



## **COVID-19 - A framework for the safe re-opening of indoor skateparks during social distancing**

**Indoor sports facilities, including skateparks are currently closed.**

**This document aims to give guidelines to operators and owners of indoor skateparks in order to plan and prepare for re-opening when deemed safe by Government to do so.**

**Generic guidance for indoor sports facilities will be issued by Government prior to any further easing of restrictions and should be read in conjunction with this guidance which is being issued now to help you plan and prepare for re-opening when allowed.**

**Skateboard England will ensure that any new Government guidance is distributed to all indoor skateparks as soon as it is issued.**

This document sets out a suggested framework for opening indoor skatepark facilities during an anticipated period of "social distancing" following the full closure of the sector due to COVID-19. It also provides the basis for individual skatepark operators to develop their own required technical operating guidance for customers, staff and supply chains once the Government has said facilities, or parts of facilities, can open.

It is not intended to be exhaustive in covering every possible scenario but aims to provide a clear direction of travel for the sector. Nor is it intended to cover all aspects of every skatepark operator: there will be special undertakings for those with specific offerings. Operators can make their own decisions and can go above the standards within this document, but we would encourage you not to go lower as the confidence and safety of our skaters and riders is critical to our long-term sustainability.

Indoor skateparks across the country are all different – serving different aspects of wheeled sports, different customers and operating in different local contexts. Making an assessment of whether a safe activity environment can be provided depends on a range of factors, which apply differently at each location. It is the responsibility of each facility operator and owner to make that assessment based on their local circumstances.

All activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, social distancing and hygiene. That means that participants and others can maintain a safe two metre distance, that good hygiene practices are in place, that equipment is disinfected regularly, and that it is clear that anyone who is symptomatic or suspects they have been exposed to the virus does not take part and remains at home.

In developing this guidance, we have carefully considered two key requirements – ‘what is best for public health and wellbeing’ and ‘what will keep the wheeled sport community safe’.



The following overriding principles must be taken into account when planning for a staged return to indoor skatepark use.

- **Ensuring any activity can meet public health guidelines.** All activity should be consistent with Government guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing and hygiene.
- **Taking responsibility:** Facility operators, owners and participants must consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection/transmission and the risk of injury that places further pressure on the NHS. A thorough COVID-19 risk assessment should be undertaken, in addition to your normal risk assessments, and appropriate measures put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are protected and encouraged to ride within their ability. Participants need to take personal responsibility and recognise the impact of their actions on others – if in doubt, don't take part.
- **Communicating clearly and consistently:** Facility operators and owners will need to communicate clearly and regularly with members and participants setting out what they are doing to manage risk and what advice they are giving to individuals to do likewise. Ideally organisations should publish an action plan detailing their plans to re-open safely and the steps they are taking to avoid confusion. Organisations should also communicate clearly opening times and how people can safely access a facility, if relevant, for example through a booking or queuing system.
- **Retaining flexibility:** Any measures put in place to enable activity to return need to be capable of being flexed or changed quickly if tighter movement/social distancing is reintroduced or if the restrictions are further relaxed.

It is expected that a return to “new normal” will be staged. This will involve a planned easing of guidelines and restrictions over a period of time. The first set of restrictions will be the most severe, with activity limited to individual, recreational use only.

Based on the level of restrictions, some facility operators may make the business decision not to open due to being unable to fulfil the guidelines in a cost effective manner – this should be respected and the impact on long-term sustainability recognised as a key factor in decision-making.

Where an indoor skatepark is part of a larger leisure complex, the operator should adhere to guidance provided by UK Active, Sport England and other leisure industry bodies as appropriate.

#### General

1. Public Health England (PHE) or national governing body equivalent posters will be on display informing customers and staff of social distancing and cleanliness/hygiene protocols throughout the skatepark;
2. Operators will commit to the wellbeing of their staff and customers, and if they show/have any signs of COVID-19 (for example, temperature, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of taste or smell), they will be sent home to follow Government regulations, including track and trace;
3. Operators will comply with any health designation documentation that the Government implements;
4. Hand wipes/sanitiser will be on offer (or people will be directed to where they can clean their hands);
5. Operators will ensure that social distancing is adhered to at all times:



6. Face masks will not be mandatory for staff, unless their role requires this;
7. It is down to the individual customer to take reasonable personal responsibility when taking part in physical activity;
8. Operators should continue rigorous cleaning procedures:
9. If there is a COVID-19 case in the facility, the operator will follow the PHE Guidance – [COVID-19 Cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#) while cleaning all areas of the facility.

