



Return to Play – Media Facilities

As we are all aware, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we are returning to Ladies Gaelic Football activity in a new environment.

The Gaelic Games return to play roadmap has been published in accordance with the Government's own policy in tandem, with advice from the GAA's Advisory Committee.

As part of these guidelines, the use of media facilities will be noticeably different.

The priority must always be to protect the health and welfare of all those involved in Ladies Gaelic Football, both on and off the field, and to minimise the risk of transmission across the wider community.

There are a number of key safety measures that must be in place prior to the resumption of games.

Club games (c/o county and club PROs)

Media centres/'press boxes' currently require two metres (until further notice) between work spaces for each working journalist and our arrangements need to ensure that this requirement is adhered to.

- **Official accreditation** is required. To meet contact tracing requirements, we must ensure the pre-registration of working journalists to ensure we have a record of attendees and to assist in planning to facilitate the media.
- **Local radio** must also apply in advance and commentary and technical teams must be kept to a minimum, due to social distancing and the resulting pressures on space.
- **Club Photographers** – name must be supplied in advance by participating Club and as usual imagery is for non-commercial Club use only. All photographers must adhere to social distancing, especially for team photographs.
- **Social Media** – for Club games Club PROs/Social Media Coordinators are encouraged to work away from the media facilities where possible, given the potential pressures on space.
- **Statisticians** – team statisticians must not be accommodated in media centres. They need to have separate designated areas allocated where social distancing is adhered to and this should be managed between the competing teams and the host venue.
- **Post-match Interviews** - when needed, an area for post-match interviews must be provided where social distancing can be adhered to. Where such facilities are not

available, an outdoor area should be considered, and media must be advised in advance of post-match arrangements.

- Journalists will be told that they must bring their own **hand sanitisers** but all venues are asked to provide same in their media facilities, wall mounted where possible. Disinfectant wipes or an alternative should also be provided.
- **Signage** – appropriate Covid 19 signage, in line with health guidelines, should be displayed at the entrance of all media facilities. Signage should be clearly visible and emphasise the Government recommended social distancing rules (2 metres currently).
- **Stewarding** – Media-centres must always be stewarded. Only accredited media should be admitted.
- In facilities where **lifts** are in use, they should only be used by small numbers where social distancing can be practiced or not at all.
- **Media facilities** should be sanitised with a deep disinfection before and after use.
- Journalists should be advised in any advance communication to stay away from games if they are experiencing any of the **symptoms of Covid-19**.
- **Toilet facilities** should be cleaned regularly and this should be documented.
- **Larger media organisations** such as broadcasters, with multiple employees on site, should be asked for their own Covid-19 protocols and all journalists have been advised to familiarise themselves with the guidelines issued by their employers. The importance of personal responsibility, for their own benefit and that of others, has also been emphasised in our communications.
- Working journalists are welcome to wear **face coverings** if they so wish and if this practice becomes compulsory, they will be expected to adhere while present at our games.
- Where meeting rooms are being used for **post-match press conferences** etc, a pre-assigned capacity should be agreed and this should clearly posted on the access point to the room. The use of any such facility should be monitored to ensure that the agreed number is not exceeded.
- **Catering**, where being provided, should be kept to a minimum with no carvery or shared element to either food or cutlery.
- Where possible, our media facilities should be **well ventilated**.