

To Tournament Managers and Directors, Club Secretaries, Federation Secs, Council, Exec Board (for info)

Dear Tournament Manager/ Director

We are living in turbulent times and the progress of this epidemic is proving to be quite rapid. As we are today (12 March), the official advice from Government and Public Health England (PHE) is that we are still in the ‘containment’ phase, but we should expect to move to a ‘delay’ phase very shortly. The media is reporting that the official sources expect the epidemic to last some considerable time.

As you may have read on our website News Page, the CA Executive Board has been vigilant in watching this developing scenario. Whilst the Government advice is still a ‘wait and see’, our members are understandably nervous and want to know what action we might take and what advice we might be able to give them.

We need to respond in a responsible way and clubs may have to consider whether to cancel tournaments or coaching courses.

Our Tournament Regs do not cover a player wishing to withdraw prior to an event because they consider the risk of contracting the COVID-19 is too high. Clearly if there is specific PHE advice that requires specific demographic groups to avoid travel and social contact, it would seem logical to treat their case sympathetically regardless of the timing of their withdrawal.

- Entrants withdrawing from a CA event before the closing date can claim their refund in the usual way but any travel costs are a matter for the player and their insurance.
- If an entrant wishes to withdraw after the closing date because of the COVID-19 outbreak and is in one of the demographic groups, they should also be considered eligible for a refund. Anyone not within these groups will not ordinarily be considered eligible for a refund however, they should be asked to put their case to the relevant Tournament Organiser (Club or CA Tournament Director) who should look at the circumstances sympathetically and recommend action accordingly.
- Entrants to a CA Tournament that is cancelled should receive a full refund.

We would hope Clubs organising their own events will be similarly sympathetic.

Roger Staples