial and political influence getting more attention. This is why the combat sports NGB's have come together to speak as one larger voice. This is working and we have a dialogue with Sport England and the DCMS. They are considering our collective return to contact and return to competition plans but have not given approval or a date yet.
PHE and DCMS are moving at different speeds with different sports and it is not a level playing field.
We are very vocal and doing all we can.

Q. If we follow the guidance and someone links a case of COVID-19 back to the club, will our BT insurance cover us?

A. As per the earlier answer, coach's indemnity insurance is valid as long as they follow the social distancing guidance – currently at Phase 1 and as per BT's Return to Training guidance document issued in July 2020.