

## *A guide for clubs and orienteers on how to orienteer in a COVID-secure manner and in line with the current Government guidelines in England.*

*Key Changes from the previous version of this guidance are in **red text**.*

*Final*

*17 May 2021*

# Orienteering – Operational guidance for resumption of the sport in England



## Change Log

Change No	Type / Description	By whom	Status	Date
32	<a href="#">Page 3</a> – Overview Change in government guidance	Peter Hart	Accepted	4 March 2021
33	Page 4 – Addition of possible sanctions (request from DCMS)	Peter Hart	Accepted	4 March 2021
34	<a href="#">Page 6</a> – Point 2 Travel & Accommodation – change to reflect government guidance	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 March 2021
35	<a href="#">Page 12</a> – 8.1 Allowing novice competitors	Peter Hart	Accepted	1 March 2021
36	Page 12 – Point, added use of water bottles	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 March 2021
37	Page 15 – Point 14.4 Spectators	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 March 2021
38	<a href="#">Page 3</a> – Overview, Change in Government guidance	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 April 2021
39	<a href="#">Page 6</a> – Point 2 – Accommodation, amend restrictions on accommodation	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 April 2021
40	<a href="#">Page 7</a> – Point 6 – Permissions, added LA Guidance from Government on sporting events	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 April 2021
41	<a href="#">Page 9</a> , Point 8.7 – Allocated Times amended to take into account Government guidance	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 April 2021
42	<a href="#">Page 11</a> , First Aid – removed extensions to First Aid certificates as this s no longer valid	Peter Hart	Accepted	26 April 2021
43	<a href="#">Page 11</a> First Aid – added further info on rescue breaths	Ric Gamble	Accepted	26 April 2021
44	<a href="#">Page 3</a> – Overview, Change in Government guidance	Peter Hart	Accepted	17 May 2021
45	<a href="#">Page 9</a> , Point 8.7 – Allocated Times amended to take into account Government guidance	Peter Hart	Accepted	17 May 2021

# Orienteering – Operational guidance for resumption of the sport in England



## OVERVIEW

Orienteering takes place in the fresh air, offering physical exercise in the outdoor environment. With additional social distancing measures and controls, British Orienteering believes that the sport is well-placed to offer a safe and enjoyable orienteering experience during this period when restrictions are being relaxed.

British Orienteering has been working hard on when and how orienteering can safely re-start and can't wait to welcome everyone back. These guidelines have been produced for clubs to provide orienteering in a way that is compliant with the current Government guidance in England.

Activities such as the creation and promotion of virtual and permanent orienteering courses can be developed and published for individual exercise. For insurance purposes (protection of club and planner) these should be registered as activities.

On 22 February, the Government published its roadmap for the gradual and staged easing of lockdown restrictions in England. Restrictions will be eased across all areas of England at the same time.

The government have made it clear that these dates and measures are provisional and that they will only make the next step when it is safe to do so.

It is recognised that when planning events, British Orienteering clubs need direction and clear guidance from the board at each step, particularly about the restriction on start rates. This will help the clubs understand the intention and enable clubs to plan for bigger events.

Only when the government is sure that it is safe to move from one step to the next and issue the associated guidelines will the final decision be made.

The government guidelines on formally organised sport are:

*Organised outdoor sport and physical activity for adults and children can return, which will be exempt from the legal gathering limits. The threshold on participant numbers will be decided by each national governing body (NGB) or organising organisation and will follow Covid-secure guidance.*

Taking account of the latest government guidelines and following England moving to Step 3 of the government roadmap, British Orienteering is amending the operational guidance on start rates for orienteering events in England as follows:

- a. **At Step 3 from 17 May**, a maximum of **six starters per minute** will be permitted from each start location, regardless of whether start times or start windows are allocated.
- b. **At Step 4 (from no earlier than 21 June)**, British Orienteering do not currently expect to retain any restrictions on start rates. We will provide further guidance on orienteering at Step 4 once the government guidance and any remaining legal restrictions are clearer.

The organiser may choose whether to allocate specific start times or start windows. In making this choice, the organiser must have regard to the need to maintain social distancing and for participants waiting to enter the start system to adhere to the legal maximum gathering size of thirty people.

