

04/11/20

Dear colleagues,

I'm writing to confirm that, following conversations with our colleagues in Government, elite sport (training and competition) can continue to operate during the lockdown period.

That means that elite athletes will be able to continue to train behind closed doors. Facilities will be able to facilitate access by elite athletes whilst not contravening any Government guidance. The Government has confirmed that sports centres will be closed to the general public whilst lockdown restrictions are in place.

Please do familiarise yourself with the guidance as published on the Government website at the following [link](#).

To avoid any confusion, we would like to remind you of the definition of an 'elite athlete' in this case.

"An "elite athlete" is a person who is:

- *an individual who derives a living from competing in a sport*
- *a senior representative nominated by a relevant sporting body*
- *a member of the senior training squad for a relevant sporting body, or*
- *aged 15 or above and on an elite development pathway.*

For these purposes, a "relevant sporting body" is the national governing body of a sport which may nominate athletes to represent either (a) Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Tokyo, or the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Beijing, or (b) England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man at the Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham in those sports which are not part of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games programme.

A "senior representative" means a person who is considered by a relevant sporting body to be a candidate to qualify to compete on behalf of (a) Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Tokyo or Beijing, or (b) England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man at the Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham in those sports which are not part of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games programme.

An "elite development pathway" means a development pathway established by the national governing body of a sport to prepare athletes (a) so that they may derive a living from

competing in that sport, or (b) to compete in that sport in the Olympic or Paralympic Games.”

For the avoidance of doubt, we would expect your application of the definition of an “elite development pathway” to include athletes identified by their Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth sports National Governing Body, as part of longer term development programmes.

This may include, for example, an Under 23s development squad or athletes on pathway programmes targeting funded places success in future cycles, but the exact thresholds will vary from sport to sport, and would be for the NGB to set in line with our overarching guidance on elite and professional sport.

DCMS guidance references that the return to cross border competition remains intact alongside the other stages and, as per previous agreement with DCMS, NGBs are able to grant quarantine exemptions under this guidance for athletes and ancillary staff returning to the UK from overseas travel. Additional guidance concerning quarantine exemptions can be found [here](#).

I’m sure we all recognise that elite sport in England has been granted a crucial dispensation over and above the different and changing levels of HM Government restrictions that are in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is vital that we fully respect the dispensation as granted, ensuring that as NGBs and WCPs you fully comply with all requirements and recognise we all have a collective responsibility to the high performance system to apply the dispensation only as detailed.

As always please do get in touch with any questions or concerns and do remember that the opportunity to apply for financial support from UK Sport’s Continuity Fund remains open for applications until **10am on Monday 9 November**.

Best wishes,



Sally Munday
Chief Executive
UK Sport