

FAQ's

The Youth Work Sector guidelines issued on 13th April 2021, in line with the Government's Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan for Living with COVID-19, sets out the maximum groups sizes allowed under each level of the framework based on ensuring that at least 1m physical distancing and can be maintained as follows:

Level	Maximum Group Size Indoor *	Maximum Group Size Outdoor *
1	100	200
2	50	100
3	15	15
4	15	15
5	0	15 (from 26 th April 2021)

Where at least 1 m physical distancing and strict public health protocols cannot be adhered to groups should not meet face to face but could meet virtually.

BB Companies should abide by the level of the Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan for Living with COVID-19 applicable to their local area at any given time.

*** The numbers include Leaders**

Outdoor Activities

Q. What if a member or leader does not live within the allowed travel distance for an activity?

In line with current Government guidance, youth work staff and volunteers, may, with the permission of the management of their service, exceed the prevailing domestic travel restrictions in order to facilitate the provision of youth services. Similarly, where necessary, a young person may, within reason, exceed the prevailing domestic travel restrictions in order to attend a funded youth service. Therefore, a Captain may issue a letter to a leader or member to travel to attend an organised BB activity if it is further than the current travel restriction, however this should be the exception rather than the norm for any organised BB activity.

Q. Is 15 the absolute maximum you can have at outdoor activities?

Multiple pods of up to 15 may operate at an activity provide no mixing of leaders or members happens between pods and the space available for the activity allows for at least 1 m social distancing to be adhered to.

Q. What must company do before organising an outdoor activity after the 26th April?

As companies have only been allowed to operate online for the past four months, they should complete the Covid-19 Ready Risk Assessment and Company Action log or where this has already been completed for the session 2020/2021 this should be reviewed as part of the planning for the activity. All leaders should complete the Return to Volunteering Form (even where this has been completed previously). All participants (or parents of participants) at the event should be asked to confirm in advance that the participant have no Covid symptoms, have not been identified as a close contact or been advised to self isolate or been out of the country in the past 14 days.

Activities

Q. Will all Companies have to re-open at the same time?

A. No, once a Company has completed their risk assessments and are happy with the guidelines provided and have been told by the Management Committee that the suspension of activities has lifted they can go ahead and re-open when they so choose. You will need the buy in from Parents, Leaders and the Church but each Company may have a unique situation (eg, Kildare is in lockdown, so they will not be able to re-open face to face activities straight away).

Q. Would horse-work and trampette be an acceptable activity?

A. Cannot use a vaulting horse hygienically between uses and social distancing cannot be maintained by Leaders providing support, so therefore this would not be an activity that can be resumed.

Suggestion: Fantasy Football League <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/>

Q. Is it advised for a Company to not participate in activities that gets the heart rates up in a social distancing environment?

A. This is not advised due to Government Guidelines.

Q. What kind of activities will be available for Company Section to take part in if they cannot do their regular activities eg: gym work?

A. The Brigade have issued programmes for Company Section which can be found at the following address: <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Programme-Planner-Company-Seniors-September-2020.pdf>

Q. Can Members participate in high respiratory activities outdoors?

A. Yes, as long as the Government Guidelines are adhered to (see table above).

Q. What are the BB guidelines for contact sports?

A. Contact sports should be held outdoors (eg: football). The equipment should be sanitised before and after use. Hand sanitising should happen before and after the activity takes place. No contact sports should take place within BB companies where their area is designated at level 3, 4 or 5 in the National Framework for Living with COVID-19.

The following factors will need to be completed for an activity:

- A risk assessment should be carried out for the activity (please find the risk assessment at the following link: <http://leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/forms/riskassessmentform.pdf>).
- Leaders participating in the activity will need to provide their consent.
- Parents will have to give their permission for the activity to take place.

Q. Do the Brigade Zoom activities need to be approved by the Management Committee and can they be used in the RoI Companies?

A. The activities have been conformed so that they can be used on Zoom/ virtual calls. You can find some of the activities listed in The BB Gazette and also on the BB website at <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome/virtual-sessions/>

Remember to keep a high circulation of fresh air in your halls.

Finance

Q. What do we report to our local ETB now that we can no longer use the grant for the original purpose?

A. Need to keep an open dialogue with your local ETB and let them know that you may spend/ will spend the grant on PPE, mats to outline social distancing in your Parish hall etc.

Q. Can Parent's pay their child's subscriptions through OBM?

A. No, however another form of providing a non-handling of cash would be to provide parents with the Company's bank details so that they can transfer it electronically.

Carpooling

Q. Can Leaders/ Parents provide a carpooling service to their Members?

A. Government advice from 18th August allows carpooling as long as everyone wears a mask, high frequency areas are cleaned before and after vacating the vehicle and there is adequate ventilation. It is also down to how comfortable Leaders/ parents who usually carpool feel.

Social Distancing

Q. Do the number of people that are allowed to social distance outdoors include Leaders?

A. Yes, please see table above these include Leaders. You will need to remember the adult: child ratios laid out in the Child Safeguarding Policy and ensure that they are adhered to.

Q. There are Anchors from 3-4 schools in the Company what do we do to social distance?

A. There is no social distance requirement for Anchors however using pods/ separating the children into groups, so that you have one group per school with one Leader per group (depending on numbers) if there are concerns about schools mixing. Please see page 11 of Covid-19 Response Plan.

Q. What will Companies do if another Organisation overlaps with BB?

A. There will have to be a time to clean the high frequency points within the hall before your Members attend BB.

Q. What will Companies do if there are Sections that overlap?

A. Companies will need to look at their timetable, which may not be the same as previous years. The Company needs to allow cleaning time of high frequency points before and after a group use an area (eg; Anchors in a room for Bible studies and move to hall when Juniors come in to use room for Bible studies). Each Company will need to make sure that every Member does not go over their allotted time as stated in Government Guidelines.

Training

Q. What is the COVID-19 induction training that the BB will provide?

A. The NYCI have a 15-minute online induction course that also includes a questionnaire and certificate once passed. Please keep a record of your Leaders who have completed the course before re-opening your Company. <https://learning.youth.ie/courses/covid-19-induction-session-for-youth-sector/>

Q. Can Companies record the Leader's induction training information on OBM?

A. There is no area set up on OBM to add this information. A 'flexi-record' is available for a Company to make, in the main 'Company' section where leaders are listed under the 'Members' side menu and a record could be maintained here if a Company chooses.

Q. Will The Rol Safeguarding Panel provide Child Safeguarding Training for new Leaders in the coming Session or for those who need to re-do the course?

A. We have thought about doing an online Zoom training course, please email Jenny in HQ to request training and provide numbers.

Vetting

Q. Can Garda Vetting still be processed during this time?

A. Yes, please send the completed vetting forms (NVB1) to Jenny in HQ, along with 2 forms of I.D (* Public Service cards are no longer accepted). It is advised to have your Leaders vetted or re-vetted before you re-open.

Virtual Sessions

Q. Will Companies need to provide a consent form for Parents to complete so that Virtual Sessions can be run this Session?

A. In the communication to parents, whatsapp/email, parents need to reply to opt in and that will act as the consent. Please refer to the Rol's Virtual Sessions Guidelines.

<https://boysbrigade.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/Virtual-Sessions-Guidelines.pdf>

You will need to keep a record of the parent's consent:

Permission given by:

Date:

Platform of communication: