



## Briefing Note

Source: Personnel Policy, Army HQ

**Date:** 19 Apr 21

**ABN:** 036/2021

## COVID-19 – RESUMPTION OF ARMY SPORT

1. **Issue.** An update on the resumption of Army sport for which the Director of Personnel is the Training Requirements Authority (TRA).
2. **Target Audience.** All Commanders responsible for the planning and delivery of sport.
3. **Staff Branch for ABN Digest.** G7.
4. **Key Information.** This ABN does not need to be repeated on Part 1 Orders. The following information should be made available to Service Personnel (SP) involved in the planning and delivery of both Unit and Representative sport<sup>1</sup>.
  - a. **Resumption of Unit Sport.** Training for sport at Unit level (authorised by the CO) is permitted locally outdoors from **29 Mar 21**, but will be conditions based and must be conducted iaw the latest Government, Devolved Administration (DA) and NGB guidelines and legislation, [FRAGO 001 to Pj PHOENIX OpO 001](#) and the latest [Pj PHOENIX - Force Health Protection Instruction \(FHPI\)](#).
  - b. **Resumption of Army Representative Sport.** Following the easing of the national lockdown, announced by the Prime Minister on 22 Feb 21, Army Representative Sports, which have been assessed as safe to do so, will resume from Step 3 of the Government Roadmap (currently not before **17 May 21**). The resumption is authorised and communicated by Army HQ (Pers Pol (Army)), informed by the recommendation of Director ASCB (DASCB) and will be conditions based. Previously authorised sports can be found within [ABN 095/2020](#). Sports will only resume, and continue to be authorised, iaw, Government, Devolved Administration (DA), the latest National Governing Body (NGB) guidelines and legislation, [FRAGO 001 to Pj PHOENIX OpO 001](#) and the latest Pj PHOENIX - [Force Health Protection Instruction \(FHPI\)](#). Training at Representative sport level (authorised by the DASCB) cannot commence before the introduction of Step 3.
5. **Representative Sports.** Sports which have Army HQ authority to resume at the representative level are contained within [ABN 095/2020](#). They are authorised to resume (as per the direction and date in para 4) and must conform with NGB guidelines and legislation. Prior to any Army Sport resuming activities, DASCB will require confirmation that the sport's road map is or remains aligned to its respective NGB guidelines, this

<sup>1</sup> Corps/Army/UKAF.

confirmation and DASCB approval must be secured before any representative fixture(s) or training session(s) are scheduled.

6. **Key Points.** The following key points should be noted.

a. The policy authorisation to conduct sport activities remains unchanged and is listed at para 5.055 of [AGAI 5](#).

b. The resumption of sporting activities must be conducted in line with direction in Government, DA and NGB guidelines and legislation. All legislation and guidance must be checked routinely for update prior to an event's commencement.

c. All activity must be conducted in accordance with [FRAGO 001 to Pj PHOENIX OpO 001](#) and the most up to date [Force Health Protection Instruction \(FHPI\)](#). COVID-19 Risk Assessments will be required for each site and activity using the FHPI RtW assessment guidance. All risk management control measures must be understood and adhered to by the participants. Further details can be obtained from the [COVID-19 FHP SharePoint Site](#).

d. All sporting events must have a nominated COVID POC<sup>2</sup> to facilitate any outbreak control of personnel and rapid access to potentially affected individuals. Contact details of participants and support staff must be recorded and maintained for 21 days for contact tracing purposes.

e. Social distancing remains until Step 3 of the Government roadmap, beyond this, the CoC must refer to the latest Government legislation & guidelines. Also, SP must make informed personal decisions.

f. Provided social distancing where appropriate, hand hygiene and travel arrangements are in place, and extant [FHPI](#) direction is followed and rigorously maintained, the biggest risk is environmental transmission from equipment. Where possible individuals should use personal, or personally issued equipment.

(1) Equipment should not be shared during the activity.

(2) Equipment and maintenance tools must be appropriately cleaned taking into account both maintenance instructions and COVID-19 requirements.

(3) Where equipment is loaned, it must be appropriately cleaned before being stored for the next user. Ideally equipment should be left for 72hrs before use by the next user. Users must wash their hands before and after use of all equipment.

g. Until Government and Army [FHPI](#) guidance is amended to further ease restrictions, the direction below must be followed:

(1) Event organisers are to conduct pre-activity safety briefings virtually and prior to the event.

(2) Numbers of SP participating in events must not exceed the limits permitted within the Govt direction and any NGB guidance.

---

<sup>2</sup> Located at the fixture.

(3) Numbers of spectators at events must not exceed the limits permitted within the Govt direction and any NGB guidance.

(4) Only single day unit sports events are permitted in order to reduce the requirement for overnight accommodation until Step 3 of the Government roadmap commences. Following Step 3, where multi day events are required, the use of accommodation must comply with [FRAGO 001 to Pj PHOENIX OpO 001](#) and the latest [FHPI](#).

(5) Booking in and draw processes are to be conducted remotely (where applicable).

(6) Restrictions are to be imposed and maintained on gatherings pre and post competition.

(7) Results are to be sent out electronically after events.

(8) Maintenance of social distancing whilst undertaking all activities (this is easier to apply for individual sports as opposed to team sports, NGB guidelines must be followed).

h. Considerations beyond the active participation:

(1) Travel to and from sporting locations. Guidance on travel can be found in [FRAGO 001 to Pj PHOENIX OpO 001](#).

(2) Use of facilities at the site – provision of hand washing or sanitising facilities, what ablutions can be used (many public toilets remain closed), feeding arrangements (this will change dynamically as Government guidance on when cafes can open, however, basic principles of eating outdoors and using takeaway facilities where possible, not overcrowding catering facilities and using entry and exit routes and split sittings, and not sharing utensils or crockery remain).

(3) In accordance with Government, DA, [FRAGO 001 to Pj PHOENIX OpO 001](#) and the latest [FHPI](#), Army gymnasias<sup>3</sup> and swimming pools should not be used for group or recreational training, this includes Army sports, until the Government direction permits. The easing of restrictions under Step 2 of the Government direction, permits individual use of gymnasias with the following additional control measures:

(a) All activities must be supervised by appropriately trained (e.g. PT/Lifeguard) personnel at all times. Gymnasium and swimming pool managers are responsible for first party assurance of FHP measure within their facilities.

(b) A minimum of 2m social distance must be maintained at all times. Where fixed gym eqpt is used the 2m separation applies to individuals and not the equipment.

---

<sup>3</sup> This includes Army squash courts.

(c) Only gym rooms with natural ventilation should be used for indoor training activities. Internal, unventilated rooms must not be used for indoor physical training.

(d) Communal/shared shower facilities should not to be used and personnel should use their designated accommodation/home facilities for showering pre and post exercise.

(e) Appropriate risk assessments are carried out regarding specific exercise activities and that relevant FHP control measures (with specific attention to cleaning of shared equipment) are carefully adhered to.

## 7. **Points of Contact.**

- a. Maj Sean Semple (SO2 AT/Sport, Army HQ) – [Sean.Semple845@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Sean.Semple845@mod.gov.uk)
- b. ASCB Sport Secretaries. Contact details obtained from [ASCB - Contacts](#).
- c. Regional Command Physical Development Branch - [RC-OpsEngt-PD-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-OpsEngt-PD-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk).