

Dromahair Arts & Recreation Centre
Association Ltd.

POLICY DOCUMENT

Safe use of Facilities with regard to COVID-
19

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The following document has been prepared by the Dromahair Arts & Recreation Centre Association Ltd. (DARC) and takes into account National Guidelines for the safe return to sports activities following the Governments announcement of the lifting of restrictions (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7ae99f-easing-the-covid-19-restrictions-on-june-8-phase-2/>).

This document in adopting best national practice, draws upon and uses much of the advice provided in the GAA publication 'Safe Return to Gaelic Games' (<https://www.gaa.ie/news/covid-19-update-safe-return-to-gaelic-games/>).

The primary concern for DARC is to allow patrons access to the community facilities in as safe a manner as is possible.

Organisational supervision of sporting activities will be primarily the responsibility of the organisational users (i.e. GAA, LGFA, IFA, Local Groups etc.). DARC will however conduct routine spot checks with regard to how measures are being implemented onsite.

1.2 Community Usage

For the initial Phase 2 lifting of restrictions, usage of the facilities will be primarily for patrons of the Dromahair and surrounding community.

This will be reviewed adaptively on an ongoing basis.

2 Medical Information

2.1 General Advice

The GAA COVID-19 Safe Return to Gaelic Games¹ (please refer for further information) provides an overview with regard to Medical Information under the headings described below:

- Background Information;
- Transmission of Virus;
- Symptoms;
- Staying Safe - 5 Rules to Follow:
 - Wash your hands frequently;
 - Maintain social distancing;
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth;
 - Practice respiratory hygiene;
 - If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early
- Assessing Risk/Vulnerable Groups;
- Risk – Adult v Underage players

The document also provides a Health Questionnaire which should be used by every individual before attending any GAA gatherings. DARC will use a similar template for all group's and organisations who wish to use the All Weather Astro Facility.

2.2 Health Questionnaire/Temperature Checks

Prior to each training session, or sports gatherings on the All Weather Astro Facility, and until further notice, players, parent/guardian and backroom personnel should complete the self-administered standard risk assessment health questionnaire ("Health Questionnaire" - this will be covered in the Gaelic Games online education module, or similar organisational alternative, e.g. FAI etc.) – see Appendix 1 (Section 5 of this Document). Symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, general weakness, shortness of breath, and change in taste or smell will be identified. Each participant is also advised to check & record their temperature on the health questionnaire. The presence of symptoms, or temperature over 37.5°C precludes attendance. In such circumstances, the individual should telephone their GP for advice and management.

These measures will be reviewed in conjunction with national public health advice.

REMEMBER: Positive symptomatology or temperature over 37.5°C precludes attendance.

¹ <https://www.gaa.ie/news/covid-19-update-safe-return-to-gaelic-games/>

3 Preparing for a Safe Return

3.1 Facilities

3.1.1 Playground, Gym Equipment & Walkway

General measures outlined in this document, should as good practice be applied, where practicable to the users of the Playground, Gym Equipment and Walkway. This is with the exception of 'Scheduling' and the appointment of a dedicated COVID responsible person.

Individuals and groups will use the playground, gym equipment & walkway at their own risk and take the obvious precautions that apply, including compliance with the signage which will be erected on site.

Young children using the Playground should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. We now know that children are not 'super-spreaders' and are not particularly susceptible to this disease as stated by WHO.

3.1.2 Dressing Rooms

The Dressing Rooms will remain closed until further notice.

3.1.3 Toilets

The Toilets will not be opened to the public until further notice (This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis). Once opened, patrons will be required to comply with COVID-19 Signage Guidelines which will be provided therein.

3.1.4 GAA Football Field

GAA Guidance (Safe Return to Gaelic Games) will apply to users of the GAA Football Field.

3.1.5 Astro Turf

Scheduling of activities

The following is an outline of the approach to scheduling and usage of the Multi Purpose Astro Turf:

- Booking shall be conducted through the current website facility;
 - Bookings will be for one hour intervals with a 15 minute gap between each group as per our online booking system;
 - **Access to the facility shall be via a one-way system.** Those entering the facility shall use the path on the Dromahair Abbey side of the GAA football field; they shall walk down along the forest path and enter the facility via the forest entrance gate. Those leaving the facility shall leave via the riverside gate and walk back to the carpark via the playground;
 - Details of the responsible COVID-19 supervisor (See section 3.4) shall be provided for every user group;
 - Every user group will be required to confirm by way of email that all users have gone through the Health Questionnaire Assessment which is provided in Appendix 1 (Section 5 of this document). It shall be the responsibility of the COVID-19 Responsible person to retain the list of all attendees in the event of this being required for future contact tracing;
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- **The principle of “get in, train and get out” will apply;**
- **Those entering the facility shall not do so until such time as a play area is completely free.**

Intensity of Usage

See section (4.1.7).