### Facility Management

1. All activity should be consistent with Government guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing and hygiene at all times;
2. If social distancing can take place, skateparks may be opened at the appropriate time in line with Government guidelines. However, for any activity where social distancing is not possible, these parts of the skatepark/activities will remain closed/not taken part in;
3. Facilities must consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection/transmission. A thorough COVID-19 risk assessment should be undertaken, in addition to normal risk management procedures, and appropriate measures put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are protected;
4. All common touch-point surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails, etc.) should be cleaned regularly, ideally wearing disposable gloves;
5. Seating/social areas within skateparks should not be used unless social distancing can take place and seats/chairs are cleaned in between users;
6. Where toilets are open, ensure soap and water is provided and that the entire toilet area is thoroughly cleaned every day. Set clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets to ensure they are kept clean and social distancing is achieved as much as possible. Consider replacing hand dryers with paper towels in hand-washing facilities;

### Cafe's/Restaurants

1. Cafe's, restaurants and bars will re-open when Government restrictions allow and will operate under any guidelines issued by PHE or other national health authorities;
2. Additional signs will be put up around cleanliness and social distancing;
3. Vending machines can remain in use but will be cleaned regularly;
4. Government [Guidance for food businesses on COVID-19](#) must be followed.

### Customer Service

1. Where possible, improve opportunities for cashless and non-contact payments. App or web-based booking and payment systems should also be considered;
2. Time should be allowed between activity sessions, to allow for clear access and egress and maintain separation in car parks and communal areas.

### Equipment

1. Users should bring their own equipment wherever possible and should be encouraged to wear appropriate safety equipment for the activity, recognising the need to minimise risk of injury;
2. Any shared or hire equipment used during a session should be disinfected before and after each use.



### Activity / Session Delivery

1. Consider limiting session numbers. The number of participants allowed in a session should be dependent on the size of the skateable area and allow all participants to remain at least 2 metres apart at all times. Participants should be encouraged to maintain sufficient distance to allow them to stop or change direction without compromising social distancing requirements, such as if the person in front of them falls or stops suddenly;
2. Implement buffer time in between sessions to ensure surfaces and equipment can be cleaned.
3. Consider only operating one-sport sessions. For example, just skateboarding or just BMX or just scooting. The community is safer when all the participants within the facility understand one another's objectives;
4. Coaching or led sessions should follow Government guidelines, including on maximum numbers, maintaining 2m distancing at all times;

### First Aid

1. Although there may be heightened concerns around first aid, this will continue as normal, with the below aspects to be used when needed:
  - Gloves.
  - Resus masks for emergency first aid to be provided to all first aiders.
  - Face masks for general first aid.
  - The Resuscitation Council UK has provided [specific guidance on CPR delivery](#).
2. The Government has provided guidance for First Responders, including members of voluntary organisations who, as part of their normal roles, provide immediate assistance requiring close contact until further medical assistance arrives - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-interim-guidance-for-first-responders/interim-guidance-for-first-responders-and-others-in-close-contact-with-symptomatic-people-with-potential-2019-ncov>
3. Likewise, Guidance on delivering first aid during the coronavirus pandemic is available on the St John Ambulance website - <https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/covid-19-advice-for-first-aiders/>

### Competition

1. The initial focus during this phase should be on facilitating recreational participation and letting users spend time having fun and developing their skills.

### Operational – for each facility operator to agree

1. When do you un-furlough staff?
2. Health and Safety checks pre-opening – e.g. Legionella.
3. Training of staff in the above procedures.
4. How to limit the number of people in a facility.
5. Pre-opening - operators will commit to a level of communication to customers explaining the nature of re-opening, advising them of the responsibility they have regarding cleaning touch points, providing Q&A, and ultimately reassuring customers.
6. Operators to develop a risk assessment and operating plan covering all of the above and relevant other information.



### **Insurance**

The operator will need to have an up to date risk assessment and health and safety guidelines in place, you will also need to produce a supplementary document covering COVID-19 additional control measures, to meet insurance requirements and minimise risk of liability.

We strongly recommend speaking to your insurer to confirm that all activities anticipated, are appropriately covered and any additional requirements of your insurer are complied with.

**#SkateSafeStaySafe**