



## COVID-19 What it means to Groups in Wales

The guidance from different governments is getting increasingly complex with local lockdowns and restrictions coming into force as well as changes to the numbers of people who can gather. It is every group's responsibility to keep up with changes to any restrictions that affect their group and ensure they are adhering to them. This may mean a change to your protocols and risk assessment at short notice. Please consider this when developing your plans and inviting participants and volunteers to sessions.

Social distancing (2M/6FT) remains a key message for everyone not from the same household and is the most effective way to protect everyone. Hand hygiene also remains a critical defence from contamination.

Trustee checklists and Covid-19 Risk Assessment should be completed and emailed to RDA National Office [Groupsupport@rda.org.uk](mailto:Groupsupport@rda.org.uk) before the group can be signed off as ready and any RDA activity can begin.

## Wales – Keep Wales Safe

### Further relaxation of rules

**The further relaxation of rules that was expected on 21 June 2021 has now been postponed until sometime in July due to the impact of the new Delta COVID-19 variant.**

### RDA Sessions

Outdoor sports courts, including golf courses can open. This means equestrian centres can open outdoors for participants and RDA sessions can commence.

From 26 April, organised outdoor activities have been able to take place with up to 30 people. This means RDA sessions can take place with up to 30 people (including coaches and volunteers). From 17 May, organised outdoor activities can take place with up to 50 people **and from 7 June, this has increased further**. However, we do not consider that RDA sessions would benefit from this as it is unlikely we would ever breach 30.

Indoor facilities have been permitted to open from 3<sup>rd</sup> May and this includes covered (indoor) arenas. From 17 May the limit on gathering limits for indoor organised activities has been increased to 30.

Individuals are permitted to come into closer proximity than social distancing would normally allow (2m) with a disabled person from outside their household to support them to access sport and physical activity in Wales. This is detailed in the Welsh Government guidance: [Sport, recreation and leisure: guidance for a safe return](#) and [Taking all reasonable measures to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus in workplaces and premises open to the public.](#) This can be used for example to support individuals to mount/ dismount, assess new riders, hat fitting etc.

In doing so you must undertake a risk assessment and note the mitigation measures put in place which includes:

- Opt-in/out for the athlete/participant
- Opt-in/out for the coach/instructors/support provider in the sport context
- Individual risk assessment (which includes functional ability consideration and mitigation) for the athlete/participant
- Individual risk assessment (which includes functional ability consideration and mitigation) for the coach/instructors/support provider in the sport context

Closer proximity (e.g. to help a rider mount) should take place for the minimum duration to support the participant must be undertaken with additional mitigation in place. This must be at least the individual coming into closer contact must wear a face covering. Guidance on face coverings is [here](#). Further guidance is available [here](#) and must be adhered to.

You are also permitted to have 1 side walker from outside the household/ bubble of the rider from 17 May. This side walker should be on the opposite side of the equine to the leader. **From 21 June you are also permitted to have 2 side walkers from outside the household/ bubble where this is necessary. More information on side walkers can be found [here](#).**

For groups that hire their facilities for organised activities (to Pony Club, Riding Club or to a coach), outdoor venue hire is permitted within gathering limit of 50 and indoors up to 30. For informal activity (hiring to a group of friends) the limit is 6 people from 6 households outdoors and only members of a single household indoors.

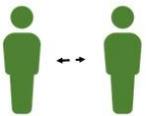
## **Carriage Driving**

We have shared the [RDA Carriage Driving Protocols](#) with the Welsh Government and they have advised us to share them with Sport Wales. We have done this but are still awaiting a response. It is therefore not possible to carriage drive in Wales yet.

## **Travel**

Travel is now permitted throughout the country and you may cross the border into England.

## What can we do in Wales? (21 June 2021 onwards)

Category	Regulations and guidance
 <p>National guidance—SOCIAL</p>	<p>A maximum of 30 people (excluding any carers or children aged under 11 from either household) can meet outdoors, socially distanced. You must not meet up with people from outside your extended household indoors in a private place but can meet up to 6 people from 6 households in 'regulated premises' - cafes, pubs etc.</p>
 <p>RDA meetings</p>	<p>Can travel around Wales and into England</p> <p>RDA recommendation: Do not recommend face to face meetings especially if can be undertaken by other means (e.g. Zoom). Face to face meetings can take place if necessary (e.g. First Aid training). These must be risk assessed and mitigation put in place</p>
 <p>RDA sessions</p>	<p>From 17 May, RDA sessions are permitted outdoors with up to 50 people (including coaches and volunteers). This limit has been increased further on 7 June. We are still recommending a maximum of 30 for RDA. Indoor sessions are permitted with up to 30 people. You are also permitted to have 1 side walker from outside the household/bubble of the rider. This side walker should be on the opposite side of the equine to the leader and mitigation must be in place. From 21 June 2 side walkers are permitted from outside the rider's household/bubble. All side walkers must wear face coverings.</p>
 <p>Social Distance (SD)</p>	<p>2m unless in extended household</p> <p>A dispensation for disability allows a short term breach of social distancing to allow disabled participants to access sport. This includes supporting a rider to mount or dismount. A very specific risk assessment must be undertaken for this. Individuals would be classed as 'close contact' for Test Trace Protect and would need to self isolate if they had come into contact with a positive case</p>
 <p>Data Collection</p>	<p>Legal requirement to collect and keep details of attendees for 21 days (not required for outdoor leisure)</p>
 <p>Face coverings Outdoors</p>	<p>Face coverings must be worn if breaching social distancing for a specific purpose (see social distancing)</p> <p>RDA rule:</p> <p>Face coverings can be worn—not a substitute for social distancing</p>
	<p>Travel is now permitted throughout the country and, you may cross the border into England.</p>