



COVID-19 Protocol, November 2021

East Galway Celtic's COVID-19 protocol has been completed in compliance with Basketball Irelands Return to Play Guidelines (BIRTP). This protocol does not replace the BIRTP but complements the guideline, highlighting important information for the club and specific requirements for the East Galway Celtic's basketball club and our partner facilities. This document does not supersede the Club Guiding Principles but identifies the additional roles and responsibilities of the club during this pandemic.

We thank all club members for their co-operation as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

If further information is required by any club member please contact Caroline Walsh, Club Chairperson and COVID Compliance officer via the club e-mail eastgalwayceltics@gmail.com

This revision is based off the Basketball Ireland Return to Play guidelines issued 5th November 2021. The basketball community should continue basic protective measures throughout the winter season.

These include:

- Requirement for Health Questionnaire and EU Digital COVID Certificate (COVID-19 pass)(vaccine or recovery certificate) for indoor hospitality and events
- Face masks (can be removed for consumption of food or drinks, as appropriate)
- Collection of contact tracing data
- Indoor sporting events audience/spectators should be fully seated (standing permitted at your seat)
- Covid-19 passes and fixed capacity limits will not apply for outdoor events. However, appropriate protective measures should be in place,
- Organisers of indoor and outdoor group activities should ensure that appropriate protective measures are in place, (sanitiser, face masks, no attendance if symptomatic, no attendance if awaiting a test, or the results of a test, et cetera)
- Pods are still required indoors for all age groups if mixed or undisclosed vaccination status.
- Fixed capacity limits will not apply to these indoor and outdoor group activities,

- Indoor and outdoor competition games can take place for all age groups, and spectators are allowed in line with the above guidance.
- Sanitising of equipment remains in place.
- Appropriate ventilation in the area being used.

We will all need to take steps individually and collectively in our everyday lives to keep this risk under control, some steps are:

- acting fast, isolating and getting tested if we have symptoms
- wearing our face coverings where appropriate
- making sure that indoor spaces are well ventilated
- maintaining adequate social distancing whenever appropriate
- covering our coughs and sneezes and keeping our hands clean

Please note: If a person has not yet or does not want to disclose their vaccination status then they have this right but are considered by the HSE a higher risk of getting the infection and should be vigilant for symptoms and, like all others, use the COVID checks and/ or the app before entering the training or game.

Games can take place but with the checks done for all participating vaccinated, recovered or other.

Please be advised that underage (through their guardians) and adults, choosing not to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, and/ or not wanting to disclose their vaccination status, and their identity, are to be treated with the utmost respect and in line with all the regulations that are in place for child safety and GDPR.

These persons can take part in training and/or games once the COVID health screen is completed by all participating.

Immunity Status and Utilization of Pods:

Vaccinated members or members that have recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 6 months are not required to train in pods.

Unvaccinated members are required to train in pods to a maximum of 6 members.

Members can participate in pods if there is a mixed immunity status.

Members are requested to declare their immunity status but are not obliged to. If members do not declare their immunity status they are required to train within the pod.

As Under 12's down are an unvaccinated demographic they are required to train in pods of 6.

Competitive games are allowed i.e. friendlies for these age groups from September 20th. League and cup matches are permitted from the October 22nd.

The above are in line with current government requirements; www.gov.ie/en/press-release/7894b-post-cabinet-statement-resilience-and-recovery-the-path-ahead/#exercise-and-sporting-activities.

Equipment

The management teams will be furnished with the following dedicated equipment. Equipment sharing is not permitted between teams to reduce the risk of infection across the club.

Should additional equipment be required during the season please contact the Club Secretary, Louise McGrath, via the club e-mail eastgalwayceltics@gmail.com

- Disinfectant for the training/game facility for hand sanitation purposes.
- Disinfectant and wipes or disinfectant wipes for equipment sanitation purposes.
- Laundry bags for bibs.
- Waste Bags for used sanitation wipes.
- Disposables masks for first aid kits.
- Waste bags for first aid waste.
- Electronic whistles, desirable but not required.
- Dedicated training balls (20 maximum, 1 for each individual member).
- Dedicated match balls (2 required per game).
- Sanitation checklists for equipment and facilities (Appendix 5).