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The organiser should take account of factors including:

- The actual number of starters per minute from the start location.
- The amount of space available at the start location.
- The distance from the car parking to the start location.
- Whether the start location is shared with members of the public.
- Where multiple start locations are used, the separation between the start locations.
- The proximity of the start and finish areas to each other.

It is absolutely vital that any orienteering activity complies with both the letter and the spirit of the Government guidance and the guidance in this document.

Demand for orienteering may be high, so clubs are asked to follow the guidance below closely when organising any orienteering activity and/or competition, to ensure all participants can enjoy this great sport safely, and to maintain the excellent reputation of the sport.

Separate guidance for coaching activities can be found [here](#).

British Orienteering will continue to work closely with DCMS and Sport England to develop best practice guidance for those responsible for delivering different aspects of orienteering.

As the weeks progress, the Government [roadmap](#) may be eased further. If they are, British Orienteering will update the guidance accordingly. It's essential everyone is clear about the restrictions and works together to manage social distancing and strong personal hygiene.

The guidance outlined below allows orienteering clubs to resume orienteering competitions and activities in line with the current Government guidance, minimising the risk of spreading COVID-19. They include measures to maintain hygiene and minimise unnecessary interactions with others.

Orienteering areas across the country are all different and clubs operate in different local contexts. An assessment of whether a safe environment can be provided will depend on a range of factors, which apply differently at each venue. It is the responsibility of each club or coach to make that assessment based on their local environment.

Clubs should be ready to cancel any activity or competition at short notice, should changes to local or national guidelines dictate.

Failure to respect this guidance could:

- Invalidate the insurance for the competition or activity.
- Potentially cause irreparable damage to the reputation of the sport and seriously jeopardise the ability to obtain permission for future competitions, both locally and nationally.
- Result in an investigation and if necessary disciplinary action to be taken.

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## 1 Risk assessment

Clubs should conduct their usual careful and comprehensive risk assessment for every competition and activity, taking into account the current environment and conditions. Risk assessments must include measures to manage social distancing and for effective infection control. A COVID-19 Risk Assessment template is available [here](#).

## 2 Travel and Accommodation

Participants and volunteers should always check that it is safe to travel before setting out to take part in an orienteering event or activity. Everyone should minimise travel wherever possible, but participants and volunteers can travel to take part in organised sport, including orienteering events and activities, where necessary.

The use of self-contained holiday accommodation is allowable.

It is now permissible to car share to attend an Orienteering event/activity if required. Where possible, it's advised to still travel alone.

## 3 Hygiene and cleaning requirements

Hand sanitiser or hand-washing facilities should be available on arrival at the competition, at the start area, at download and in any toilets.

The following [government guidelines regarding the cleaning of equipment](#) will help explain the steps you need to take to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission through Orienteering equipment.

There are very few items of shared equipment in orienteering, and the risk of COVID-19 transmission through fomites is accordingly very low. The most likely potential vector is through contact with electronic punching units.

Participants should be reminded in the pre-competition information and at the start to avoid touching the electronic punching units.

All units, including clear and check units, must be placed on stakes, tables or on the ground, and not held by an official.

Care should be taken to clean any electronic punching units used on a course. Detailed manufacturer guidance on cleaning SPORTident equipment can be found in Appendix A to this document. Equivalent guidance has been requested from EMIT and will be added once it is available. In the absence of specific manufacturer guidance:

- The clear, check, start, finish and download units should be cleaned regularly with a disinfectant spray or wipe throughout the competition.
- Units on the course should be cleaned with a disinfectant spray or wipe prior to being collected at the end of the competitions or alternatively, control collectors should wear gloves.
- All wipes used should be disposed of immediately after use. If collecting controls, a separate bag should be used to hold used wipes which is disposed of when appropriate.

Pin punching must not be used.

It is unusual for changing rooms and showering facilities to be provided at an orienteering competition, and these should be avoided where possible.

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## 4 Social distancing

The risk of droplet transmission at an orienteering competition is low. There should be little reason for participants to come within 1 metre of each other or volunteers, and it should normally be possible to maintain 2-metre distancing.

