



## Updated advice on the COVID-19 Coronavirus

28 June 2020

On 23 June the Prime Minister announced a relaxation in the “lockdown” provisions for England, and subsequently detailed advice for the four nations of the UK has been published at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> (for England)
- <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>(for Scotland)
- <https://gov.wales/coronavirus> (for Wales)
- <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19> (for Northern Ireland)

The BGA Council has considered the situation with respect to the position in England, but as our understanding is that the rules and regulations in other parts of the UK are at least as restrictive, this advice is applicable to the whole of the UK.

- **It is not appropriate to restart face-to-face Tournaments.**

In the “normal” playing position for a game of Go the players are less than 1m apart, and are facing each other. It is not therefore possible to meet the Government’s “1m+” (1m plus mitigation) criterion, even by wearing face coverings or installing a perspex screen. The “face to face” position adopted when playing Go, when one is breathing towards one’s opponent for a considerable length of time, exacerbates the risk of spreading the virus.

Indoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 30, by law, and should be a maximum of 2 households.

These requirements rule out face-to-face tournaments.

- **2020 Annual General Meeting**

As previously announced, the 2020 AGM will take place online on July 7at 20:00 (see [www.britgo.org/aggm2020](http://www.britgo.org/aggm2020) for details. This is inside the Member’s Area so you will need to logon.

- **British Championship and British Congress**

The 2020 British Congress will not happen. We hope to hold a British Congress in 2021, but it will not be at Eastwood Hall.

It is possible that we will be able to hold the British Championship in the Autumn, depending on the development of the pandemic.

- **Private Games of Go and Club Meetings**

Government advice is that you will be able to meet indoors in groups of up to 2 households but social distancing should still be maintained. Private games of Go with members not of your own household (or “support bubble”) should not, therefore, take place, as social distancing cannot be maintained. By the same token, Club meetings should not take place.

Toby Manning

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