

Indoor Sports

We are looking forward to seeing you all back at Sportspark from Monday 27th July and we hope that you have been able to stay active during our closure. When you are ready to return please make sure you take the time to gradually increase your exercise again.

The team have deep cleaned the entire building, including all sporting equipment, so you can be confident that everything is clean and disinfected prior to use.

As you might expect, there will be several changes to the way we do things across all of our facilities. Although some aspects will be unusual at first, and we understand that they may not be as flexible or convenient as normal, we hope that you will recognise their importance in providing the most safe and accessible use of Sportspark possible.

Please help the team, and support your fellow users, by adhering to all relevant guidance and our usage information below.

General Access and participation

In order to maintain social distancing, and maximise safety, we have had to adjust session times to allow a period for the safe arrival and dispersal of users. This means that the number of available sessions for indoor sports has reduced across the day. We have large sporting areas, and a significant amount of space, meaning that it is not currently our intention to restrict any sporting use unless a National Governing Body (NGB) deems it necessary.

However, it is important to understand that all use is strictly permitted on the understanding that you will review and adhere to the guidelines laid down by the relevant NGB. Links to the majority of these guides can be found on the Sportspark Covid page [here](#).

Spectating will not currently be permitted, unless there is a specific need in order to comply with our child supervision policy.

All activity **MUST** be pre-booked. We will not be accepting 'walk-in' bookings on the day and so we thank you for not attending site without a reservation.

Bookings can be taken by following the booking link on our website www.sportspark.co.uk

You will need your login details. If you have not used this service before please email scsa@uea.ac.uk so that we can provide them to you. More details on how to use this service can be found [here](#).

We are working hard to get this prepared and are planning for all booking systems to be ready by Friday 24th July at the latest.

In order to maintain sufficient space for our members, non-member bookings will not currently be permitted. All non-member access should be solely for activity participation (as part of a member's booking) and so all entry will need to be made via Reception. The 60 pence fee will still be required but the self-serve turnstile will not be available.

Showers will not be open at the current time and there will only be a small number of lockers available. Therefore please attend 'Exercise Ready' for all activities and with minimal personal possessions.

Air-handling systems have been amended to rely on fresh air rather than re-circulation. This means that it may be more difficult to maintain our normal air temperatures. Please bear that in mind when choosing your attire.

Hall use

Halls are available for use in the normal manner although we have built-in some additional time to allow the team to effectively clean-down where necessary and to reduce the cross-over of participants. Please ensure that you are adhering to your start and finish times and allow others to vacate the exercise space before entering.

When in the Halls, bags and other personal possessions must be stored in marked areas only, away from the playing surface and you must only have the number of participants that can safely attend and maintain social distancing at all times.

Customers should avoid touching equipment unless absolutely necessary, in which case they should ensure they use the provided alcohol-based wipes to clean and sanitise the equipment afterwards. Bins will be provided at hall entrances for the disposal of used wipes.

All customers must bring their own equipment – no hire equipment is currently available.

Keith Nicholls Arena closure

Due to the enforced closure we decided to bring forward planned works to the Arena in order to remove the need to close again later in the year. The team and contractors have worked extremely hard to expedite these works but unfortunately, there was no way of avoiding some additional time required to complete the project.

Therefore, the Main Arena (Halls 1-3) will not be available for use until Thursday 6th August and currently the only space currently available for use will be Hall 5.

Full details of this exciting Arena investment will be released separately in the near future. We thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Squash

Due to the need for additional space to cater for our Fitness Centre participants, we are initially restricting Squash use to Courts 1 and 2.

These will need to be booked prior to attending the venue.

In order to assist in the smooth entry and exit from these courts the booking times will be adjusted and therefore Court 1 sessions will now be bookable on the hour with court 2 bookings on the half-hour. Please adhere to your 40 minute slots at all times to ensure the team has additional time to prepare for the next booking and to allow our air-handling system to work as efficiently as possible.

Full guidance has been released by England Squash at <https://www.englandsquash.com/backtosquash> detailing recommendations on how to return to the sport safely. This includes options for activities based on who you are playing with as well as guidance on how to minimise the transfer of equipment throughout your sessions. We ask that you review this information fully and pay particular attention to the options permissible for those attending. You can also find information regarding the game 'Sides' that has been recommended for those wishing to play against people from outside their own 'bubble'.

