

# GUIDANCE FOR BATTALIONS

## SUPPORTING THE COMPANY PROGRAMME

Restrictions over the last 12+ months have of course impacted the programme of activities a Battalion would normally offer. Whilst we may not be in a position to return to a 'normal' programme, the gradual return to face-to-face activities does now present Battalions with an opportunity to consider what support they can offer their Companies over the summer term and beyond.

Whilst the guidance varies in different regions, Battalions may now be in a position to offer some form of activities. These could be face-to-face or remote. Some ideas for how Battalions can offer activities and events can be found below, covering a range of options depending on the current restrictions and guidelines in your area. We would encourage the continued use of virtual Battalion meetings.

### Face-to-Face

Where guidance allow for sufficient numbers to come together, it is now possible to hold face-to-face Battalion activities. These should however still follow all the relevant COVID guidelines and be based on the BB framework, including risk assessment.

Approval for activities being run by Battalion/Districts should be by a minimum of two Office Bearers (Secretary, President, Treasurer, Vice-President).

Things to consider in running an activity / event are:

- **The Type of Activity:** Is the activity suitable? Does it easily allow you to incorporate the COVID guidelines? (i.e social/physical distancing, minimal shared equipment, reduced contact etc)
- **The Venue:** You will need to check on any additional guidelines in place for the venue. Remember outdoor activities may be easier to organise within the guidelines than indoor activities.
- **Company Groups:** To reduce cross over between individuals from different Companies, can you keep Companies together for the activity, rather than mixing with others?
- **Staggered Groups:** Instead of having everyone there at the same time, you could invite Companies to the venue at different times throughout the day. This will help with social/physical distancing, reducing large numbers for arrival/pick up and allow time for cleaning of equipment between groups. This would work well for an activity day or competition style event, with the equipment set up all day (or even longer) and groups only there for part of the time.
- **Transport:** Consider how young people will get to the venue and whether you are providing transport or if parents/carers can drop young people off. Where transport is being provided please ensure you check this is permitted based on your local restrictions and follow guidance on page 19 of our Covid guidance.

- **Hygiene:** Ensure the venue is cleaned prior to use and at regular intervals based on our Covid guidance and that good hand hygiene is maintained at all times.
- **Clear Communication:** In order to keep everyone safe, it will be essential that there is clear communication before and during the activity / event. This will include explaining how the activity will work within the Covid guidelines, so everyone is aware what to expect and is expected from them. On the day, it may be appropriate to consider what signage and markers will be needed to remind groups of the safety steps, as well as dedicated leaders to support and assist with this.

It is essential that before organising an activity you remind yourself of the most up to date guidance for your area and our framework (including risk-assessments) for supporting safe face-to-face activities. You can find all our guidance and resources at <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/coronavirus-update>

Some examples of activities which could work face-to-face are:

- **Sports / Athletics Competition**
  - Equipment (egg & spoon, shot put, relay baton etc) is cleaned between young people.
  - Using every other lane on the track.
  - Field events being completed in Company groups.
  - Teams/Participants not waiting around unnecessarily, times/scores are collected and results announced afterwards.
- **Activity / Fun Day**
  - Companies stay in their own groups.
  - Different activities / challenges set up around the venue with groups rotating round throughout the session.
  - Equipment cleaned between groups.
  - Shorter length of day.

## Remote Competitions / Activities

It may be the case that many of your local Companies are back to meeting face-to-face, but bringing them together in the same place is not appropriate for various reasons. In this situation remote competitions or activities could be offered, where groups take part at their own meeting space using the instructions and/or equipment provided by the Battalion. If you do choose to run a remote activity, remember to keep it basic. Groups will have different venue sizes, numbers, equipment and meeting durations. Pick an activity / competition which should be easy to run in all settings and conditions. Examples of activities include:

- **Sports:** Provide clear instructions for the races / challenge so companies can take part in the activities at their own meeting spaces. Scores can then be sent to the Battalion and results announced after the closing date.
- **Quiz:** Write a quiz appropriate for the age group and send it out to Companies. Companies can then take part in the quiz and send answers to the organiser by the closing date. If technology allows, consider running a live quiz night using Zoom to link up the different venues.
- **Loaned Equipment:** Could the Battalion support Company summer programmes by loaning out equipment for groups to use. This could be as a way of helping to expand the programme your local groups can offer, or it could also be as a competition too, with groups using the equipment to generate their scores / results. Additionally, Battalions could help to create a database of equipment that Companies are happy to loan to each other, helping local companies to benefit from each other's resources.

## Purchasing Equipment

Battalions could consider investing in new equipment. As well as helping to boost programme opportunities for Companies this summer, new pieces of equipment would also provide opportunities in the long term too, including being used at events such as community days, school fairs, and promotional stands as part of your recruitment and profile raising.

Here are some ideas for equipment which could be purchased by Battalions:

### Bug Catchers and Magnifying Lid

**What:** 6 bug catching jars with magnifying glass lid. Ideal to link to the Go Wild Challenge and generally encouraging groups to get outdoors and adventurous. Could you purchase a sufficient number so that young people in an age group could have one each? Great for Anchors and Juniors age groups.

**Price:** £15.99

**Link:** <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B075VM2F5G>



### Kickmaster Footgolf

**What:** 4 flags & 2 balls, allowing you to create your own footgolf course whether in your Church grounds or a local park. A great activity which you can setup in a few minutes and is ready to go and is suitable for Anchors and Juniors age groups. If you are looking to go up a level for older (Company & Seniors) members why not take a look at full size footgolf equipment check out <https://footgolfsupplies.com> (from £50 per hole).

**Price:** £25

**Link:** <https://www.argos.co.uk/product/2991801>



### Soft Archery

**What:** An indoor archery kit using suction cups. The set can be used indoors or outdoors and is a great activity for all age groups from Anchors upwards.

**Price:** £39.99

**Link:** [https://www.decathlon.co.uk/p/softarchery-archery-set-100/\\_/R-p-302266](https://www.decathlon.co.uk/p/softarchery-archery-set-100/_/R-p-302266)



### Cornhole Boards

**What:** Two cornhole boards, 8 beanbags and a storage bag. This game is popular in the US and is making its way over to the UK. Purchase the cornhole boards and setup your own competition, where possible purchase multiple sets to allow larger numbers of young people to participate. A great activity for all age groups.

**Price:** £70

**Link:** <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07X745VD9>



### Golf Pong

**What:** Two golf pong boards and 8 balls. If you are looking for an activity to test the skill and accuracy of young people then look no further. A great activity for Juniors upwards.

**Price:** £120

**Link:** <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08BP13RTK>



## Disc / Frisbee Golf

**What:** A catcher (hole) for frisbee golf. Includes travel bag. This is another growing sport in the US and one that you can get your young people involved in. These frisbee catchers can be purchased to create your own course, perhaps look at purchasing 2 or 3 frisbee catchers along with enough frisbees and create your own course. Ideal for Company and Seniors age groups.

**Price:** £141

**Link:** <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00VE3BNXA>



## My Mini Golf Set

**What:** Set of obstacles to create a mini golf course. Includes 2 putters and four balls. Ideal for setting up your own course in any open space (ideal on grass). You will also need to purchase enough putters and balls for your group, but this activity is suitable for all age groups as can be setup to make it more or less challenging.

**Price:** £279

**Link:** <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B002BYTT14>



## Crossnet

**What:** A volleyball style net with four areas. Allows players to play a combination of volleyball and foursquare. The net has a number of heights so is suitable for Juniors age group upwards.

**Price:** £200

**Link:** <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07G3FGPJ6>