The only exception to team sharing is game kits. Due to the short supply of game kits, the kits will need to be shared between teams. To reduce the risk of infection the manager transferring the kit is responsible for washing the kit prior to handover.

Responsibilities

Club COVID Compliance Officer

- Notify Basketball Ireland via rtp@basketballireland.ie with the date that a club member presented COVID 19 symptoms and that all activities required by the HSE have been complete. Place the GABB COVID officer on copy via gabbccovidofficer@gmail.com.
- Inform the Club Secretary of the incident and if games/training is impacted, the date the team is eligible to return to training and/or games.
- Obtain all records from the applicable manager for all COVID-19 incidents.
- If a club member from an opposing team has presented symptoms of COVID-19, complete all activities required by the HSE. Complete the COVID19 incident reporting form, Appendix 5.

Manager

- Refer to Appendix 1 for Clarin College.
- Refer to Appendix 2 for Coláiste an Eachréidh.
- Refer to Appendix 3 for facility logistics for Newcastle Community Centre.
- For juvenile training, ensure child protection measures are maintained as per the Guiding Principles.

- Ensure all coaches and volunteers joining the age group complete COVID compliance training: <https://www.sportireland.ie/covid19/course> and forward the certificates to the Club COVID compliance officer. Ensure all volunteers are registered in Clubforce as volunteers and assigned to your group. This will enable those volunteers to complete the health screen for each training session or game.
- The ball can be shared between players once disinfection guidelines as per this protocol are followed.
- If operating a pod systems with members, ensure there is social distance between the pods and no equipment is shared outside of the pod. The coach is not considered part of the pod and therefore can coach multiple pods simultaneously. Maintain 2m between pods. Ventilate the gym as much as practically possible.
- Ensure attendance has been confirmed via the Clubforce App.
- For Galway league, Home and Away teams are responsible for ensuring COVID compliance of their respective teams prior to the start of the game. Both teams are responsible for retaining their respective records of players and management that attended the game. Both teams are responsible for contacting each other prior to the game should a game require cancellation. Contact details of team managers will be shared by GABB.
- If games are cancelled due to COVID-19 incidents please inform the Club Secretary if a new date has been agreed between both managers. If East Galway Celtics are the home team, the Club Secretary will inform GABB of the agreed date. If a date is not agreed GABB will reschedule the game.
- For games, ensure all personnel (for example match officials & spectators) entering the venue have completed the health questionnaire (Appendix 6) and provided their EU Digital COVID cert
- All spectators are required to complete a health questionnaire (Appendix 6) and present their EU Digital certificate, remain seated and wear a facemask.

COVID Officer for applicable training session and games:

- Ensure attendance is completed via the Clubforce App for all players prior to commencement of training/game.
- Ensure all personnel complete the health questionnaire and present their EU Digital certificate when entering the venue.
- Confirm member's attendance in the Clubforce App.
- Hand sanitation every 30 minutes and ball cleaning every 30 minutes. Note: For games this can be completed at half time.
- Hand sanitization and equipment sanitization to be completed at the end of the session.
- Complete sanitisation procedure as per Appendix 5.
- Ensure spectators at games are seated and are wearing facemasks.
- If a player/management team member reports COVID 19 symptoms the following is required:
 - Direct the infected individual to the National Government's Contact tracing procedures.
 - Confirm the date the player/management team member presented with the symptoms.

