



# Return to Safer Play Protocol

## Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club

### Information for Players & Parents/ Guardians

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

#### **A. Introduction**

Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Club aims to create the safest and most enjoyable environment for children and young people to play and enjoy basketball and for club coaches to coach the game. Following a detailed Risk Assessment, the club 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 future training sessions and games.

***Please note (as per Basketball Ireland Covid Guidelines from Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 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 train 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. Prior to attending training sessions or games:**

1. Please read the Basketball Ireland Return to Sport Covid Safety Statement [here](#).
2. Please complete the Sport Ireland Covid 19 Awareness eLearning Course [here](#).
3. Players, parents and guardians are advised to keep up to date with the HSE guidelines at HSE.ie [here](#).
4. If players 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).**

5. No person should travel in an enclosed area with another person if they feel unwell, or suspect they are unwell.
6. If a player tests positive for Covid -19 please contact your coach immediately.
7. If a parent / guardian has any concerns about their child's possible underlying health issues, please contact your GP prior to the child attending training.
8. Any player coming into the Ireland from a country not on the Government Green List must restrict their movements for 14 days after arrival. During the 14 day, the player is not allowed to attend any club training sessions/activities. They are free to resume training after the 14 days have passed.
9. Players are required to have their own clearly identifiable water bottle at training and look after it during and after training.
10. **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.
11. For competitive games, changing rooms will be available, but only **six people will be permitted to use the changing rooms at a time**. Players will be asked to get changed as quickly as possible to allow time for all players to use the facility. Additional time will 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. Parents/guardians are asked to ensure their children are aware of these restrictions and ask children to comply with these requirements.

12. 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. Please aim to arrive no more than 5 minutes before the beginning of the session, and pick up within 5 minutes of the session ending.
13. Parents are encouraged to have their 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.
14. All players will sanitise their hands on entry to the court and at regular intervals after.
15. Adhere to club management protocols to include one-way traffic system and designated drop off points.
16. No adults other than the coaches or the designated supervisor for that session will be permitted at the court. Strictly no gathering of groups while training is ongoing are permitted. Protocols must be followed throughout the duration of the training session.
17. A Players Attendance Log will be held by the Team Covid Officer for each session if contact tracing by the HSE is necessary.
18. Attendees must maintain social distancing rules during drop off and pick up, and always in between.
19. A minimum of 2 adults must be present at each training session. If this is not possible the session will be cancelled.
20. Parents/Guardians are to ensure that their children understand the Covid 19 measures that the club will be implementing.

**C. During the session:**

1. Only players who are registered with the club can attend training or games.
2. Players will be asked to sanitise their hands during play. If allergic to hand sanitisers players are to bring their own to the session.
3. 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 sanitise their hands.
4. Coaches and players must avoid High 5s, handshakes and any other unnecessary contact during the session. Coaches and players can suggest other ways of celebration or greetings that don't involve contact.
5. Avoid touching high-contact surfaces such as door handles or gates.
6. Coaches and supporting coaches/junior coaches and players are not required to wear masks during the training session or game. 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 and maintain social distancing.
7. 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.
8. Players must bring all personal items home with them.

#### **D. After the Session or Game**

1. All players are asked to return to car / walk directly home to avoid congregating with other children/young people at the end of training.
2. All players are advised to go home, wash hands and water bottle thoroughly after attending their training session
3. All players are encouraged to change & wash clothing and shower immediately on return home.
4. Parent/Guardians - Please inform your coach if your child develops symptoms or feels unwell after attending a session.

#### **References**

- Basketball Ireland Return to Sport Covid Safety Statement [here](#)
- Sport Ireland Covid 19 Awareness eLearning Course [here](#)
- HPSC COVID-19 Interim recommendations for sports activities for children and adolescents in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic [here](#)

Updated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021