

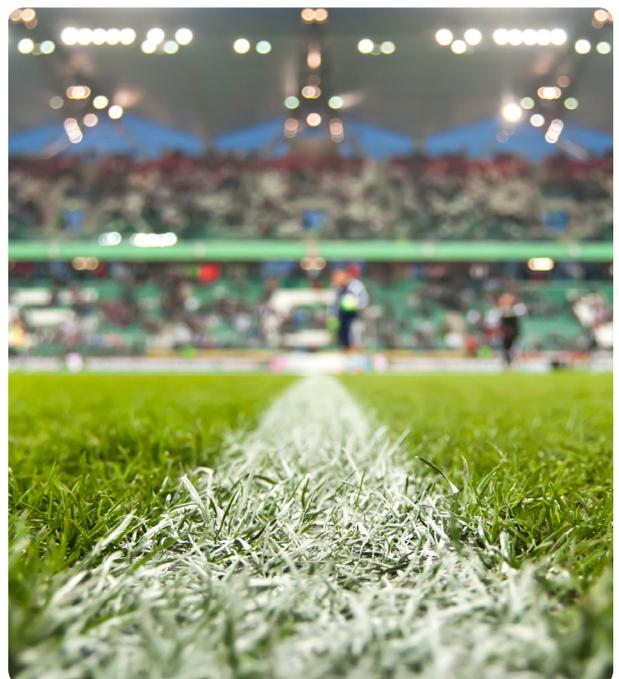


COVID-19 Recovery for Sports and Entertainment

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the sports and events sector, ongoing disruption has resulted in multiple event cancellations and disruption to the scheduled sports calendar. Efforts to reschedule events are further complicated by restrictions being imposed by governments and the need to implement additional protective measures.

Bluefin Sport is supporting sports organisations in their response to the outbreak from an insurance, claims, and risk management perspective to assist in their return to “normal operations”. Whilst existing risk management systems may not have been fully equipped to deal with a disruption of this scale, we are seeing many organisations adapt existing procedures to support their response to the ongoing pandemic.

As organisations enter their recovery-planning phase, there is an opportunity to review and update risk management information to capture valuable lessons learned. Through working with a range of sports organisations, we have collated a risk inventory of specific issues that sports and events organisations should be considering as part of the recovery planning process. This, together with the guidance available from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in respect of mass gatherings, will assist in assessing the risks of when sports and events are safe to resume.



COVID-19 Recovery Areas for Consideration



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) for workforce, volunteers, and contractors.
- Training requirements for workforce.
- Specific COVID-19 H&S risk assessment.
- Volunteer management – availability of at risk groups.
- Deep clean schedules for venues.
- Regularity of cleaning and sanitising operations.
- Spectator communications prior to event relating to public health advice.
- Signage requirements.
- Additional hand washing and sanitising facilities for workforce and the public.



VENUES

- Density ratios/revised seating plans leading to limited capacity.
- Queueing arrangements – external and internal.
- Reconfigure stadium concourse and restrooms for physical distancing.
- Restriction on venue tours.
- Spectator and player transportation to and from the venue.
- Maintenance schedules at venue including statutory inspections still up-to-date.



FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT

- Venue use agreements – revisions to ensure venue compliance with national recommendations relating to COVID-19.
- Revision of ticket refund policy/terms and conditions.
- Liability insurance includes coverage for COVID-19.
- Extend/renew sponsorship and licensing contracts.
- Revision of HR policies and welfare support.



CATERING

- Pre-packaged automated concessions vs. self-serve.
- Caterers to comply with safety requirements.
- Hygiene safety – increased standards/revised policies and procedures.
- Workforce training policy on standards, monitoring, and compliance.



TECHNOLOGY

- Ticketless access – e-tickets vs. paper tickets.
- Card only payment vs. cash payments.
- Screening technology required at entry.



EVENT OPERATIONS

- Employees/officials/volunteer availability.
- Staff wellbeing post lockdown.
- Changes to fixture lists/event dates and calendar alignment.
- Participants – country of residency/travel availability.*
- Pre-travel and pre-event health checks – exclusion of those with potential additional risks (comorbidities, medications, allergies).
- “New normal” work practices.



MEDICAL

- Screening requirements including temperature monitoring.
- Enhanced on-site medical teams.
- Isolation capabilities.
- Ambulance and paramedics availability.
- Protocols for suspected and confirmed persons with symptoms.
- Pre event health declarations.
- Collaboration with local public health authorities.
- Medical waste arrangements and facilities.



TRAINING/PRACTICE FACILITIES

- Access control requirements.
- Catering arrangements – individual vs. team.
- Reconfigured changing facilities.
- Transportation to and from venues and accommodation.
- Athletes/participants – separation from officials, support staff, and spectators.



SUPPLY CHAINS

- Availability of venue vendors, suppliers, and contractors.
- Vendors/suppliers business continuity plans for workforce shortages.
- Handling of deliveries/overlay requirements.



SECURITY

- Emergency evacuation plans still fit for purpose.
- Law enforcement/stewarding availability.
- Access Control Support – refusal of entry due to medical screening.
- Virus tracing – tracking in venue.

* *The International Air Transport Association (IATA) provides detailed information relating to the travel situation in specific countries and the restrictions that are currently being applied due to COVID-19.*

WHO Guidance

The WHO highlights **5 key factors** in determining the risks relating to mass gatherings:

- 1 Will the event be held in a country that has documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread)?
- 2 Will the event be held in a single venue or multiple venues/cities/countries?
- 3 Will the event include international participants (athletes and spectators) from countries that have documented active local transmission of COVID-19 (community spread)?
- 4 Will the event include a significant number of participants (athletes or spectators) at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease (e.g., people over 65 years of age or people with underlying health conditions)?
- 5 Will the event include sports that are considered at higher risk of spread for COVID-19 (e.g., contact sports)?

The following World Health Organisation documents provide guidance to those undertaking risk assessments for their sports and events:

- [Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance.](#)
- [Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19.](#)
- [Mass gathering sporting risk assessment.](#)

Conclusion

When sports and events finally resume it will be important that all organisers are able to:

- Minimise the risk of transmission for all groups at their event.
- Have an ability to contact trace those attending their event.
- Demonstrate close liaison with all their participants, national government, and local public health authorities.

For further information, please contact your usual Bluefin Sport representative or visit our website www.bluefinsport.co.uk

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Our clients' activities extend across the world of sport from the largest professional organisations in the UK, including some of the best known names, right through to grassroots level.

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