



Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club

Return to Play Information for Club Coaches

(This is a live document and is subject to change in line with Government and Basketball Ireland updates)

A. Introduction

As a club we aim to create the safest and most enjoyable environment for children and young people to play and enjoy basketball. Following a detailed Risk Assessment, Letterkenny Blaze have identified areas where there is potential risk and have outlined the steps which need to be taken to provide the safest environment for all involved. To help us do so, please see the list of points below in relation to attending training and games.

Please note (as per Basketball Ireland Covid Guidelines from Sept 20th 2021): If a person has not yet or does not want to disclose their vaccination status then they have this right but are considered by the HSE a higher risk of getting the infection and should be vigilant for symptoms and, like all others, ensure they have no covid-related symptoms before entering the training or game. Games can take place but with the checks done for all participating vaccinated, recovered or other.

Please be advised that underage (through their guardians) or adults, not wanting to get vaccinated or wanting to disclose their vaccination status, and their identity, are to be treated with the utmost respect and in line with all the regulations that are in place for child safety and GDPR. These persons can take part in training and/or games once the COVID questionnaire is completed by all participating.

Under 12s down are to be considered in pods of 6 only until **October 22nd**. Competitive games are allowed i.e. friendlies for these age groups from September 20th. League and cup matches are **not** permitted until October 22nd.

Competitive Training and Games

Competitive training and games are allowed, for all levels and age groups, to take place from September 20th i.e. friendlies and invitationals. League and cup matches are not permitted until October 22nd. Games can take place but with the COVID checks done.

Competition Games

Competition Games Competitions can only take place from 22nd of October, i.e. League and cup matches for all levels and age groups. Games can take place but with the COVID checks done.

Transport To and From Activities & Events

Public transport is operating at full capacity. Protective measures such as physical distancing, mask wearing etc. should be used in line with guidance for travel on public transport.

B. Education and Awareness

1. All coaches must be familiar with the Basketball Ireland Return to Sport Safety Statement (published September 17th) [here](#).
2. All coaches must complete the Sport Ireland Covid 19 eLearning course [here](#) and send their certificate of completion to the Club Covid Officer @ blazecovidofficer@gmail.com.
3. Coaches are advised to keep up to date with the HSE guidelines at HSE.ie [here](#).

C. Pre-attendance screening

1. If a coach or anyone in their immediate family have any of the following – **PLAYERS DO NOT ATTEND ANY TRAINING SESSION OR GAME**
 - a fever (high temperature – 37.5 degrees Celsius or above)
 - a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
 - shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 - loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
 - Fatigue
 - Aches and Pains
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Runny or stuffy nose
 - Feeling sick or vomiting
 - Diarrhoea
 - Been around anyone who has tested positive for COVID in the last 48 hours
 - Been in close contact with any person who has had a test and has not received a result, or is waiting a test

It is always advised that players do not attend training when ill (suffering from symptoms other than the symptoms listed above).

2. If a coach has any concerns about possible underlying health issues, please contact your GP prior to attending training this season.
3. It is always advised that coaches do not attend training when ill (suffering from symptoms other than the symptoms listed above).
4. **Until October 22nd, a weekly text will be sent to remind parents to ensure that players who have any of the symptoms listed above should NOT ATTEND TRAINING OR GAMES.**
5. No person should travel in an enclosed area with another person if they feel unwell, or suspect they are unwell.
6. Any coach coming into Ireland from a country not on the Government's Green List must restrict their movements as advised by the Government for 14 days after arrival. During the 14-day period, the coach is not allowed to attend any training sessions with the club.

D. During play – adhere to best hygiene practice

1. Be aware of the fact that by a player/coach/junior coach/designated supervisor arriving at the club training session, they are confirming that they have been screened prior to arrival and that they are not showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and are not feeling unwell in any way.
2. Attendance sheets must be retained by the Team Covid Officer.
3. Players are required to have their own clearly identifiable water bottle at training and look after it during and after training.
4. **Toilets can be used during training sessions.** Players are to arrive to training wearing their gear and ready to train, as access to changing rooms will be limited during training sessions.
5. Players will be asked to sanitise their hands on entry to the court and during training. If allergic to hand sanitizers players are to bring their own to the session.
6. Coaches and players must practice proper sneezing and coughing etiquette during sessions. Everyone will be encouraged to cover their cough and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in a bin and the child/young person will be encouraged to sanitize their hands.
7. Coaches and players must avoid High 5s, handshakes or any other unnecessary contact during the session.
8. Avoid touching high-contact surfaces such as door or gate handles where possible.
9. Mask wearing during play is not required. U12s are not required to wear masks but may do so if they choose. For all persons, masks should be worn at all other times i.e. entry/exit, going to use the toilet. All other attendees e.g. designated supervisors should wear masks at all times.
10. Players must bring all personal items home with them.
11. All items left behind at the training venue shall be deemed as contaminated items and destroyed.
12. All players are advised to go home, wash hands and water bottle thoroughly after attending their training session.
13. All players are encouraged to change & wash clothing and shower immediately on return home.
14. Sessions must be completed within the time appropriate timeframe to allow preparation for the next session. A 15-minute gap must be maintained between consecutive training sessions.
15. **For all children U12, up until October 22nd, all training must be conducted in pods of 6.**
16. No use of bibs permitted unless brought directly by the player.
17. If equipment is used please sanitise before and after the training session.
18. Players and coaches must adhere to HSE guidelines on hand hygiene at all times.
19. A Covid 19 bin will be available to dispose of cleaning equipment.

