

SPORT NI RETURN TO PLAY

COVID 19 SPECTATOR CAPACITY AT SMALL SPORTS VENUES

PURPOSE

This guidance note can be used to calculate the maximum number of spectators allowed at small (non-designated) pitch based sports venues in line with Covid 19 restrictions.

This guidance does not supersede legal requirements for Designated Grounds and Regulated Stands.

COVID19 PRINCIPLES

All activities undertaken should be in-line with the general Covid 19 principles:

- Social distancing – individuals should keep a **MINIMUM DISTANCE OF 2M (SHOULDER TO SHOULDER) APART.**
- Bubbles – family/social bubbles can be accommodated however individual from different bubbles should not mix.
- Hand hygiene – individuals should wash/sanitise their hands when and where required.
- Face coverings – face covering should be worn when required.

SPECTATOR PRINCIPLES

The accommodation of spectators in a sports ground should follow these principles:

- Where possible all grounds should have a separate entrance and exit.
- There should be a one way system on place for all spectator movement.
- Governing bodies may set a maximum capacity that is less than the calculated maximum capacity.

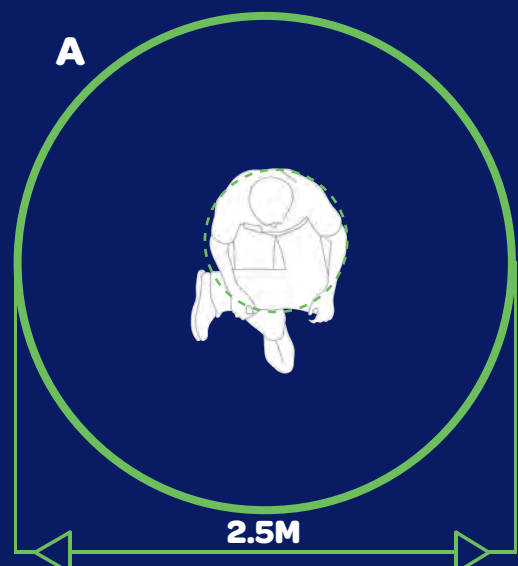
SPECTATOR ACCOMMODATION

1) Spectators in a seated stand

-In a seated stand the capacity is calculated using the recommended 2m physical distance between 2 persons with an additional 0.5m allowed for the width of each person. This gives an area of 2.5 x 2.5 for each person = 6.25m². See diagram to the right (A):

2) Spectators on a flat surface

-The number of empty seats required to achieve this distance will depend on the dimensions of the seat and is not a fixed number.



2) Spectators on a flat surface continued

If there is a dedicated walkway (flat surface) around the pitch there must be sufficient space to allow fans to walk behind those standing on the touch line to further maintain 2m social distancing (ideally this would be 3.2m wide including the standing area)

On a flat surface with no terracing or seats the capacity is calculated using the recommended 2m physical distance between 2 persons with an additional 0.6m allowed for the width of each person (including movement). This gives an area of 2.6×2.6 for each person = 6.76m^2 . See diagram right (B):

When this requirement is placed onto a football pitch it gives a safe capacity of 103 (270m of spectator area divided by 2.6 gives is a safe capacity of 103 spectators). See diagram right (C). Allows for walking dimensions

The safe capacity figure can be re-calculated all other fields sports depending on the dimensions of the field.

3) Spectators on a terrace

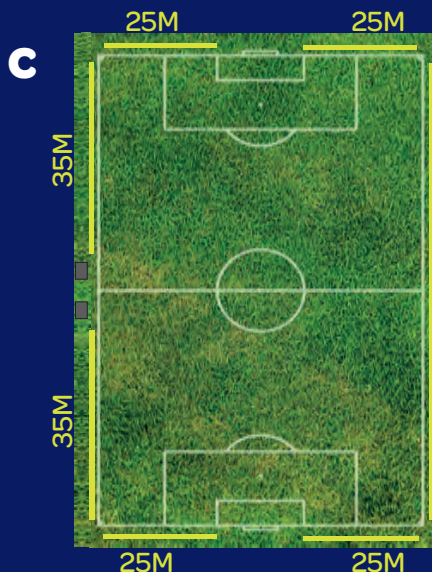
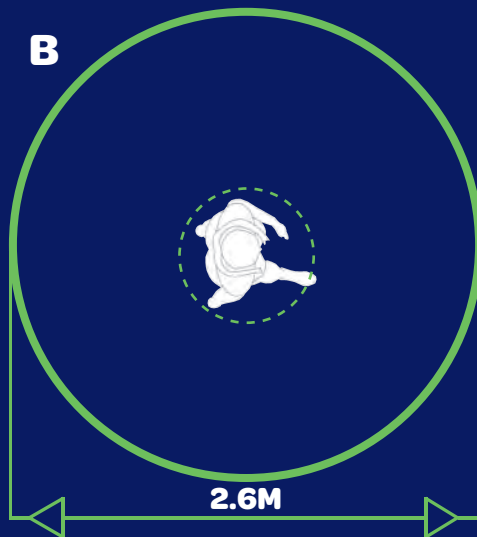
In a terraced area, see diagram right (D) the calculation remains the same. For example if there is a terrace area of 100m (length) x 10m (depth) and a required area per spectator of 6.76m^2 then the safe capacity for this area is calculated at:

$$(100\text{m} \times 10\text{m}) / 6.76 = 147.9$$

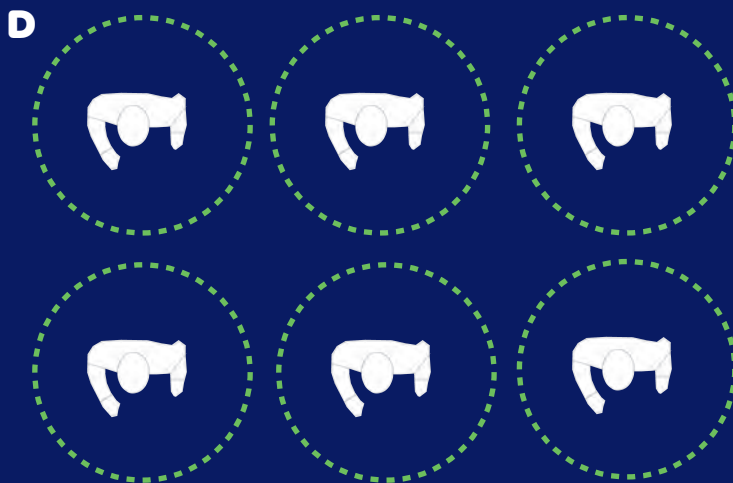
Again the safe capacities for individual grounds would be determined by the area of terracing at each ground and in some cases may be a mix of stand, terrace and flat standing.

4) Exiting

Great care should be taken to ensure social distancing is maintained when fans leave the venue.



A total of around 270m of level standing. Allow for 2.6m per person. Max capacity around this pitch is 103 people



Further information

If you have any questions on this subject or require further advice please contact – returptosport@sportni.net

This guidance note is subject to change as a result of ongoing NI Executive Covid 19 guidance and regulations.