

COVID-SECURE

UNIVERSITY EVENT GUIDE



**BRITISH
DODGEBALL**

Introduction

University events can continue even in High Risk and Very High Risk COVID Alert Levels in England. They can also take place in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland unless there is a specific indoor sports ban in place.

Our number one priority in all we do is the safety of our players and staff. Due to the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic, events must be run under stricter rules and regulations to ensure safety of all concerned. The following regulations must be adhered to by all clubs competing in British Dodgeball University events during the 2020/21 season. Any clubs that fail to adhere to these guidelines may face sanctions or be asked to leave the event. This document is intended to provide detailed information on how event days will take place in order to ensure all participants and club leaders are confident that British Dodgeball is doing everything necessary to protect the safety of participants. Before attending any event, please make sure you have read our [return to play guidance](#); any further questions should be directed to our Competitions Manager [Gareth Lewis](#).

All players competing in any British Dodgeball event will need [playing registration](#) with British Dodgeball before the event. Any teams found to have individuals who have not registered as a player will be at risk of sanctions.

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Event Entry & Registration

All event entry must be sought by contacting gareth@britishdodgeball.com to reserve your team's places. Entries will be granted on a first come first served basis. Please note as there will only be 8 teams per category (open events) there will be a limit of 2 teams per club in each category. Team sheets will need to be completed by the Wednesday prior to the event - this is vitally important for track and trace purposes. Failing to do so may result in your team not being able to participate.

Player, Ball Retriever & Coach Numbers

Teams are permitted a maximum of 8 or 9 people in their squad, depending on the event. These limits are imposed by the government - there can be no more than 1 person per 100 square feet in a sports hall. We will try to ensure each event allows 9 people per squad but this will not always be possible. Teams will be notified by email regarding the player limits at each event.

The squad of 8 or 9 can be made up of a combination of players, non-playing ball retrievers or non-playing coaches. All ball retrievers should be named and fixed for a full match and must adhere to the same rules around hand hygiene as players. Teams will not be allowed to borrow ball retrievers from other teams either from within their club or other clubs who are competing in the same category.

At events where there are two categories played in different timeslots a player may play in both categories if they are eligible e.g. a male player may play in the mixed category in the morning and then the men's category in the afternoon. Additionally, teams may list and use individuals who are not entered into their category as non-playing ball retrievers or coaches e.g. if men's are competing in the morning and women's in the afternoon, a women's team may list and use 2 men's players as ball retrievers. Anyone listed for both sessions will need to leave the hall during the transition between categories to allow cleaning to take place.

At events where there are squad sizes of 8 (6 players and 2 ball retrievers), it is included in the generally playing regulations that teams can drop down to using only one ball retriever each if necessary. This may be implemented in the case of injury: teams would change to a format of 6 players, 1 ball retriever, 1 injured party receiving first aid or acting as a coach.

Spectators

At this time, British Dodgeball is not permitting any spectators to attend events. The ten listed participants per team (plus a coach) are the only people allowed in the hall during their specified game or assistant refereeing time.

Assistant Referees

As per last season, each match will have another team allocated to be assistant referees. This will be communicated to all clubs prior to the event day. Each team should provide 1 competent centre line assistant referee who will need to bring their own stopwatch and whistle; this person will be the centre line referee for EACH of the matches their team are allocated as assistant referees, and that person should be identified on the team list submitted. Assistant referees are not required to wear face coverings. As we are trying to keep each group of 4 teams on the same court, the assistant referee's team will inevitably be from the same group as the 2 playing teams. Adherence to the Dodgeball Code is expected, if the British Dodgeball paid referee deems poor sportsmanship in this regard, sanctions may be taken and could affect entry into future events this season.

British Dodgeball Staff

Each event will have 2 qualified referees and 1 British Dodgeball event coordinator. All three members of staff will be vigilant on ensuring the COVID-specific rules are adhered to and sanitising procedures and being met.

Warm ups

Teams are not permitted to warm up in the hall prior to the start of play.

Game Play

Please read our rules and regulations for the 2020/21 season. Specific COVID-Secure regulations for game play are detailed below:

- All players must adhere to good hand hygiene at all times. This includes the use of hand sanitiser at the start, halfway point and end of each match.
- Face coverings are not permitted during game play
- No handshakes
- Avoid excessive shouting
- No dodgeballs to be placed near face when communicating with team mates
- Any breaks in play need to adhere to social distancing guidelines
- No team huddles
- Do not pick up balls from other courts, where possible use your foot to return them
- When changing ends at half time, both teams should keep to their left hand side of the court
- All communication between coaches/leaders and referees should be done whilst socially distant

When your team is not playing

At any one time, each court will have the two playing teams and an assistant referee team, this means there will be 2 teams not playing or refereeing. These two teams will need to vacate the hall area and wait outside until the coordinator indicates it is time for them to return inside for their next game. Whilst not in the hall, all players should not mix with other teams and adhere to the social distancing good practice.

Equipment

- Under no circumstances should teams bring their own dodgeballs to the event. Teams failing to adhere to this rules will face sanctions and may be asked to leave the event.
- Different colour balls will be used on each court and balls returned to the other court should be done safely do so without the use of hands.
- We ask that no one other than the British Dodgeball staff sets-up and packs away at events. This includes putting down tape, setting out netting, and pulling up tape at the end of the event.

Playing Kit

All players are asked to arrive dressed in playing kit ready to play. Players are permitted to change into indoor footwear in the hall if required.

Hand Sanitiser

Hand sanitiser will be available in the hall. All teams are also asked to bring their own hand sanitiser for the use of their players and coaches.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are not permitted during game play. Coaches and players are not required to wear a face covering whilst in the sport hall

Water Bottles and Drinks

It is advised that all players bring their own drinks bottles to the event, players should not share drinks bottles and should be responsible for their bottle at all times. Please respect other people and stick to the 2m rule when re filling bottles and fountains etc.

Entry & Exit

Each team will be given a specific entry time and must not enter the hall or congregate outside in groups of more than 6 prior to this time. Each team will be given a specific exit time and must leave the hall no later than this time. Teams are not permitted to congregate outside in groups of more than 6.

Changing rooms & Toilets

Toilets and changing rooms will be in use. Good hand hygiene must be used at all times. Changing rooms should not be a place of congregation when not playing, the event coordinator will monitor this through the day. If there are any venue-specific requirements e.g. changing rooms are out of use, we will communicate this to teams prior to the event.

Travel

Anyone attending University events should follow the [government's safer travel guidance for passengers](#) and any individual University guidelines. Players should try not to share a vehicle with those outside their household or support bubble. If players need to do this, they should try to:

- share transport with the same people each time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean cars between journeys using standard cleaning products, ensuring to clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION'S

How many teams will each event have?

We are able to safely have 8 teams per category. The categories will be split in to a morning and afternoon session with one category taking place before another begins. Clubs will initially be limited to 2 teams per category, with any additional team(s) being placed on a waiting list. There will be no mixing of categories, so if the male category is in the morning they will not be allowed at the venue during the afternoon (unless they are listed as a player, ball retriever or coach in the other category). There will be 45 period between the event categories allowing the morning participants to leave and the afternoon participants to arrive without mixing.

Have rules changed around court size and the number or players on court?

The only change is that each court will be 1 m wider so they are now 9m not 8m. As these court sizes have been changed to allow more room on court, games will still be played 6 v 6.

Will event coordinators provide first aid kits?

First aid kits are the responsibility of each club, and they should ensure that each team has access to a full first aid kit when attending events. As a minimum, we suggest the following to be included in this first aid kit:

- Ice packs
- Disposable gloves
- Sterile wipes
- Sterile wound dressings
- Plasters
- Triangular bandage
- Foil blanket
- Tape to secure dressings or tape fingers/toes
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Eye wash and sterile eye dressings

Injuries during play should still be treated, participant health and safety is of utmost importance.

If a participant gets injured, a member of their household or bubble can assist if present and appropriate, but others (including match officials, team mates and coaches) will still need to socially distance unless a serious injury necessitates compromising guidelines to provide emergency care. When treating an injury, appropriate PPE should be worn as well as a face covering.

After contact with an injured participant, the person who has administered first aid should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact, or the minimum 2m social distancing was maintained. The first aider should also avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose.

What track and trace measures are in place?

All players competing at British Dodgeball sanctioned tournaments, leagues and matches must complete [Playing Registration](#) prior to their first event of the season.

All competing teams must complete a COVID-19 team sheet for all participating players, coaches and ball retrievers before every event they enter. This form must be emailed to gareth@britishdodgeball.com the Wednesday prior to an event.

Will there be temperature testing?

We will not be completing temperature testing at our events. Prior to attending, all players, officials, volunteers and spectators must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. No-one should leave home to participate in any form of dodgeball if they, or someone they live with, has any of the following:

- A high temperature (above 37.8°C)
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste

Our area has gone into local lockdown. How does this effect the event?

The event venue is in an area of local lockdown. How does this effect the event?

Each local lockdown is different. In the event of local lockdowns, British Dodgeball will follow government guidance according to the specific implications for dodgeball in each case, which may vary. Where a local lockdown allows only essential travel, those in this area should not travel to dodgeball events. If the area you live has gone into local lockdown, please email gareth@britishdodgeball.com for guidance.

Some of our members are self-isolating, have had a positive test or are displaying symptoms and we cannot get a team together to attend the event. What happens now?

If players display symptoms or have had a positive test, they should follow government advice and not attend the event. Their team does not automatically need to withdraw from an event if this is the case; only individuals who have been in close contact (see definition in previous question) should not attend. Teams only need to withdraw from events if you can no longer field a team.

Teams should notify gareth@britishdodgeball.com as soon as possible once you know you cannot attend an event. Clubs will be invoiced for the entry fee in advance of the first league meet or event. Entered teams will be fully credited as payment for future events if they cancel their entry due to COVID-related issues. For further information, see our [Refund and Cancellation Policy](#).

Members of our club developed symptoms during the event or tested positive in the 48 hours after an event, what should we do?

If a participant becomes symptomatic during the event, they should immediately remove themselves from the activity and return home as soon as possible. They should begin to self-isolate. If possible, they should get a test to check if they have COVID-19. The test needs to be done within the first 5 days of having symptoms if possible. More information about getting a test can be found on the [NHS website](#). If anyone else from the event has coronavirus symptoms, they must also self-isolate and [get a coronavirus test](#) as soon as possible.

Anyone displaying symptoms will need to inform the NHS and tell the people they have been in close contact with that they have symptoms or have tested positive. If they developed symptoms or tested positive during or up to 48 hours after an event, they must email gareth@britishdodgeball.com. We will inform other participants and our workforce that someone from the session is displaying symptoms or has tested positive. The people we inform do not need to self-isolate unless they have symptoms or have been contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service, but they should take extra care to follow [social distancing advice](#), including washing their hands often.

Will the whole team, coaches and referees need to self-isolate if someone at the event has suspected or confirmed COVID symptoms?

Members of the team and the opposition will only need to self-isolate if they have been contacted by NHS Track and Trace directly or they have come into close contact with someone with symptoms like sharing a car journey to and from sessions. Close contact is defined currently by the Government as coming within 2 metres of someone for 15 minutes or more. Close contact during games on the court is fleeting and won't require team members to self-isolate. Some members may choose to self-isolate even if they aren't legally obliged to if there are other health factors at play or family members who may be more susceptible.