**COVID 19 UPDATE FOR GAA UNITS IN ‘SIX COUNTIES’**

22 September 2020

Further to the GAA communication of 16 September 2020, GAA units in the ‘Six Counties’ should adopt the following guidance in relation to the opening of social clubs and the holding of indoor meetings.

**SOCIAL CLUBS/BARS**

Wet pubs (which include GAA Social clubs) can open legally in the north from Wednesday 23 September subject to public health regulations which include;

* The venue will be required as part of its risk assessment process to identify the number of people who can safely be accommodated in line with social distancing requirements, and must clearly display this figure in the premises;
* Hand sanitisation stations must be in place;
* The venue will be required to collect customer details to assist with the Test, Trace, Protect contact tracing programme;
* All service will be seated at tables. There will be no standing and no service at the bar;
* Customers must remain seated once in the premises, apart from using the facilities;
* Dancing will be prohibited in hospitality venues;
* A maximum of six people from any number of households can be seated at a table in a hospitality venue. Children aged 12 and under will be discounted from the total. More than six will be permitted if they all belong to a single household.
* Face coverings should be worn to enter and leave the venue and for movement inside. They are not required once seated.

The regulations apply to any venue serving alcohol or where alcohol can be brought in and consumed by customers.

**MEETINGS**

While GAA premises remain closed except for reasons as previously announced by the GAA nationally, in limited circumstances it is possible to hold indoor meetings. However in the first instance outdoor or virtual meetings should be considered. If it is essential to attend a meeting or officer training in person indoors, this should be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines

Meetings can only be held in Controlled Environments with a named event organiser. The organiser in advance of the meeting must carry out a risk assessment which meets the requirement of the Management of health and safety at Work regulations (NI) 2000 and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of Covid 19.

* Disciplinary Meetings (max of 14 personnel)
* Club Executive meetings (max of 14 personnel)
* County Management meetings (max of 14 personnel)
* Officer Training (max of 15 personnel)

**Meeting Rooms**

* Attendees should be asked to confirm they do not have any symptoms or a temperature in excess of 37.5c before attending.
* Assess the number of people allowed in a meeting room in accordance with social distancing rules - maintain 2 metre social distance at all times (review in line with government guidance)
* Consider numbers for boardroom, theatre, tables, standing and other types of set up
* Highlight assessed capacity on signage and do not exceed agreed capacity
* Consider customising a larger room such as a hall for larger meetings or training
* At the beginning of every meeting or training session the meeting organiser should communicate relevant health and safety advice and provide details of control measures in place to attendees including self-responsibility
* Ensure signage is in place upon entry to rooms highlighting key Government advice in respect of Covid-19
* Ensure hand sanitiser is always available and replenished regularly (a fixed unit would be preferable on entry/exit of the meeting space)
* Keep meeting rooms well ventilated during use
* Avoid self-service tea/coffee breaks, condiments should be serviced in individual single use sachets

**Cleaning & Disinfection Protocol**

Clean down room after use with attention to:

* Tables, chairs, and light switches
* Equipment such as laptops or watercoolers
* Ensure cleaning equipment such as disinfectant wipes are readily available

**Other Considerations**

* Although face coverings are not mandatory strongly encourage their use where possible Have a stock of disposable masks available as back up
* Meeting organiser to maintain record of attendees for contact tracing purposes
* Pay particular attention to individuals with special needs particularly those who may be classified as high risk in relation to Covid-19
* Keep meetings and training sessions as brief as possible and allow adequate time between different meetings for cleaning and ventilation

