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## Introduction

Welsh Triathlon is the National Governing Body for the sport of triathlon and its related multisport in Wales. It is one of three Home Nations which are part of the British Triathlon Federation and as such is working closely with the Federation to react and respond to the Covid19 Crisis.

## British Triathlon Federation and the Home Nations Statement

In March, British Triathlon, the three Home Nations (Triathlon England, Triathlon Scotland, and Welsh Triathlon) and the Triathlon Trust, in line with other national governing bodies, suspended organised triathlon activity until at least 30 June due to the COVID-19 crisis. This position remains under constant review and has been amended as outlined below.

At this time, there is a lack of clarity on what lies in store over the weeks and months ahead. There is a divergence between the positions of the governments in England, Scotland and Wales and there is much speculation and uncertainty around the way in which the pandemic will develop across the UK and internationally. This produces a lack of clarity and therefore frustration for all.

In reviewing the suspension of activity, BTF and the HNs have followed the following key principles:

- The health and wellbeing of our community, and society as a whole, is our absolute priority
- To follow government instruction and play our part in protecting our NHS and emergency services
- Our preference is to make longer term decisions and provide as much clarity as possible to our stakeholders, as illustrated by our position below on events organised and/or administered by BTF and/or the HNs
- Where events are organised by other third parties, our aim is to provide as much guidance as possible but enable that organiser to make a decision that is best for their specific circumstances and aligned to government instructions
- To follow a path that enables agility to respond to changing circumstances
- We consult with numerous stakeholders, other sports and national sports agencies.

It has been widely mooted by medical professionals and politicians that social distancing will be in place for a considerable amount of time. Whilst social distancing is in place, BTF & HNs Event Guidance states that any mass participation

event would have to involve a rolling start (i.e. time trial format) which is likely to affect capacity.

BTF and the HNs anticipate that the easing of restrictions for groups/gatherings might enable events to happen and that smaller events might return first.

The following five points lay out our position on the resumption of activity and are supported by a British framework for return [found here](#) and guidance documents [found here](#).

#### 1. Events organised by BTF and/or HNs, BTF and HN Championships and Age Group Qualifiers

- All events organised by BTF and/or the HNs are cancelled or postponed until at least 1 August 2020
- There will be no British, English, Scottish or Welsh Championship races in 2020. Where possible, the championship status associated with a 2020 event will be transferred to that event in 2021
- There will be no Age Group Qualification races in 2020. Where possible, the Qualifier status associated with a 2020 event will be transferred to that event in 2021

#### 2. Permitted Events organised by 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisers (all formats)

- In England, permitted events can restart from 25 July
- In Scotland, all permitted events are suspended until further notice
- In Wales, permitted events can restart from 25 July for activity up to a maximum of 30 people
- BTF and HNs will review the government position in each of the three home nations on a weekly basis (commencing Tuesday 26 May) with the aim of providing event organisers and participants with as much advance warning of any relevant changes as possible to enable each event organiser to make a decision regarding the viability of their event. Significant updates will be shared with event organisers prior to being posted on the BTF website
- The aim will be to provide event organisers with as much information and guidance as possible
- Depending on government restrictions, this could see a phased award of event permits based on the link between the size of an event and any government restrictions on groups/gatherings
- EOs will need to meet all requirements in the BTF guidance document AND comply with all government instructions to secure a race permit.

#### 3. All other forms of Triathlon activity

- Club activity that complies with the relevant government instructions is permissible. [For more information click here](#).
- In England, group activity can resume from 18 July, under Covid-19 Secure guidelines
- In Scotland, group activity of more than eight people from a maximum of three households is suspended until further notice

- In Wales, group activity with up to 30 people can resume from 18 July, under Covid-19 Secure guidelines
- Individual training activity is permitted in accordance with the relevant government instructions. [For information more click here](#)

#### 4. Elite Training

BTF and the HNs are working with UK Sport and the respective Home Nation Sport's Councils for World-Class programme and Olympic and Paralympic Pathway athletes in accordance with government guidance. We are working closely with our athletes and training centres to provide a safe environment for training according to the restrictions within each Home Nation.

The Return to Elite training document for Wales can be found [here](#).

#### 5. International Age Group Racing

BTF continues to liaise with ITU and ETU regarding the international race calendar and to represent the best interests of GB Age Group Athletes. Detailed and specific advice can be [found here](#).

#### 6. Insurance

Any activity taking place in contravention of government instructions will not be covered by BTF insurance policies.

### **Welsh Specific Guidance**

Welsh Government can act under Public Health (Control of Diseases Act) 1984 to protect Wales against infectious disease. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations (2020) came into force to protect Wales during the pandemic of Covid19. This legislation must legally be reviewed every 21 days - the 6<sup>th</sup> Review is due 30<sup>th</sup> July.

The Welsh Government set out a document which maps the road to recovery through four stages: lockdown, red, amber and green:

*Unlocking Society and our Economy: Continuing the conversation May 2020*

The British Triathlon Federation Framework maps across the Welsh Stages -see table below.

Welsh Triathlon Federation has worked with the Home Nations to produce a series of Guidance documents. These are aligned where possible though divergence has occurred as the respective UK, Scottish and Welsh Government regulations and guidance has evolved from lockdown. Updated Welsh guidance based on the British documentation and research can be [found here](#).

Welsh Government Phases	POSSIBLE CHANGES TO GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES			
	LOCKDOWN	RED	AMBER	GREEN
	<b>PHASE 1: CURRENT LOCKDOWN</b>	<b>PHASE 2: INITIAL LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>PHASE 3: INCREASED LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>PHASE 4: RETURN TO "NORMAL"</b>
<b>OUTLINE OF GUIDELINES</b>	<p>Lockdown in place</p> <p>Essential travel only</p> <p>Social Distancing strictly enforced</p> <p>Public Leisure Facilities closed</p> <p>Exercise once a day outside house or with household</p>	<p>Lockdown eased</p> <p>Limited travel &amp; activity outside home</p> <p>Social distancing enforced</p> <p>School &amp; Universities Closed (or some phased return to school)</p> <p>Some Public Leisure Facilities outdoor opening</p> <p>Mass gatherings banned</p> <p>Exercise more than once a day</p> <p>Possible return to some elite facilities</p>	<p>Lockdown removed</p> <p>Limited travel &amp; activity outside family and close friends</p> <p>Social distancing remains</p> <p>School &amp; universities open with some distancing required</p> <p>Public Leisure facilities open with some restrictions</p> <p>Mass gatherings restricted with some limited outdoor events and those behind closed doors</p>	<p>Shielding of vulnerable groups and robust hygiene</p> <p>Travel &amp; activity return to normal</p> <p>Social distancing enforced</p> <p>School &amp; Universities open</p> <p>Public Leisure facilities open and returning to normal</p> <p>Mass gatherings restrictions eased</p>
<b>HEADLINE IMPACT ON TRIATHLON TRAINING</b>	<p>No indoor training</p> <p>No club meetings</p> <p>Restricted cycling &amp; running close to home</p> <p>Dryland training and coaching delivered remotely</p> <p>Limited training for coaches-delivered remotely</p>	<p>No indoor training for general public but some elite training where facilities allow</p> <p>Social distancing restrictions remain for sport science</p> <p>No club meetings</p> <p>Restricted cycling &amp; running closed to home</p> <p>Dryland and coaching delivered remotely</p> <p>Limited training for coaches - delivered remotely</p> <p>Screening of people who can access anything available</p>	<p>Restricted training for general public, clubs</p> <p>Open water training where venues allow</p> <p>Personal contact where necessary and locally</p> <p>No travel or contact outside locality</p> <p>Potential screening - if unwell stay home</p>	<p>Club training fully resumes with extra precautions on hygiene</p> <p>Restrictions on travel &amp; contact lifted</p> <p>Recreational triathlon back</p> <p>Medical Certification to race ?</p>
<b>HEADLINE IMPACT ON TRIATHLON EVENTS</b>	No Triathlon Events	No Triathlon Events	Small, restricted , local events	Triathlon events return - initially staged return with age, size, area restrictions Coach education returns to normal
<b>HEADLINE IMPACT ON TRIATHLON INCOME</b>	<p>No permitting or day licence income</p> <p>No income from WT delivered events</p> <p>Reduction in club and membership fees</p> <p>12 months survival (requires 6month funding)</p>	<p>No permitting or day licence income</p> <p>No income from WT delivered events</p> <p>Reduction in club and membership fees</p> <p>12 months survival (requires 6month funding)</p>	<p>Very limited permitting or day licence income</p> <p>No income from WT delivered events</p> <p>Reduction in club and membership fees</p> <p>12 months survival with potential to develop confidence and income generation at small scale (duathlon/online coaching)</p>	<p>Permitting &amp; day licence fee revenues return</p> <p>Some WT delivered events return</p> <p>Coaching courses resume</p> <p>Club and membership fees re established</p> <p>Ease on finances - limited activity income builds</p>