

Updated: 01/09/2021.

Northern Ireland.

- Travel in Northern Ireland permitted.
- All **outdoor sport**, whether organised formally by your local sports club or informally by a group of friends, is permitted.
- To determine the maximum number of people permitted to attend or participate in an outdoor sporting activity/ event, the organiser or operator must carry out a risk assessment.
- Outdoor sporting activities/ events of 30 people or fewer do not need a risk assessment.
- All indoor sport, whether organised formally by your local sports club or informally by a group of friends, is permitted (subject to risk assessment and appropriate mitigations).
- A risk assessment, as set out in the regulations, must be completed where there will be over 15 people taking part.
- Changing rooms and shower facilities can be opened, but you should avoid or minimise use where possible (for example, by arriving in kit and showering at home) and minimise time spent in the changing area.
- Maintaining hand and respiratory hygiene practices.
- Maintain physical/social distancing of 2 metres as per government guidance.
- You should also enforce strong hygiene measures. This might be cleaning any equipment rigorously in line with wider guidance on hygiene, for example by using antiviral spray and washing hands thoroughly before and after use.

Mountaineering Ireland & Mountain Training Board Ireland has considered the guidance above and believe it is possible for NGB providers to engage in limited activity in Northern Ireland, whilst following the government guidelines of travel, group size x15 people (including trainers/coaches/leaders)

At all times, you should continue to adhere to strict social distancing guidelines when you are outside your home, particularly ensuring you are two metres away from anyone outside your household. It is really important that everyone continues to:

- Follow the advice being offered by the Government based on medical and scientific evidence, including the current 'stay at home' advice while that remains in place
- Wash our hands regularly and in line with the best practice guidance.
- Have good respiratory hygiene in terms of coughing or sneezing into a tissue or the crook of your elbow.
- Follow the social distancing guidelines and stay two metres away from those outside your household whenever possible.

- Use face coverings (mouth and nose) when you are in enclosed spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained. For example, when using public transport and while in shops.
- Abide by the need to self-isolate either because you have symptoms or because you have been in touch with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus. This includes if contacted by the contact tracing arrangements in place.
- The NI Executive also ask those in society with responsibilities to exercise them in line with up-to-date public health guidance.

Up to 10 people from no more than three households can stay together overnight. The use of indoor venues for briefings or debriefs can take place taking reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission and following government guidelines.

Climbing walls and centres are open for, with a risk assessment required for group of over 15.

To make any decision on whether to go ahead with an activity, please consider the usual factors and include those additional factors brought about by Covid – 19 including government guidance, parking, mountain rescue service capacity. **Our guidance on safe practice in the outdoors** issued to Mountain Training Association members may also prove useful. Leaders are responsible for the safety of their staff and group, need to have satisfied their own risk assessment about Covid-19 as well as having appropriate insurance cover in place. Although MI & MTBI appreciates that leaders have a genuine need to return to work and will be keen to get back to leading a cautious approach will be necessary to both limit the spread of infection and respect local sentiment. As such providers in Northern Ireland should take note of local information and advice from organisations such as their own membership organisations (AMI, BAIML, BMG and MTA), Mountaineering Councils (MI, the BMC, MS), National Park Authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Services, Mountain Rescue Teams and local Tourist Boards. Leaders must consider the reputation of our sector or group and act accordingly. It is important that our network of providers maintain the quality of what we do. We are presently considering how we can further support providers during these challenging times and welcome dialogue.

Finally, please note once again that this currently only affects providers in Northern Ireland. As the situation develops in other countries, we will issue further coordinated updates. The guidance for Northern Ireland may change in line with the Government's advice and may need to be reversed if required.

Useful links:

Mountaineering Ireland

nidirect.gov.uk

Countryside Code in Northern Ireland

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