

SUMMER CAMP 2020

Parents / Guardians information

Introduction:

As we are now navigating through very different times due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Sportslink Management have decided to make some changes to the way we previously ran our Summer Camps at Sportslink. The aim of this document is to help Parents/Guardians understand the changes and additional control measures being introduced to help protect their children while they attend camp. Following Sport Ireland advice on sports participation to return from 29th June, Sportslink decided to plan for camps to restart from July 20th (Phase 4) due to the centre reopening on 29th June. This start date allowed the Sportslink team to plan for a safe and covid compliant camp that ensures campers are not exposed to unnecessary risk. We are currently finalising risk assessments for various activities and have updated our policies and procedures to ensure best practice is adhered to at all times.

Careful consideration has been made to ensure all sportslink members adhere to Social Distancing advice throughout the building and reduce the number of contacts each person has while visiting the centre. In addition, considerations have been made to have as little contact with members using other services including leisure swims and sports facilities for example. The priority in running the camps would be to ensure they comply with all government and Ireland Active advice and guidelines.

Below is the details proposed.

1 child – 1 group – 2 leaders

1 group will be allocated to each child when enrolled. This group will be limited to 15-20 children and will be supervised by 2 camp leaders. Each group will have its own designated BASE. This base will be for their group only and will never be shared with another group. For example group 1 will be allocated Function room 1 as their base, where the camper's bags and belongings are kept and where they have their breaks. There will be a total of 4 groups with no cross over between staff or areas used throughout the day. We are lucky that we have ample space and indoor facilities to accommodate for this type of set up if the weather is bad. However the majority of activities will be held outdoors. All sports and games will be outdoors and a Marquee will be set up to accommodate for arts and crafts or games where more shelter is needed. Each group will be allocated 2 camp staff (1 male and 1 female). These staff will not work with any other group throughout the entire week. Each staff member will have to adhere to covid checks prior to commencing work such as a questionnaire and temperature checks. The only change to this will be when each of the 2 allocated staff take a 30 minute break. A third staff member will rotate in to cover their breaks. This staff member will not be in close contact with the children and act only as a second pair of eyes to assist in supervision or if incidents occur. No other Sportslink staff/management will be in contact with your children during camp and all activities will be segregated for each group. This procedure allows us to better track close contacts with each

camper throughout the week and ensure all contact tracing information is readily and easily available to authorities if a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 does arise.

Swimming:

Swimming will be offered for all groups. However each group of children will access the pool at a different time to the next. In addition the two older aged groups (8-12 year olds) will have access to the leisure pool for their swim only. They will not have to share the pool with any other swimmers. In addition the younger groups will have a designated area within the 25M (Shallow end) for their swim with their groups only. Swimming times will be confirmed on enrolment or sign in on the first morning of camp. This will allow for parents to assist with swimming / changing if they wish to do so. We welcome any support from parents in assisting with changing if this is required. However we would encourage all children to change themselves. Children unable to change pre / post swim may not be suitable for this activity as staff cannot be in close contact with children during camp activities. We do understand the younger children may need assistance however we would encourage the children to do it for themselves and only look for assistance from parents if needed. In most cases they will manage everything by themselves. Simple things like additional pairs of socks, trainers without laces and a change of clothes all help with changing because the little ones always lose clothes 😊 . A full list of things to pack in your camper's bags can be seen below.

Children aged 5-7 will change using our large outdoor changing rooms (These are not outdoors we just call them the outdoor changing rooms 😊). A maximum of 4 children will be permitted in these rooms at any given time allowing for adequate social distancing. These rooms are large squad changing rooms and can usually accommodate for up tot 20 people. These children will then be walked out to the 25M pool where they will swim in 0.9M depth in the shallow end. A lifeguard will be designated to supervise the group and a second camp staff member will also be available in the water. If children are nervous or require support while swimming staff can only verbally encourage them and will not be able to hold them or have any contact with them while swimming. We do not encourage your children to attend swimming if they have not done so before or who have not swam for some time. Swimming can be very scary for young children who are not familiar with the water and especially if family members are not there to support them in the water.