All participants and officials must comply with the social distancing guidelines set out in the government [advice](#): 2 metres, or 1 metre with risk mitigation where 2 metres is not viable. If a club is not able to maintain 2-metre distancing, they must consider and set out the mitigations they will use as part of their risk assessment.

Areas where people are particularly likely to gather or form a queue, such as a hire card collection, payment, start, finish, download and toilets, must be sufficiently distanced apart, have clear signage reminding participants of the importance of social distancing and may need to be marshalled to ensure compliance. Signage is available from British Orienteering [here](#).

Clubs should ensure that steps are taken to avoid people needing to unduly raise their voices to each other. This is because of the potential for increased risk of transmission, particularly from aerosol and droplet transmission. If a call-up official is used at the start, they may say the names of participants but should avoid shouting them. Generators should be positioned so that the noise of their operation does not make normal conversation difficult for the volunteer(s) working on download.

## 5 Participant Code of Conduct

Everyone taking part must follow the Participant Code of Conduct at all times. The Code of Conduct can be found [here](#) and key considerations include:

- Acting as an ambassador for the sport of orienteering at all times and considering how their actions may appear in the eyes of landowners or members of the public.
- Observing social distancing at all times, including keeping their distance from other participants, volunteers and members of the public.
- Using hand sanitiser on arrival and departure.
- ***Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19, who is living in a household with someone who has a possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection, or who has been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace should remain at home.***

## 6 Permissions

Permission must be obtained from landowners for any orienteering competition or activity, and any local or landowner-imposed restrictions must be adhered to.

Permissions should be sought in the usual way, but clubs should be aware that they may be required to provide additional information to demonstrate that they are able to deliver a COVID-secure activity. This document can be shared with landowners and local authorities in support of obtaining permissions if required. [Visual guidance to support gaining permission from landowners can be found here.](#)

**Local Authorities have been issued guidance by the Government “[Organised Events Guidance for Local Authorities](#)” which identifies that organised sporting events are able to take place.**

## 7 Registration with British Orienteering

All orienteering competitions and activities are to be registered with British Orienteering through the usual registration process, which ensures that insurance cover is provided as long as these guidelines are followed.

Any orienteering activities for which a set of results is produced must be registered as a competition and will be subject to the usual British Orienteering levy.

These guidelines have been approved by the British Orienteering Federation board for the resumption of orienteering competitions in England. Should clubs fail to adhere to, or deviate from these guidelines, or any local or national Government restrictions, this may lead to the invalidation of the insurance cover for that particular competition or activity.

## 8 Pre-registration, payment and allocation of start times

### 8.1 Pre-registration only

All competitions are to be pre-registration only, with no entries taken on the day. This will allow clubs to manage the number of participants avoid queues of people on the day, and minimise the need for face-to-face interactions. Clubs must decide the total number of entries that can be accepted while maintaining social distancing in all parts of the competition. Clubs can use established providers or establish their own pre-registration system.

It is up to organisers to decide whether to allow open entry, whether to give priority to members of their own club or to members of British Orienteering, and whether to restrict entries so as to minimize travel. Competitions or activities for novices are allowed providing social distancing can be maintained.

### 8.2 Pre-registration form requirements

All participants taking part in orienteering must use a pre-registration system that records specific details about participants. This will allow the club to share information with NHS Test & Trace ([guidance here](#)) should it be required. Similar information must also be recorded about all volunteers.

This information should be retained for 21 days, unless it is necessary to retain it for longer for another purpose.

The information that a club may be required to share with NHS Test & Trace about each participant or volunteer is:

- Name
- Contact telephone number
- Arrival and departure time (or an estimate of this based on start and finish time)

### 8.3 Pre-registration form: COVID-19 status and Participant Code of Conduct

Pre-registration forms require entrants to acknowledge that they must not attend if they or a member of their household has COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace, and that they will abide by the Participant Code of Conduct at all times.

## 8.4 SI/Emit card hire

It is for clubs to decide whether or not they hire or lend out equipment. Any equipment must be cleaned before it is hired or lent out and cleaned again upon return.

