



# Walking Netball Additional Guidance

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## Introduction

Walking Netball is an important format of the game, and is enjoyed by thousands of women across the country. It has slightly different rules to the traditional version of the game and we wanted to be absolutely certain it was fully considered as we return to court. We have now undertaken additional analysis of the risk of transmission of COVID-19, specifically using Walking Netball Hosts and Walking Netball rules.

From 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Walking Netball can progress to stage 4 of the Return to community Netball Roadmap.

Walking Netball will however only be permitted when implemented in line with this guidance and the [Re-start guidance](#) issued by England Netball.

## Walking Netball specific risk mitigations

The following points are covered in the Re-start guidance and are applicable to all netball activity; they are however worth highlighting specifically within this supplementary guidance for Walking Netball.

- It is important that participants understand the risks of COVID-19 associated with any netball (or Walking Netball) activity and also have an awareness of those who may be at increased risk of contracting COVID-19. All participants MUST 'opt in' to participate in Walking Netball in full knowledge of the risks.
- Within Walking Netball, there are larger proportions of participants who are likely to be at higher risk. Those participants who do not wish to return to activity just yet, should be kept in contact with so that as and when they do feel able to return they can.
- If there is any uncertainty about if a specific individuals medical condition places them at increased risk; they should consult their GP or consultant. Walking Netball Hosts should not offer any form of medical advice, but should share the details of the risks and if required their plans for the sessions.
- Any indoor netball activity can only take place in discrete bubbles of no more than 6 people. These 'bubbles' must not mix. This means that Walking Netball matches or games can not take place indoors (as it would involve more than 6 people)
- The COVID-19 Rule modifications must be applied to Walking Netball rules.

- Any match or game requires 2 x umpires. This applies to Walking Netball, particularly in a 'competitive' match. This ensures not only that the standard rules are adhered to, but also ensures the COVID-19 rule modifications can be well supported, keeping Walking Netballers safe.

### Additional risk mitigations – Walking Netball

To help further mitigate the risk of COVID-19, further requirements must be adhered to. These are as follows and must be followed for every Walking Netball session, game or match;

- A maximum of 30 minutes Walking Netball game or match (competitive or friendly) can be played each day. The session length can exceed 30 minutes, but this should be limited to socially distanced warm ups, practices and skill based activities.
- When playing a Walking Netball game or match (competitive or friendly) Walking Netball Hosts should ensure that as the ball goes to the Centre, for a centre pass they **remind all Walking Netballers that they should remember the 4 foot ruling** and in particular that 'idle interactions' must be avoided when players do not have the ball.
- Those playing GK in a Walking Netball match or game (friendly or competitive) should play a role of 'Idle interaction spotter'. This involves them keeping an eye on other participants on the court and reminding them if idle interactions are not being adhered to.

The safe return of Walking Netball is everyone's responsibility. If Test & Trace starts to identify netball as an activity continually responsible for COVID-19 outbreaks we are at a risk of all netball activity being shut down. Please read this guidance and the [Re-start guidance](#) fully and play your part in the safe return of the game.