Children aged 8-12 will change using our large outdoor changing rooms also but at a different time to the other groups. A maximum of 4 children will be permitted in these rooms at any given time allowing for adequate social distancing. These children will then be walked out to the leisure pool. This pool will be available for these groups exclusively without any other users in the pool at the same time as campers. Water features (waves/lazy river) will be available.

Dates:

Week 1 – 20th July

Week 2 – 27th July

Week 3 – 4th August (4 days)

Week 4 – 10th August

Week 5 – 17th August

Times:

The camp will run from 9am – 4pm daily. With an early drop off available for children from 8.30am and late collection up to 17:30pm. The early drop off is a complementary service at no extra cost however parents must confirm before camp if they are availing of this service.

Breakfast (Early drop off). Children can bring in their own breakfast if they wish to have breakfast prior to camp starting however breakfast will not be provided by Sportslink this year.

A new procedure around drop off and collections has been developed to ensure families do not have to hang around reception. Consideration for the use of other entrances for the purpose of summer camp only would be made to avoid congregation of families in reception at dropping and collecting times.

Drop off must include temperature checks for all children as well as a quick parental screening where camp staff ask you if your child has been unwell or been in contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19. Sign in has to be as quick as possible and children will be encouraged to join the group as quickly as possible. But don't worry we know some of the children won't want to partake and may be nervous about starting camp. Our staff will do their best to support parents on drop off and collection times.

Day Bookings: Day bookings will not be available this year. The camp fee is weekly but children do not have to attend every day. However they will have a place for the entire week regardless of attendance.

BOOKINGS: Booking forms must be completed prior to confirming a booking. Once forms have been received a staff member will contact them within 24 hours and confirm booking and take payment over the phone. There should be no need to take payments on the morning of camp so that drop off can be as smooth as possible. Pre booking is essential and Sportslink Management cannot offer spaces to children who have not pre booked.

Refunds: We do not offer refunds on camps once camp has begun. The only exception to this is if the child is medically certified or has been advised to self-isolate due to COVID-19 in which case the family must notify management immediately in order for contact tracing to be made with others people.

Ages of children:

The ages of children will be 5-12 years only. With advice being provided to parents that the children should be school aged ie have completed junior infants. This would allow for less contact with younger children in the face of Covid – 19 restrictions. We do understand this is a big change to how we previously ran our camps. However given the restrictions in place we are hoping this is the best approach for all involved.

Camp numbers

This year Sportslink will enrol a maximum of 60 children per week. With a Maximum of 15-20 children per group. Each group of children would have 2 designated camp staff for the entire week. These staff would not change at all and all activities would be run by camp staff with their groups only. Children will be allocated to a group their age.

4 groups of children would be allocated to 2 camp staff. These age groups of each would be as follows.

Group 1 – 5-6

Group 2 – 6-7

Group 3 -8-9

Group 4 – 10-12

Pricing Structure

The aim this year was to simplify the payment structure for camps to reduce payment processing times and mix ups with payments, all inevitable causing delays and increasing time at reception. Secondly we would aim to offer a more significant discounted rate to members vs non members. The pricing per camp will be set as below and has been set due to the additional needs for increased staffing and additional costs associated with cleaning and sanitising as well as a wider usage of facilities throughout the centre. However the camps would be extended to offer availability from 8.30am – 5:30pm when compared with 10am – 4pm offered previous years. This may seem like a very long day for young children however the children will watch a movie and chill once camp is finished while other activities will also be available post camp from 4-5:30pm. Children may be picked up anytime between 4-5:30pm.

The pricing is seen below.

1. Summer Camp Member - €120 / week
2. Summer Camp non-member - €150 / week

There will be no additional charges for early drop offs / collection. One set cost for the entire camp plus early drop and late collections.

Break Times

The children will be advised to bring all their own food and drinks. For this summer Sportslink Management have decided against offering food options for children. The risks associated with handling and delivering food to large groups of children would not justify offering food options for the camps. With the exception of refilling water bottles children should only consume drinks and food they have brought with them to camp. Children will be allocated a seating area 2 meters apart from all other children during break times. There would no longer be large gatherings of all children at camp for break times. This would have presented a greater risk to campers given the current situation. Break times will be shared with their designated groups (15 children) only. Breaks will be allocated per group. With a morning and afternoon break available (30 min each).

Swimming:

All campers would be given an allocated swim time each day. The following proposed timetable would work best to allow for minimum disruption to other aquatic activities while also allowing minimum exposure of children to other swimmers within the pool areas and changing rooms.

Group	Start Time	Swim Location	Group finish time
4 (10-12 years)	9:15am	Leisure Pool	10am
3 (8-9 years)	10:00am	Leisure Pool	10:45am
Group 2	11:30am	25M Pool	12:15pm
Group 1	12:15pm	25M Pool	13:00pm

Activities:

90% of activities would be outdoors weather permitting. When weather conditions are bad each of the groups will be allocated an indoor area to continue with activities. Proposed indoor areas would be as follows.

Please NOTE: The indoor areas will only need to be allocated if weather is bad. Secondly they only have to accommodate for no more than 17 persons (15 campers and 2 staff).

Group 1 – Half of the Sports Hall

Group 2 – Coffee Dock Area

Group 3 – Function Room 2 (Area apart from staff room, this can be divided using the black drapes.

Group4 - Function room 1

Activities included;

Swimming

Ball Sports (Football, GAA, Handball, Basketball)

Games

Arts and Crafts

Rounders / Badminton / Tennis

Treasure hunts

Fitness / Dance Fitness

Wellness – Yoga and Mindfulness.

Healthy Eating and Learning classes.

Contact: The camp coordinator will be Niall Ward. Niall is one of Sportslinks duty managers and has much experience in working on camps as well as a wide range of skills to assist campers and their families with their time with us. Alternatively you can ask to speak to the Centre Manager; Daniel Fagan.

If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact him directly on

niall.ward@sportslink.ie

daniel.fagan@sportslink.ie

Or call **018621200**

We look forward to welcoming campers back this summer and promise to do all we can to make it a safe, fun and memorable time for all.

Children with underlying conditions:

Parents of children with underlying medical conditions or disabilities should consult with management to discuss a risk assessment around their child attending camps. If attendance in any way increases the risk to any camper we will not be in a position to support their attendance. However we will work closely with parents to assess the risks involved and introduce control measures where needed. It is vital that all parents clearly identify this at time of booking with on our booking form.

Collection time: We will have a contactless collection procedure in place to avoid congestion. Parents/Guardians will be given a code word for collecting children and can use this instead of a sign in sheet. Collection time slots may be allocated to avoid congestion. Further details will be provided on day 1.

Summer Camps rules and regulations.

A list of rules and regulations and procedures will be provided to parents/guardians on Day one of camp.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience.

Camper's essentials (What you need to pack):

1. Change of clothes
2. Sun cream prior to arrival and in their bags.
3. Swimwear including hats and goggles (No hats / goggles can be shared)
4. Towels (1 small and 1 large). Small towel can be used for various activities or by children if they are sitting outdoors.
5. Arm bands: In particular for children that are not strong swimmers.
6. Hand gel (With their name on the bottle)
7. Lunch (Lunch should be healthy and in line with school lunch policies. Treats are acceptable on Fridays while biscuits and snack bars are acceptable daily. No soft drinks or sweets / treats are permitted mon – thurs.
8. Drinks should be water or juice only. No milk/dairy drinks are permitted. Drinks should be reusable and easily refilled by children if required. Please explain to children how to use their water bottle and refill when they need it.
9. No nuts or foods containing nuts are permitted.
10. PPE – Children are permitted to wear face masks and/or gloves if they wish to do so. However it will not be obligatory for children to do so.
11. A small non-breakable (ie not LEGO) toy is permitted for younger groups if they wish to bring them with them. No phones/tablets or computer games are permitted.
12. Other items may be advised as the days go on for special activities during camp.