If required, SI or Emit cards must be hired prior to the competition, as part of the pre-registration process. Specific manufacturer guidance should be followed; where this is not available, cards should be cleaned and individually stored prior to issue at the competition. A number of spare cards should be prepared as a back-up.

## 8.5 Payments

Clubs should ideally take payment for any entry, card hire or car parking fees prior to the competition, using an online payment platform or bank transfer to the club account. If this is not feasible then taking payment on the day using contactless payments is advised. These approaches may require more administration before the competition but will reduce the need to collect and handle money on the day, or to visit a bank afterwards. The use of cash should be avoided.

## 8.6 Refunds

Clubs should offer a full refund to anyone who needs to withdraw their entry because they or a member of their household has COVID-19 symptoms, or because they have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace, with the club to bear any admin charge imposed by the entry system provider.

Clubs should also make clear what refund policy will apply if the competition has to be cancelled or postponed at short notice, including as a result of a change in local or national restrictions.

## 8.7 Allocated start times

**No more than thirty people**, including any officials, must be present in the immediate start area at any one time, and social distancing must be maintained between people from different households.

To accommodate the expected number of participants, clubs could consider extending the time period for which the start is open, or providing multiple start locations for different courses. There is no limit to the number of separate start locations that may be used at a competition. See section [14.7](#) for further guidance on the layout of the start area.

To limit the number of people in the start area, all participants must be allocated either a specific start time or a start window.

The organiser must ensure that they leave sufficient free slots in the start list so that people who miss their allocated slot do not need to wait at the start area for a long period.

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The organiser may choose whether to allocate specific start times or start windows. In making this choice, the organiser must have regard to the need to maintain social distancing and for participants waiting to enter the start system to adhere to the legal maximum gathering size of thirty people.

The organiser should take account of factors including:

- The actual number of starters per minute from the start location.
- The amount of space available at the start location.
- The distance from the car parking to the start location.
- Whether the start location is shared with members of the public.
- Where multiple start locations are used, the separation between the start locations.
- The proximity of the start and finish areas to each other.

Participants must make every effort to arrive at the start at an appropriate time for their allocated start time or window. However, the start official may use their discretion to prevent a queue from forming at the start, providing that social distancing is maintained and that there is at least a 30-second gap between participants on the same course.

Clubs may determine the length of the start window.

## Competition promotion

Competitions can be promoted through newsletters, social media and emails. However, clubs should be aware that novices may require additional support which it may be difficult to provide in a COVID-secure manner.

## 9 Communications

Clear communication to participants, volunteers and officials is critical to ensure that they take all reasonable measures to comply with social distancing and hygiene measures at all times, before, after and during a competition or activity.

Clubs are to ensure that all participants, prior to attending organised orienteering competitions or activities, are provided with information that explains how operations at the venue will take place. Clubs should provide information on their website and via email directly to the participant. As well as the information that clubs commonly distribute prior to competitions, the following must be included:

- **A reminder that participants must not attend if they or a member of their household has COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace.**
- The participant's allocated start time or start window.
- Where the start will be located relative to the parking area.
- A link to the [Participant Code of Conduct](#).
- A reminder that participants should make every reasonable effort to arrive at the competition in time for their allocated start time or start window, including allowing extra time to travel to the venue where necessary.
- A reminder of what participants should do on arrival, at the start, at the finish and at download.
- A reminder that participants should avoid touching control units when punching.
- Whether participants will be asked to wear a face covering when entering buildings or tents to pay for entries, collect hire cards, or download.
- Any other changes to how the club usually runs a competition, such as results not being visible at the venue.

Clubs must ensure that any participants or volunteers who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity are sent home immediately and records are made of who they have been in contact with and for how long.

If someone who has taken part in an orienteering competition or activity later develops symptoms of COVID-19, it is not the role of the club to communicate this to their volunteers or to other participants. Doing so has the potential to create issues for the club under data protection law. The club should, however, keep records of all participants and volunteers at a competition or activity for 21 days, and share these records with NHS Test and Trace if requested by them to do so.

## 10 First aid

### 10.1 First aid provision at competitions/activities

As before, first aid provision must be appropriate to the needs of the competition or activity.

