

**Sport NI Statement:**

1. Summary Position for sport and physical activity following recent Executive announcements.
2. New closing date for Sports Sustainability Fund!
3. #YourStoryMatters, race and racial inequality in sport, please share.
4. COVID Safe Sports Packs re-opened.



**Sport Northern Ireland**

House of Sport

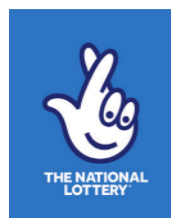
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## **Summary Position for sport and physical activity following recent Executive announcements**

In response to the significant challenges facing the health service due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Executive have announced a package of interventions and restrictions for the coming weeks.

The aim of these restrictions is to drive the R number down and in doing so protect the Health Service through a challenging period that lies immediately ahead. All sectors are being asked to play their part in this collaborative effort.

Much of sport will be affected but the Executive continues to recognise the physical and mental health benefits associated with individuals exercising outdoors on an individual basis or with members of their household. All sports Governing bodies and their clubs are asked to demonstrate leadership within the community by complying with these restrictions. By doing so sport can make a valuable contribution to driving the R number down which will in turn lead to higher levels of sport activity being permitted once this period of restrictions is eased. Please see below a summary of the impact on sport and physical activity of the most recent Executive announcements. Please refer all queries to [returntosport@sportni.net](mailto:returntosport@sportni.net).

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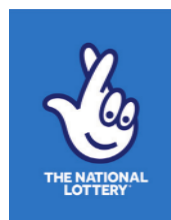
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**These restrictions will be in place for 6 weeks and will be reviewed after 4 weeks.**

**From 00:01 26 December to 1 January inclusive (ends at 00:01 on 2 Jan)**

- **No sporting events permitted at all, even at elite level.**
- **Elite athletes permitted to train between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.**
- **Outdoor sports and exercise facilities including activity centres, equestrian centres, Golf courses, marinas and venues relating to motor sport and water sport must close.**
- **Indoor sports and exercise facilities, including soft play areas, leisure centres, climbing facilities, rinks, gyms, swimming pools, equestrian centres and venues relating to sports activity must close.**
- **Outdoor exercise permitted only as an individual or with members of your own household.**

**From 00:01 2 January 2021**

- **Outdoor gatherings for the purposes of exercise or sport are only permitted for elite athletes, for the purposes of P.E in or for schools, or if participants are members of the same household.**
- **Outdoor sports and exercise facilities including activity centres, equestrian centres, Golf courses, marinas and venues relating to motor sport and water sport must close.**

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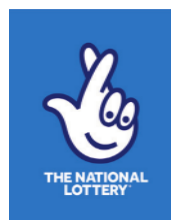
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- Indoor sport is only permitted for elite athletes or for P.E in, or for, schools.
- Indoor sports and exercise facilities, including soft play areas, leisure centres, climbing facilities, rinks, gyms, swimming pools, equestrian centres and venues relating to sports activity must close.
- Elite training and competition can continue, both indoors and outdoors. The definition of an elite athlete is set out [in the Regulations](#) – see link: [Return to Sport FAQ's | Sport NI](#)
- Spectators are not permitted at elite sporting events

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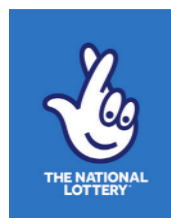
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### **Sports Sustainability Fund Programme**

Thank you for your recent attendance, participation in and contribution to the recent briefing meetings on the Sports Sustainability Fund. We committed to making ‘co-design’ a standout feature of the programme. We listened carefully to your feedback both during the briefing sessions and in the subsequent follow-up engagement with many of you over the last two week. It is in that context that we are pleased to confirm that, as you requested, the closing date for submission of applications to the Sports Sustainability Fund has been extended to **4pm Wednesday 20 January 2021**.

If you have any queries please contact:  
[sportssustainabilityfund@sportni.net](mailto:sportssustainabilityfund@sportni.net)

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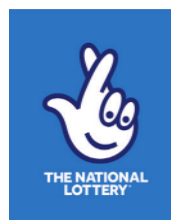
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### **#TellYourStory...because our story matters**

Please take a look at our video and web page that explains why we want to listen to the experiences of players, participants, coaches, officials, staff and parents from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities; to make important changes in sport: [Race and Racial Inequality In Sport Research | Sport NI](#)

We have a two NI Forums planned for 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January: [Forums - #TellYourStory \(storiesmatter.co.uk\)](#) please share these details onwards; to encourage players, participants, coaches, officials, staff and parents to book a place or we can arrange a one-to-one interview if they would prefer.

For further information ring: Ali Campbell 07703328348.

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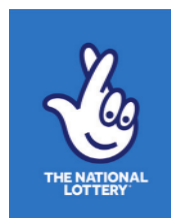
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Please note this has reopened and more details are available here:  
<http://www.sportni.net/>

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