

Squash Wales

Return to Play – Latest update 02.06.2020



Squash Wales is closely monitoring the Welsh Government advice around the coronavirus situation. All squash activity in Wales remains suspended following the Government's advice to close sports facilities. We are very eager to see Squash return as soon as it possibly can, in a safe way that is aligned to Welsh Government advice.

Squash clubs and facilities should continue to remain closed until further notice following the Welsh Government's latest address on the 29th May 2020 and FAQ section:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-review-lockdown-measures-and-health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-wales>

<https://gov.wales/changes-coronavirus-regulations-1-june-frequently-asked-questions>

Specifically, in relation to Sport:

"We will also reassess the options in relation to the following matters at the next review on 18 June:"

- Enabling non-professional elite athletes, such as our Olympic athletes, to train safely

This means that, although all squash clubs and facilities should continue to remain closed until further notice, as per the guidance, Welsh Government are actively consulting with Sport Wales and stakeholders on ways to unlock our society in relation to sport.

Phased Return to Sport Planning Groups

Squash Wales along with Sport Wales, other governing bodies / WSA are currently in discussions with Welsh Government actively looking at getting sport back via various Sport planning groups that have recently been set up.

The WSA has established 6 discussion groups. These groups will feed into Government lockdown review procedures based on the setting in which sports are primarily played. Groups have been tasked to establish a broad set of principles and mitigation measures for a safe return to activity. The intent is to streamline the decision-making process for Government and facilitate good consultation with sport as a whole.

Squash Wales along with Sport Wales, other governing bodies and WSA are currently involved within these Sport Planning Groups.

All groups are actively looking at getting sport back. We will be sharing the updates from the Phased Return to Sport Planning Groups that Squash is involved in as soon as these have been finalised and circulated.

Phased Return to Sport Planning – Discussion Group A – Outdoor Individual Sports. This planning and discussion group is looking at a phased return for outdoor individual sports.

Phased Return to Sport Planning – Discussion Group B – Indoor Individual Sports. This planning and discussion group is looking at a phased return for indoor individual sports.

Phased Return to Sport Planning – Discussion Group C – Outdoor Team & Multi Participant. This planning and discussion group is looking at a phased return for outdoor individual sports.

Phased Return to Sport Planning – Discussion Group D – Indoor Team & Multi Participant Sport. This planning and discussion group is looking at a phased return for indoor team & multi participant activity.

Phased Return to Sport Planning – WSA Discussion Group E – Sport & Leisure Facilities. This planning and discussion group is looking at a phased return for sport and leisure facilities.

Phased Return to Sport Planning – Discussion Group F – Elite Sport. This planning and discussion group is looking at a phased return for elite sport.

We will continue to monitor Welsh Government guidance and will provide further information here as it arises.

Return to Play

- We are creating a *Return to Play* resource pack to support clubs and coaches and assist in the organisation and promotion of on-court activity
- Guidelines/recommendations for a safe return to play are being prepared for a range of different scenarios

Competitions & Leagues

- All competitions across June, July and August have been cancelled.
- We are working with other national governing bodies to devise guidelines for safe play / social distancing for clubs and tournament organisers that are likely to be required over the coming months.
- We are currently working through a review process for all competitions next season (looking at formats and scheduling)
- There was a statement from Squash Wales regarding Welsh Leagues sent out on 18th May: <https://www.squash.wales/league-squash-in-wales/>

Player Pathway

- The new Squash Wales Player Pathway is now complete and has been emailed out in both Welsh and English language to all our Academy Members. The date of the webinar has also been finalised and is set for Monday 8th June 2020.

Details on how to join have been emailed to all academy members, if you would like to join, please email your request to info@squash.wales.

- Squash Wales continue to update coaches corner this section of the website weekly with new information to help guide and support all our members through this lockdown period

Support

- **Emergency Relief Fund.** The Welsh Government have now increased this fund to £550,000 to help clubs across Wales get through these difficult times.
- Sport Wales funding – Emergency relief fund : <https://www.sport.wales/content-vault/emergency-relief-fund/>

General

- Squash Wales Covid-19 update: <https://www.squash.wales/covid-19/>

Coaches Corner

<https://www.squash.wales/coaching/coaches-corner/>

Squash Wales are here to support our members during these difficult times.

Please get in touch with us if you have any concerns or questions.

Please distribute this email to all your members within your club.

Any further information required contact Squash Wales: info@squash.wales