

Return to Water Polo Update

Due to the delay on processing to Phase 4 of the Government Roadmap in ROI, some of the measures as previously set out in the Return to Water Framework have been delayed. Please find below details on any changes to the framework as well as updates in relation to our clubs in NI and their return to polo guidelines.

ROI Only

As the country has not moved into Phase 4 on 10th August 2020, team play may not be conducted with members of other clubs. Social distancing rules may not be adjusted at this stage and public gathering numbers have not increased to 100 indoors and 500 outdoors. The numbers indoors are firmly set at 50 people. This will be revisited in line with Government guidelines in 3 weeks' time, 31st August 2020. A further update will be provided in due course.

NI Only

- As pools in NI are now permitted to open, NI clubs are advised to contact their pool/facility (if it has not been done previously) to arrange returning to the pool
- Once agreements have been made in relation to pool hire, training times, risk assessments etc. all clubs are advised to introduce their senior squads to training and use these squads to ensure all systems are in place and working with the facility and their guidelines
- 'Seniors First' guidance may be interpreted as senior squads, including teenage members of senior squads. Junior sessions to return as soon as is practical and all systems are in place and working well
- All clubs are advised to have intra club activity only to start. Inter club activity will be advised at a later date once we have received updates to the Government roadmap/steps.
- Max numbers per 25m pool session is 30 persons (see Return to Water Polo Framework documents for pool diagrams). Please note the capacity of 30 max, as applying to 25m x 12m 6 lane pools, the max number may increase for larger pool venues
- Session content should be restricted to swimming training and some basic water polo skills (non-contact) and this will be reviewed by Swim Ireland before end of August

Please be advised that in the previous Return to Water Polo update a reference was made to Water Polo specific webinars. These webinars will now take place in early September once we have a clear plan in relation to pool time. The webinars will cover our competition framework and plan for the season ahead. The National Water Polo Committee would like to reiterate that at present the 2019/2020 season plan as released in April is subject to confirmation from pool providers and an update on this will be released as soon as is possible. The restart date for water polo is provisionally set at 19th September 2020.

The Return to Water Polo Framework document will be updated following revised government advise as we move into the next phase/step of the roadmap.