Always and only provide first aid within your qualification training and guidelines.

### 10.2 Additional COVID-19 guidance

Appropriate PPE should be available for use by the designated first aider, including gloves and face covering (covering the nose and mouth, such as buff or fabric mask).

When appropriate, for minor injuries (cuts, bruises, sprains) provide first aid support to the injured person by directing the injured person in treating their own injuries.

CPR – follow the normal procedure with the following important changes/exceptions (taken from St John's Ambulance advice):

- Do not place your face close to the casualty (so with initial assessment don't listen closely for breathing),
- Keep other helpers 2m away from you and the casualty,
- Before you start CPR, use a mask, towel or piece of clothing and lay it over the mouth and nose of the casualty
- In the case of an adult, do not give rescue breaths, just continue with chest compressions.

For major injuries follow normal first aid procedure within your training/qualification, being particularly careful not to touch bodily fluid and open wounds without gloves.

## 11 Signage

Appropriate signage is to be clearly displayed around the venue (hire card distribution or payment areas, start, finish and download areas, toilets) to remind participants of the importance of social distancing and good hygiene. Downloadable signage can be found [here](#).

Signage to be displayed should include:

- Social Distancing - to be displayed anywhere where there could be a build-up of participants e.g. at hire card collect, payment, toilets, start, finish and download areas.
- Personal Hygiene - washing hands.
- Information on who should not participate – those with COVID-19 symptoms.

## 12 Toilets

If toilets are available at venues, then local regulations must be adhered to.

If mobile toilets are ordered by the club and used, the units should be spaced out and the queue structured to comply with social distancing requirements. Handles must be disinfected frequently throughout the competition.

## 13 Catering & Refreshments

Catering should only be provided if it can be arranged in a COVID-secure manner and in line with the relevant Government guidance.

Water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared under any circumstances.

## 14 Orienteering competition/activity layout

### 14.1 Parking

Consideration should be given to allowing extra space between cars where the parking area permits.

### 14.2 Display of NHS QR codes

Orienteering competitions do not generally make use of venues in the categories that are required by law to display an NHS QR code (fixed indoor venues), and orienteers do not typically carry mobile phones whilst competing.

Instead, all competitions must meet the requirements of NHS Test and Trace by using a pre-registration system which captures the necessary information.

However, NHS QR codes must be displayed for any indoor activities, or any aspects of a competition – such as toilet facilities or download – that require volunteers or participants to enter one of the [settings which are required by law to display an NHS QR code](#).

### 14.3 Participant route at the venue

Clubs must plan for the route those taking part will take at the venue. Appropriate signage is to be in place (see the section [above](#)) and social distancing allowed for. Where possible, when not out on the course, participants are to flow in one direction from car to hire card distribution/payment, to start, then finish, to download, to car.

### 14.4 Payment on the day

If payments for entries are taken on the day by contactless card, the arrangements for taking these payments will need to be arranged so that those queuing adhere to 2m social distancing requirements and, wherever possible, so that participants do not need to enter a building or tent. No entry on the day can take place, and all registration information should be captured as part of the pre-registration process.

### 14.5 SI/Emit hire card distribution

Hire card distribution will need to be arranged so that those queuing adhere to 2m social distancing requirements and, wherever possible so that participants do not need to enter a building or tent. Those wishing to hire a card will have indicated this on their pre-registration form, and cards should be prepared in advance. A spare supply should be available in case this is required.

## 14.6 Key drop

As there is no requirement for registration, and to reduce the risk of fomite transmission, we recommend that clubs do not provide a key drop service. However, a key drop may be provided if it can be done in a Covid-secure way.

## 14.7 Start layout

Starts will need to be arranged so that those queuing to start adhere to 2m social distancing requirements e.g. a formal start layout with large, clearly defined boxes, or a more informal punching start with sufficient space for participants to observe social distancing while queuing, and with no more than thirty people in the immediate vicinity (including any officials) at any one time.

Given the restriction on the number of starters from a single location, organisers may wish to provide multiple separate start locations for different courses. If multiple start locations are used, these must also be sufficiently far apart to ensure the groups of participants waiting to start remain separate, and must not be merely multiple lanes at the same start.

