



# Coronavirus Statement

12 March 2020

Dear Elaine Allwood,

The health and safety of the England Athletics family, whether you're a member, volunteer or member of staff, is our main priority, particularly with both indoor and outdoor events planned across the country.

Based on current government advice, there are currently no plans to cancel, postpone or otherwise change any of the national, regional or local competition and events England Athletics delivers. However, several international events have been postponed and it is likely that some UK events will also be cancelled over the coming weeks and we will keep you updated as the situation evolves.

## Team England

As a result, England Athletics has elected to not send any teams out to international competitions for the time being: Northern Ireland and Ireland are exempt from this decision. This decision will be reviewed again in early April.

The safety and wellbeing of all athletes and personnel travelling on an England Athletics trip is of paramount concern to England Athletics. Our key reference point is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website and the adoption of any guidance around travel and mitigation of potential risk to anyone associated with an England Team or event. England Athletics will continually update this advice if and when it changes.

For further information on specific England Teams please contact:

Andy Day, Head of Competition [aday@englandathletics.org](mailto:aday@englandathletics.org)

or Martin Rush, Head of Coaching and Athlete Development

[mrush@englandathletics.org](mailto:mrush@englandathletics.org).

## Events in England

All events in England delivered by England Athletics including the indoor championships this weekend will go ahead, unless otherwise advised, and we would like to reassure all competitors, officials, coaches, staff and spectators that we are taking all possible precautions.

We are working with all venues to ensure that they are also taking sensible wellbeing measures. A statement reiterating government advice will be read out at all events and posted at entry points where possible. You may wish to print this out

for display in your clubhouse and also email it to members, share on social media and post on your website. [Click here to download the document](#) (PDF 100kB)

## **Your preparation as and Athletics and Running Club**

Many athletics and running clubs are considering their contingency planning including risk assessments and the following may help shape your approach. There should be no presumption that one stage will automatically lead to the next, but it's sensible to think about the different scenarios that may emerge:

### **A – As you are**

Our current state: There's no need to cancel or postpone your events at this time. Reassure your athletes, stakeholders and customers, building on the Public Health England principles above. Examine your insurance policies to see what cover you may have should the situation evolve. Remain mindful of guidance on infection control in the workplace (catch it, kill it, bin it). Take sensible steps to discourage individuals work with flu-like symptoms from coming to a club or an event.

### **B – Behind closed doors**

If the government finds it necessary to curb travel or large gatherings of people this will mean that you will need to cancel competitions and reconsider holding club events. If the decision is taken to continue with an event or competition, determine the minimum number of people required to safely stage an event and how you would ensure their wellbeing and manage logistics.

### **C – Cancellation, curtailment, or postponement**

If the government finds it necessary to impose restrictions which make staging an event or providing a service impossible, consider how you would resolve your remaining fixtures and conclude your competition, workforce health permitting. Consider how you would deal with cancelled club sessions, membership, event tickets etc.

### **Advice**

We would also like to draw the attention of anyone who attends any athletics or running event or activity to the following general advice:

If you are considering attending an athletics or running event in any capacity and have recently returned to the UK from overseas, particularly the affected parts of the world, we would like to draw your attention to the [following advice from the UK Government](#).

The Government has published an action plan to contain the possible spread of the virus. This advises: There is presently no rationale to close or cancel sporting events, but this may change as the situation evolves. Anyone with flu-like symptoms

should avoid the risk of spreading their infection, whatever that infection may be, by staying at home and recovering.

For those hosting sporting events, whatever their size, attendees and participants should stay up to date on the government's latest advice on how to avoid catching or spreading the virus.

As the situation progresses, we might advise the frail, elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions to stay away from gatherings as part of general advice aimed at minimising unnecessary contact with others.

For those travelling to sporting events overseas, the Foreign Office's travel advice should be followed and travellers should note that apart from the countries and territories named in that advice, the government isn't presently advising against travel to anywhere else.

For those who offer community and leisure services, such as running a local athletics club, hand hygiene should be strongly promoted and encouraged, and equipment and facilities should be thoroughly cleaned and wiped down as usual following use.

Nevertheless, we are aware that the coronavirus outbreak is a very fluid and rapidly changing situation. We are in regular contact with UKA, Sport England and Runbritain to monitor the situation as well as continuing to follow advice from Public Health England, the World Health Organisation and both local and national government on this matter. The government is planning to publish specific advice on sporting events in due course. As you are well aware, guidance may change in response to events, so please keep a close eye on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and we will also keep you updated [on our website](#) too.

### **Statement to be read at events**

[Click here to download the document](#) (PDF 100kB)

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