You will notice that we have installed Green Tick stickers in our seating area to highlight socially distanced spaces for bag storage (to avoid the need to take your bags onto court) and to identify safe seating spaces for those parents that need to attend for child supervision purposes, for example during a squash lesson.

David Youngs, our Squash coach will be available again from 27th July and can be booked in the usual manner although our Racquet Stringing service is unlikely to be available until early August.

All Squash competitions are suspended although we will look to reinstate our Sportspark Ladders as soon as we are able to do so.

Climbing

Unfortunately due to a number of additional safety checks that need to take place prior to opening the Climbing Wall will be unavailable until Monday 3rd August. We apologise for this slight delay and thank you for your patience.

Our Climbing Wall capacity has been calculated using recommendations from ABC (*Association of British Climbing Walls*) and BMC (*British Mountaineering Council*) alongside Government regulations and our own facility Risk Assessment. This will reduce the climbing wall capacity to a maximum of 10 participants at any time.

All climbers will be expected to adhere to the current social distancing measures in place and our own climbing conditions of use.

We have clearly identified spaces available for use in order to enable this distancing to be maintained, both in terms of participation and also for the storage of personal possessions.

We aim to maintain 7 lines on the wall in order to provide a variety of routes, however only 5 people will be permitted to climb at any one time with the other five individuals belaying for them or, in the case of blind climbing, then simply waiting for their opportunity to commence their climb.

It is essential that one line (Climbing Position) will be left between each user i.e. no two climbers should ever be using lines that are directly next to one another. This is of paramount importance in ensuring that the distance between climbers is kept to at least at two metres. The areas highlighted in the pictures below are areas that have been identified as locations that may be the most difficult to ensure climbers are social distancing. Please be particularly vigilant when utilising these spaces.



Due to the reduced availability, and the inability to help any climbers with their equipment or harnesses, we have made the decision that on re-opening all climbing will be open sessions i.e. there will not be any structured/taught sessions until further notice.

In order to maintain as much availability as possible for our current Sportspark members (Bronze card or above) it is also important to note that **guest climbers will not initially be permitted into sessions.**

Due to guest climber restrictions, there will be no requirement for bands nor leaving cards for deposits. The register for booked climbers for each session will come directly from our administration system and will be managed by staff on each visit.

In order to maintain effective hygiene in the Climbing space we need our climbers to take responsibility for their own cleanliness. To keep holds clean it is important that hands are washed or sanitised when first entering the facilities and between each climb.

A sanitiser station will be available in the middle of the area next to the bin, and all members and participants are encouraged to use the numerous cleansing stations around the centre as often as possible as well as washing their hand regularly.

No outdoor shoes are to be used within the climbing wall area.

Clean hands, clean holds, clean climbs!

Powdered Climbing chalk is not currently permitted on the climbing wall. Liquid-chalk of over 70% isopropyl-alcohol content is recommended. Sportspark will assist in this requirement by stocking a small amount for purchase which will be available to buy at a reduced price for all climbers.

Climbing sessions will be timetabled and will run for two and half hours which will include any time needed to put-on equipment, sanitise hands, climb and vacate the area in an orderly and socially distanced fashion.

We will continue to review the timetable once opened and will adjust it as necessary when structured sessions are able to re-commence. At the current time the following climb times will be available every day:

07:00-09:30

10:00-12:30

13:00-15:30

16:00-18:30

19:00-21:30

Attending site for all indoor sports

It is important that time on site is minimised on each visit and so we ask that all users are punctual and do not attend in advance of their allocated climbing session.

If you arrive early then you may be asked to queue outside of the building until access can be permitted.

Please read our 'Thank You For...' etiquette guides and adhere to this at all times and, most importantly, please only attend site if you are completely symptom free.

In order to make everyone's time here as enjoyable as possible, please make sure that you respect your fellow users and Sportspark staff at all times. Adhere to social distancing, be patient, be kind, follow our guidance and remember... this is new for everyone and we are all trying to find our way through these changes together.

We can't wait to see you all again!