- If a member of a team presents with symptoms within 48 hours of a training session/game and has been in contact with other players, coaches and officials, then training/practice/matches played by that team maybe suspended and a period of isolation as set out by the government. The HSE will provide on the next steps to be taken by the club. The following may be considered;
 1. The player will have to stop activities and get tested.
 2. The team will have to suspend activities and monitor for symptoms. (team here means any person involved in the activity that may have been in close contact)
 3. If the test is negative then the player must not return to activities until the player is symptom free for at least 48hrs, only then return to activities.
 4. The team may return to activities if the test is negative without the tested player, but must watch for any symptoms that may be related to the COVID virus. Report any symptoms to the COVID Compliance Officer.
 5. If the test is positive then the player will be given advice from the doctor or health care professional and should follow this advice. The HSE or the public health medical advice team will give advice to the other people that were in close contact with the person.
- Our protocols remain, but the HSE and medical advice team has to be followed above these protocols in a confirmed case situation.
- Immediately report the COVID incident to the Club COVID compliance officer via the number on Appendix 4. The COVID compliance officer will be in contact as soon as possible.
- If required by the HSE, contact all parents/members to advise that an individual within that group has reported symptoms
- Send the COVID-19 Incident Form (Appendix 4) to the Club COVID compliance officer via the club email eastgalwayceltics@gmail.com.
- If under the direction of the HSE, training is required to be cancelled, inform parents/members and the Club Secretary of the new date for return to training. The club secretary can be contacted via the club e-mail at eastgalwayceltics@gmail.com. Training/games must be suspended until advised by the HSE.
- The name of the infected individual is not to be disclosed to other parties in order to protect anonymity.
- If a team has been in contact with a member of an opposing team member that has presented COVID 19 symptoms, contact tracing records may be required and training/games may be suspended a advised by the HSE.

If a player displays COVID-19 Symptoms the following is required:

- If a participant becomes unwell during the activity, they should be isolated from other participants, return home as soon as possible, and contact their GP for further guidance.

- A designated club volunteer should take charge of the management of any persons with COVID-19 symptoms.
- The designated person managing the situation should try to maintain at least 2 metres from the person with symptoms and should wear a face covering and wash their hands regularly.
- Immediately separate the person displaying or complaining of COVID-19 related symptoms from others as is reasonably practicable.
- Ask this person to wear a face covering if possible or if available provide them with a facemask.
- If they are well enough to go home, arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the unwell person is a suspected COVID-19 case.

All persons who have been in close contact with the suspect case may be contacted as directed by the HSE to advise that an individual within that group has reported symptoms and specific actions to be taken, if any.

Players

- Do not attend training if feeling unwell.
- Inform the team manager if you have been confirmed as COVID positive and if the HSE has provided any information regarding action to be taken by the club.
- If you have been informed by your manager or the HSE that you have been in contact with a member presenting symptoms of COVID-19, follow the direction, if any, provided by the HSE.
- Bring your own, clearly identifiable water bottle to training and games.
- No congregating before or after training/games.
- After going to the toilet, thoroughly wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap or alcohol gel (minimum 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol)
- No shared towels or water bottles.
- No handshakes. No high fives. No body contact except that on the court of play.
- Clean ball assigned to you prior to training session and after training session.
- Follow instructions provided by the coach during the training session and abide by the COVID-19 guidelines.

Club Secretary

- Inform GABB of COVID-19 incident via galwayareaboardfixtures@gmail.com and the earliest date the applicable team can return to play.
- Inform facility key holder of training and game cancellations for the applicable group.
- Inform the applicable facility(ies) of the COVID-19 incident and provide all documentation required as per facility guidelines.
- In the event of an opposing club reporting a member with COVID-19 symptoms via the club e-mail, inform the applicable team manager and the Club COVID compliance

officer. Direction will be provided by the HSE regarding the next steps to be taken by the club.

- Inform GABB Fixtures if a date is agreed for a rescheduled game.

All voluntary members

- Complete the COVID-19 training module;
<https://www.sportireland.ie/covid19/course>
- Disinfect or wash hands thoroughly prior to training/game session, every 30 mins and at the end of the session.
- Do not attend training if feeling unwell.
- Inform the team manager if you are COVID positive and if the HSE has provided direction for the club.
- Wear facial coverings to reduce risk of infection.

Parents of members

- Comply with the requirements of these guidelines.
- Members to not attend training if feeling unwell.
- Drop children off at the assigned entrance.
- Collect children from the assigned entrance.
- Inform the club via eastgalwayceltics@gmail.com or via your child's manager if your child is COVID positive and what direction has been provided by the HSE for the club.
- Complete the health questionnaire, present your EU Digital certificate, and wear a facemask if attending games.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Requirements for Clarin College

Members to enter the facility through the main doors.