Where the venue permits, the start location(s) should be close to and, ideally, visible from the parking area, to reduce the likelihood that people will arrive at the start area significantly in advance of their start time.

## 14.8 Map distribution

If multiple courses use the same start, maps should be placed in map boxes that are appropriately spaced and arranged in such a way that participants should only need to touch a single map. Maps must not be reused.

## 14.9 Finish layout

The finish must be sufficiently far from the start area(s) to ensure that those who have finished remain separate from those waiting to start. Participants should be encouraged to move clear of the finish after punching, and signage to encourage this is available.

Ensure there is sufficient space available after the finish to allow participants to recover before they download, while observing social distancing requirements. Signage may be required to direct participants to the download area.

## 14.10 Download layout

Wherever possible, the download layout should not require participants to enter a building or tent. Queues should be marked out to comply with social distancing requirements, including a suitable distance between the competition volunteer(s) manning download and the participant. The download unit must be cleaned regularly.

Clubs can provide print outs of participant's times. Wherever possible, the printer should be positioned so that the participant is able to access the printout themselves without touching the printer, which must be cleaned regularly. If this is not possible, printouts may be produced and handed to the participant by a volunteer.

No results are to be displayed (see section 17 [below](#)).

## 14.11 Face coverings

Individuals should wear a face covering in indoor places where social distancing may be difficult and where they will come into contact with people they do not normally meet, unless they are exempt or have a reasonable excuse. In [certain settings](#), wearing a face covering is a legal requirement. Indoor places are defined to include any enclosed or substantially enclosed premises, including buildings or tents.

Wherever possible, the competition layout should not require participants to enter a building or tent to pay for their entry, to collect a hire card, or to download. Where this is unavoidable, participants should be asked to wear a face covering while they are inside.

## 14.12 Hired and returned SI/Emit cards - Hygiene

A system will need to be in place to store and clean hired cards after they have been returned. Specific manufacturer guidance should be followed; where this is not available, cleaning all hired cards immediately on return with disinfectant wipes or cleaning fluid is recommended. (See section 8.4 [above](#) and [Appendix A](#) for further information)

Consideration could be given to longer term hire, allowing participants to retain a hired card for a period of time or a set number of competitions. This would reduce the frequency of cards changing hands, and consequently, the cleaning and administration required.

## 14.13 Post-competition equipment – Hygiene

Specific manufacturer guidance should be followed; where this is not available, controls and other equipment must be cleaned after use. (See section [above](#) for further information)

## 14.14 Spectators

Spectators are not permitted at any orienteering event or activity, with the exception of carers for people with disabilities, or adults needed to supervise under-18s in a safeguarding role. Where it is necessary for them to be present, supervising adults should not mix with others from outside their household or support bubble.

## 14.15 Course planning considerations

Courses can be linear or score and no relays will be allowed.

Courses should be planned to enable social distancing and reduce the risk of face-to-face meetings between participants and the general public. In particular, planners should:

- Avoid setting legs that could result in participants running in both directions through the same narrow pinch points (small paths/gates/stiles).
- Avoid areas of the venue where gatherings of the general public may take place.

## 15 Volunteers and coaches

### 15.1 Duty of care

Clubs have a duty of care to volunteers to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that they are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. ***Nobody should be required to work or volunteer in an unsafe environment.***

## 15.2 Training

Core training for all volunteers on COVID-19 mitigations is available for free through [CIMSPA](#).

## 15.3 Volunteer plans

Specific consideration needs to be given to how the volunteers or coaches will deliver the activity or competition. Detailed arrangements should be made between the volunteers prior to the competition or activity. Each plan should include:

- Competition timings including set up, delivery and break down of competition.
- What each individual role will entail, including where each volunteer will be located at the venue.
- Who will be doing each role.
- Emergency procedures, including what they should do in the competition of a suspected COVID-19 case arising.
- How many volunteers or coaches will be required to ensure a safe competition or activity.
- Identifying whether any volunteers will be required or advised to wear face coverings or other PPE.

Identifying which roles need new processes and procedures, such as for hygiene or social distancing.

