

Squash Wales

Return to Play – Latest update 09.06.2020



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.

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.

Squash clubs and facilities should continue to remain closed until further notice following the Welsh Governments 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>

Phased Return to Sport Planning Groups

WSA has been working with the Welsh Government and Sport Wales to guide a responsible and managed return to sport in Wales.

Working towards each phase of the review of the lockdown regulations, every 21 days. WSA has convened groups looking at the challenges faced by different parts of the sporting landscape in Wales. Groups made up of NGBs, facility providers and other interested parties to examine the potential easing of lockdown and the challenges that will arise.

Initially, six groups were put in place, looking at

- Outdoor Sports, played individually or socially distanced
- Outdoor Team Sports
- Indoor Sports played individually or socially distanced
- Indoor Team Sports
- Facility providers
- Elite and Professional Sports/Athletes.

These groups have since been cut down to four, retaining single **Outdoor** and **Indoor** groups, as well as **Facility** providers and **Elite** groups. Each group feed evidence and suggestions into the Welsh Government that can be taken into consideration for the easing of regulation. They also provide a forum for sharing good practice as we move through lockdown.

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

During the last 21-day review of lockdown, groups were clear that easing of travel restrictions would facilitate a great deal of return to activity in Wales and this was taken into account by Welsh Government in it's announcements. Following the First Minister of Wales statement on the 29 May, we now expect that the reopening of outdoors sports courts, currently closed in law, might be possible after the 21 June and will be working towards this.

Groups meet regularly, currently at least twice every three weeks, with WSA, Sport Wales and Welsh Government involved in each call, in order to gather evidence.

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 – Outdoor Individual & Multi Participant Sports. This planning and discussion group is looking at a phased return for outdoor sports.

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

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

Update

This discussion group are at the final stages for submitting proposals for a return to play to Welsh Government in readiness for the next 21-day review of the lockdown.

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

- The Masters Home internationals for 2020 have been cancelled-they will return in 2021
- 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

- Squash Wales Player Pathway webinar took place on Monday 8th June, 39 participants registered. The webinar was recorded and is available to view upon request. Please email danielle.brown@squash.wales for details.

- 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

- WSA weekly Covid-19 update: <https://www.squash.wales/wsa-covid-19-update-08-06-2020/>
- 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