Sports Secretaries,

We continue to receive information on the COVID-19 response from Garrison, Army HQ and HQ Regional Command and we will ensure you are all kept up to speed with national and Army advice on how we deal with the outbreak and respond to it. The national focus is switching from the Contain to Delay phase which the PM detailed in yesterday’s briefing where he provided more details on social distancing:

* Social distancing means trying to avoid contact with other people.
	+ It means spending less time in public places, where there are a lot of people.
* The Government wants:
	+ People to start working from home wherever possible.
	+ All unnecessary travel stopped.
	+ Pubs, clubs, theatres and other such social venues to be avoided.
	+ Anyone living with someone who has a cough or a temperature to stay at home for 14 days.

Maintaining communications will be key.  To that end, we have activated an ‘Ops Room’ in the central office in HQ ASCB, Fox Lines, to manage information and the necessary processes to manage our response.  Please use the opsbranch@ascb.uk.com as a single source of information and pass anything you get from your various sources into them so that we create a ‘single version of the truth’ on all COVID-19 related matters that have consequences for Army sport.

**OSV**.  We are reviewing OSVs in accordance with the recently issued Army Command Order and guidance from myself and will continue to receive applications to participate in events overseas.  2\* sign-off for sporting OSVs remains with GOC RC and we have sat down with him and his team to discuss and agree the process we will run and so we are ‘all informed’.  The process has been tested and it works.

**UK sports fixtures**. I am sure you are all going through the necessary analysis of upcoming UK based sports events and considering whether or not they should go ahead.  To assist you and noting the details briefed by the PM yesterday, we have put in place, and now enclose, some guidance to sports secretaries on the factors to consider when reviewing whether or not to continue or cancel sports events in the UK. **This is not intended to be prescriptive or to take the place of any analysis you and your Chair have already considered** – this is just to provide a handrail alongside your normal dynamic AF 5010  analysis to allow you to consider each upcoming event objectively against some pretty broad factors. This guidance does not replace AF 5010 but purely highlights COVID-19 as a risk that you will need take in to consideration.  The guidance does not take the place of any direction from your NGBs, nor does it look to contradict any Govt advice on social distancing. The guidance is also is subject to change dependent on what further direction the Government might direct on social distancing in their Delay phase. The enclosed guidance also includes a table for you to capture the indicative costs of any cancellation and/or rescheduling of an event.  Let us know what the costs are so that we can consider additional funding from the ASCB CF or Lottery to help you out.

We are also continuing toreview our own business continuity plans and would encourage you to do the sameso that you are all able to continue to operate your sport in the event that we have to work from home.

As you are all aware, this is a fast moving and dynamic situation.  We aim to keep you informed as best we can so please share information with the ASCB Ops Team as you get it and we will use the ASCB Ops Room as the single focus for all COVID-19 responses.

ASCB Ops Room contacts:

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Paul

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