Pitch side

Signage regarding social distancing, personal contact, coughing, sneezing, spitting, hand sanitizing will be clearly visible. Only players and essential team personnel should gain access to the Astro enclosure. Medical personnel (physios, doctors) should wear masks.

3.2 Signage

Appropriate signage in line with public health guidelines will be placed at the **playground** and on the **walkway** to the Multi purpose Astro Turf.

These signs will be clearly visible and easy to understand. Signs will emphasize the government’s recommended social distancing rules (2m at present), hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, avoidance of personal contact, shaking hands and spitting etc.

3.3 Hand gel dispensers

Hand dispensers will be provided on the front of the pavilion and inside the gates of the Astro Turf. **All waste should be brought home for disposal.**

3.4 COVID Supervisors

Every club, organisation and group using the facilities will be required to have a number of COVID-19 Supervisors. These supervisors will be required to have completed online modules from an appropriate and trusted source, e.g. GAA, FAI, etc.

Every group using the facilities will be required to nominate someone with responsibility for COVID-19 Supervision present at each training session or game. These nominees will be required to have conducted online training from a trusted source (GAA, FAI, etc.)

COVID-19 Supervisors for each group using the facilities will be on duty and will be clearly identifiable (for example, standardized bib) until further notice

Broadly speaking the main duties of the COVID-19 Supervisor will include:

- a. Distributing and collating player and backroom Health Questionnaires before each session or game;
- b. Ensuring sanitising of facilities is completed before and after each training session of game (e.g. gate handles etc.)
- c. Maintaining records of attendees,

3.4.1 The Health Questionnaire:

Prior to each training session, players and support staff will complete a standard risk assessment health questionnaire (**“Health Questionnaire - see Appendix 1, Section 5 of this Document**). Further

information on this process will be covered in the Gaelic Games online education module – in the case of underage players, the questionnaire should be signed by a parent or guardian.

3.4.2 Temperature Checking

Each participant will record their temperature on the health questionnaire. **DARC will not be taking responsibility for conducting on-site temperature checks – although some clubs, organisations or groups may wish to do this of their own accord.** The presence of symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, general weakness, shortness of breath and change or absence in taste or smell prevents attendance with a recommendation that the player contacts their general practitioner

3.4.3 Sanitising of facilities

At the end of each training session (or game), the COVID-19 Supervisor should ensure all gate handles, playing equipment (e.g. balls, hurleys, sliotars etc.) are sanitised.

3.4.4 Attendance records/data management

The COVID-19 Supervisor will ensure that the record of everybody attending each training session (or game) will be available in the event that contact tracing or other intervention is required. Data management will be consistent with GDPR guidelines.

3.4.5 Protocol for Participation

Players and team personnel should be provided with this document and have completed the Gaelic Games online education module prior to participation (or similar alternative). Participants are also required to change at home, travel separately (except family members), shower at home and where possible use toilet facilities at home. Strapping should be applied at home. All players should use their own individual and clearly labelled water bottles.

4 Information for Players and Team Personnel

4.1 Key Control Measures for players, coaches and backroom personnel

These measures are aimed at minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and every person using the DARC facilities has a responsibility to adhere to them at all times.

Personal hygiene, self-isolation if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, social distancing, restricting group numbers and limiting travel are the most effective means of prevention of the spread of the virus. In the team environment, both in training and games, undertaking even more careful measures to avoid exposure and spread will be paramount.

Until medical advice permits otherwise, the Key Control Measures (for players, coaches and general users) to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and allow for safe reuse of the DARC facilities is as follows:

4.1.1 Education & Awareness:

- Complete the online Gaelic Games online education module through the GAA eLearning platform – or similar alternative, e.g. FAI, etc.
- Ensure continued awareness of safety protocols relating to your role as a player, coach or mentor.

4.1.2 Pre-Attendance Screening

All players and personnel will be required to comply with the following **requirements every day they are going to attend training sessions or games until further notice:**

- Complete the health questionnaire before leaving home (see Appendix 1). This will require you to identify if you have any symptom(s) - the presence of symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, general weakness, shortness of breath and change or absence in taste or smell prevents attendance with a recommendation that the player contacts their general practitioner. **The completed form should be presented to the COVID-19 Supervisor on entry to the facility.**
- Ensure you have recorded your body temperature prior to entering the training or playing facility. If your temperature is above 37.5C you must return home and consider contacting your general practitioner for advice or referral.
- If a player develops symptoms of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the player should not attend a training session, skills practice session or game, and will need to self-isolate immediately and phone their GP for medical advice. The player should not attend the medical practice or surgery of their doctor, or pharmacy, healthcare clinic or hospital. The doctor will evaluate the symptoms over the telephone and provide the necessary medical advice

4.1.3 Adhere to hygiene best practice

- Frequent hand washing, sanitising, and regular cleaning and washing of gear and equipment.
 - Avoid the following: spitting, sharing water bottles, touching high contact surfaces (e.g. door handles);
 - Use of face masks where applicable
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4.1.4 Observe Government advised social distance guidelines (currently 2m) until further notice

4.1.5 Avoid or Reduce body contact to a minimum

- Shaking hands, clapping hands, 'high fives' and embracing to be completely avoided;
- Until measures are reduced, physical contact must be avoided. In Phase 3, only non-contact training can take place

4.1.6 Travel to and from training – follow Government social distancing advice in relation to all forms of transport to training and play

- If possible, walk or cycle to the venue
- If travelling by private vehicle, such as a car, only travel with members of the same household

4.1.7 Reduced training groups – the following outlines permitted numbers through the phases:

- Until further notice, teams must only train in small groups and adhere to social distancing guidelines (**currently 2 metres**);
- Small groups (**not more than 13 players/2 coaches in a designated area of the pitch**) for non-contact training under social distancing guidelines – where players can maintain the Government advised distance from each other (currently 2 metres);
Note: Underage groups must be comprised in accordance with the ratios provided for by the Code of Behaviour. Parental or guardian sign off on the Health Questionnaire will be required for underage participation).
- Players should refrain from full contact training until further notice;
- Coaches and support personnel must observe social distancing rules at all times;

4.2 Education

All players (parents or guardians in the case of underage players) and personnel involved in training must complete the Gaelic Games online education module (or similar alternative such as FAI, etc.) which will be available on the GAA eLearning portal and **record or document a certificate of completion for the COVID-19 Supervisor prior to any resumption of training and/or playing activities.**

Players (parents or guardians in the case of underage players) and personnel will sign the Health Questionnaire (sample included as Appendix 1) indicating that they understand the risks involved in participation, that they are participating on a voluntary basis and that all participants may opt-out at the start or at any time before or after resumption of training and playing activities.

4.3 Responsibility

It is essential that everyone using the facilities works together to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

- Each **group, or organisation using the facilities** will be responsible for ensuring that a COVID-19 Supervisor is assigned to each team, and will ensure the full cooperation of participating officials, coaches, mentors, players, medical and sports science and allied support personnel and parents;
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- **A list of each COVID Supervisor will be provided to DARC in advance of all usage;**
 - Each COVID-19 Supervisor will be responsible for ensuring COVID-19 protocols, including collation of health questionnaires, and cleaning and sanitising of facilities are followed. They will also be responsible for ensuring only necessary personnel are admitted to the venue for a training session or game;
 - Each Mentor and Player shall ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines within their own area and for health and safety of their colleagues;
 - Parents/Guardians will be responsible for dropping underage players to, and collecting underage players from, training sessions or games in Phases 3 and 4 and until further notice.
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5 APPENDIX 1: HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

[To be retained by the appointed COVID-19 Supervisor]

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

TEAM: _____

NAME OF GP: _____

1. Have you been diagnosed with or do you believe you may currently have COVID-19?

Yes ____

No ____

2. Have you had any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

High temperature (i.e. over 37.5°C) Yes ____ No ____	Loss of sense of smell, of taste or distortion of taste Yes ____ No ____
New unexplained shortness of breath Yes ____ No ____	Have you been in contact with a COVID-19 confirmed or suspect case in the previous 14 days Yes ____ No ____
A new continuous cough Yes ____ No ____	

3. Please indicate Temperature as recorded today _____

If you have answered YES to any of these questions or if your temperature as recorded today was over 37.5°C, you should stay at home and contact your GP by phone for further advice.

If you have answered NO to all of the above questions, and your temperature as recorded today is lower than 37.5°C you may train or play with your team on the date specified above. Please sign this form to confirm that the details above are true to the best of your knowledge, that you or your guardian have completed the Gaelic Games online Education Module and to confirm that you understand the risks involved in participation, are participating on a voluntary basis and that you may opt-out at any time.

Signed:* _____

*(For underage players, this document should be signed by a Parent or Guardian)