E. Travel to and from training and games

1. Carpooling is allowed but all persons should be aware of the higher risks to unvaccinated individuals and the use of appropriate sanitiser and face coverings is recommended.
2. Encourage players to arrive no more than 5 minutes before the beginning of the session, and pick up within 5 minutes of the session ending.
3. Parents are encouraged to have their child / children wait in the car or outside the venue until just before the beginning of the training session, instead of congregating with other children/young people prior to the start.

F. Observe Social Distance Guidelines

1. No adults other than the coaches or the designated supervisor for that particular session will be permitted at the court. No spectators are permitted. For younger age groups, if a parent need to stay, they must observe public health guidelines at all times, e.g. wear a mask and maintain 2m social distance from others at all times.
2. A one-way system will be operated with separate entrance and exits points to and from the court.
3. Attendees are encouraged to maintain social distancing rules during drop off and pick up, and at all times in between where possible. Parent/guardian should not accompany the child to the court. They should remain in the car during pick up and drop off.
4. After training, all players are asked to return to car / walk directly home to avoid congregating with other children/young people at the end of training.

G. Player Welfare

1. Record Keeping - A Players' Attendance Log will be held by the Team Covid Officer for each session in the event that contact tracing is necessary.
2. A minimum of 2 adults must be present at each training session. If this is not possible the session will be cancelled.
3. Coaches must continue to adhere to the Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy at all times.
4. Players in need of medical attention should be treated on the court in an isolated area in the court. First Aiders will wear face mask. Hands and equipment must be sanitised before and after treatment. Accident forms must be completed and returned to Club Secretary within 72 hours of an incident.
5. A player suspected of a new onset of Covid 19 must be given a face mask and must be isolated immediately from the rest of the attendees. There will be an isolation area for anyone that feels unwell or has to leave their session for any reason. The coach will call the parent / guardian immediately and request that he/she collect their child without delay. Once the isolation area is vacated, it should be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected immediately.
6. The Team Covid Officer is to ensure safe and correct use and storage of disinfectants, including storing products securely away from players.
7. Keeping an accurate record of attendance at each basketball session and knowing which participants attended each game will be the critical role of the Team Covid Officer. **N.B. Determining who is / is not a close contact is the responsibility of the HSE. All contacting of participants will be carried out by the HSE and will not be the responsibility of the Team Covid Officer.**

H. Coach Welfare

1. If a coach develop symptoms within 48 hours of a training session, please inform the Team Covid Officer and the Club Covid Officer.
2. Anyone with symptoms should call their doctor / health care provider immediately.

I. Venue Games

1. All players, coaches, officials and spectators will be expected to ensure that they do not have any covid-related symptoms before arriving at the venue. Anyone who has any symptoms, or feels unwell must not attend the venue.
2. The home team is responsible for keeping the list of players, coaches and attendees in case contact tracing is required. The away team will be asked to email a list of attendees to the coach so that names can be marked off on arrival. Alternatively, the away team may bring this list with them on the day. This list will then be retained by the team covid officer in case of HSE contact tracing requirements.
3. For children u18, one parent per child is allowed to attend. If the attendance of parents would put the total number of attendees above the limit i.e. the game cannot go ahead unless the parents agree not to attend and allow supervision as per child safety guidance, or the player is withdrawn from the game. The limit cannot be exceeded.
4. At a minimum, teams must have access 30 minutes before tip-off. If another game has preceded the fixture, time must be allowed for cleaning etc. as per guidelines. Ideally, there should be access 30 to 60 minutes before tip-off.
5. Changing rooms will be available, but only **six people will be permitted to use the changing rooms at a time**. Players should be asked to get changed as quickly as possible to allow time for all players to use the facility. Additional time should be allowed to allow for changing room use e.g. 15 minutes before and after the game. In line with child protection requirements, parents/ guardians are not permitted to enter the changing rooms, unless assistance is needed by a young child or a child with additional needs.
6. Benches can be used; players and coaches do not have to wear masks during the game. All other attendees aged 13 and over must wear masks at all times.
7. The maximum number of people allowed at a game until Oct 22nd is 100. This is the total number including players, coaches, spectators and attendees.

J. Next Steps

1. The Club Covid Committee will meet regularly to review implementation, Risk Assessment and Updated Basketball Ireland Safety Statement.
2. Letterkenny Blaze will continue to update this safe Return to Train Protocol based on advice from Basketball Ireland, North West Area Board, Government and Public Health.
3. All Letterkenny Blaze Return to Train guidelines will be posted up on the club's website <http://www.blazebasketball.ie>

29th September 2021