## 15.4 Clinically vulnerable volunteers

It is possible that some regular volunteers may be classified as clinically vulnerable, including those aged over 70, or may live with people who are classified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

These individuals should be offered the option of the safest available on-site roles, enabling them to maintain social distancing from others. If they have to spend time closer to others than permitted by the government guidance, the organiser should carefully assess whether this involves an acceptable level of risk. As for any risk, the organiser must take into account specific duties given to those with protected characteristics.

## 15.5 PPE and face coverings

The government guidance states that, unless you are in a situation where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is very high, your risk assessment should reflect the fact that the role of PPE in providing additional protection is extremely limited.

Clubs should also consider asking volunteers who are operating inside a building or tent to wear face coverings if they will be in close proximity to people they do not normally meet.

## 16 Displaying results

To reduce the possibility of participants congregating in one place, results should not be printed out or displayed on screens at the venue. Clubs may be able to provide live results at the competition by Wi-Fi or directly uploaded to the internet, which can be accessed on participants personal mobile devices.

## 17 Safeguarding

British Orienteering's Welfare and Safeguarding Policies must be followed. The O Safe policy and further information can be found [here](#).

# Orienteering – Operational guidance for resumption of the sport in England



## 1 Appendix A – Guidance on cleaning SPORTident equipment

The main SPORTident products are SI-Cards and SI-Stations.

### **SPORTident STATIONS**

Stations are touched by the course setters when being set out and collected. Minimise the number of helpers who are in contact with the stations during this process. Before and after handling the stations the helper should carefully wash or disinfect their hands.

If the stations can be dried and left in a box for two days after being collected in, there is no need to clean or disinfect them as the virus will not survive. This is the preferred course of action and it is a simple solution.

If the stations need to be handled again without being left for two days then there are two options:

- Dip each station briefly in a bucket of warm water containing a reasonable amount of washing-up liquid which has created a really good lather. Use a sponge to ensure that a good lather is wiped all over the surface of the station. Stations should be left covered in lather for a while and then rinsed with water. A 100% hypoallergenic washing product is good as it is suitable for those with sensitive skin and strong allergies. Product can be purchased in 5L plastic containers. Stations should only briefly be immersed in water as the seals are water resistant but not guaranteed to be waterproof when immersed.
- Or wipe each station using an alcohol-based surface disinfectant, preferably with 70% isopropanol or 80% ethanol. Other surface disinfectants could damage the plastic surface of SPORTident products

### **SPORTident SI-CARDS**

The team issuing hire cards should adhere to social distancing requirements, both from one another and from participants, and should carefully wash or disinfect their hands before and after handling the SI-Cards.

#### **HIRED SI-CARDS USED ONCE**

If it is necessary to hand out hired SI-Cards, the card and elastic band should be issued from separate containers. The participant carefully takes the two items and touches only one piece each. The participant returns both parts separately. The elastic band should be washed afterwards and a standard cycle in a washing machine should be sufficient to kill the virus. If the SI-Card needs to be used again within two days, clean it in the same way as described above for SPORTident Stations.

SI-Cards other than **SI-Card 5** and **SIAC** should only briefly be immersed in water as the housings are water resistant but not guaranteed to be waterproof when the card is immersed.

#### **HIRED SI-CARDS USED MORE THAN ONCE THE SAME DAY**

We suggest that each SI-Card/elastic band is wiped or immersed in an alcohol-based surface disinfectant, preferably with 70% isopropanol or 80% ethanol.

#### **DURING THE COMPETITION**

Participants should be encouraged not to touch the stations during the race. An SI-Card can be dipped in a station without touching it.

#### **SI-CARD DOWNLOAD**

The SI-Card readout process should be done by the participant and the Download Station should be located at a cable length (1 metre minimum, and ideally 2 metres) from the person managing results. SiTiming software offers some new DIY download options that make it unnecessary for a helper to be in close attendance. Clubs can provide printouts of participant's times. Wherever possible, the printer should be positioned so that the participant is able to access the printout themselves without touching the printer, which must be cleaned regularly. If this is not possible, printouts may be produced and handed to the participant by a volunteer.