Members to exit the facility through the side fire exit doors.

All children must be dropped to the main door and collected at the side fire exit door respecting social distancing and current HSE guidelines.

Follow the club COVID-19 protocol with respect to social distancing etc.

Do not enter the gym until the area is clear off the previous players and management team.

Appendix 2 – Requirements for Coláiste an Eachréidh

Members to enter the facility through the main doors.

Members to exit the facility through the fire exit doors.

All children must be dropped to the main door and collected at the fire exit door respecting social distancing and current HSE guidelines.

Follow the club COVID-19 protocol with respect to social distancing etc.

Do not enter the gym until the area is clear off the previous players and management team.

Appendix 3 – Requirements for Newcastle Community Centre

Members to enter the facility through the rear doors.

Members to exit the facility through the side doors.

All children must be dropped to the rear door and collected at the side door respecting social distancing and current HSE guidelines.

Follow the club COVID-19 protocol with respect to social distancing etc.

Do not enter the kitchen or front corridor.

Appendix 4 – COVID-19 Incident Form

Club Name	East Galway Celtics	
Club COVID Compliance Officer	Caroline Walsh	
Contact E-mail	eastgalwayceltics@gmail.com	
Contact number	086 3792790	
Date member reported to the club		
How was the individual diagnosed? (Tick as appropriate)	Club Screening	
	Medical Testing	
	Self Diagnosis	
	All of the above	
Date member presented symptoms		
How many club sessions did the member attend within 48 hours of their diagnosis?		
How many games had the individual been a part of within the last 48 hours?		
Name the opposing club, venue and time.		
How many have potentially been in physical contact with the individual?	Players	
	Coaches	
	Support Volunteers	
	Parents	
COVID Questionnaire/ Attendance records attached		
Sanitation records attached		
Health screen records attached		
Expected date for return to play		

Contact Tracing for Incident outside to East Galway Celtics

Date GABB member presented symptoms		
How many have potentially been in physical contact with the individual?	Players	
	Coaches	
	Support Volunteers	
	Parents	
COVID Questionnaire/ Attendance records attached		
Expected date for return to play		

Role	Signature	Date
Team Manager		
Club Covid Compliance Officer		

Date forwarded to Basketball Ireland: _____

Appendix 5 – Sanitation Form								
		Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Training or Game, tick as appropriate	Training							
	Game							
Venue								
Number of balls sanitized prior to session								
Benches/Chairs sanitized	Yes							
	Not applicable							
Table Official Area sanitized	Yes							
	Not applicable							
Door handles sanitized	Yes							
	Not applicable							
All members hands disinfected prior to session								
All members hands disinfected after session								
Number of balls sanitized after 30 mins								

Appendix 6 – COVID Health Questionnaire

(Please circle your answers below)	
1. Have you visited any of the countries outside Ireland in the past 14 days?	Yes / No
2. Are you suffering any flu like symptoms/symptoms of COVID-19?	Yes / No
3. Are you experiencing any fever like/temperature symptoms?	Yes / No
4. Are you experiencing any difficulty in breathing, shortness of breath?	Yes / No
5. Did you consult a Doctor or other medical practitioner?	Yes / No
6. How are you feeling Healthwise?	Well / Unwell
7. Have you been in contact with someone who has visited an affected region in the past 14 days?	Yes / No
8. Have you been in contact with someone who has shown symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	Yes / No
9. Are you classified as being in any of the high-risk categories as listed by the HSE?	Yes / No
10. Have you previously been tested/screened for COVID-19 in recent weeks?	Yes / No
Note: If you have circled Yes to any of the above questions please provide more information.	

Declaration

Please read the declaration below carefully:

I declare that the information I have given is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and that I have not withheld any relevant material facts. I understand that I am responsible for the accuracy of my statement. I declare that I am not "at risk" from the coronavirus.

Signed: _____

Date: _____