

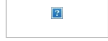
From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 12 November 2020 16:04
To: [redacted]@scottishfa.co.uk
Cc: [redacted]@scottishfa.co.uk
Subject: RE: Elite Athlete Exemption

No problem – if I ever get a minute I will try and pull together a guidance document on what is and isn't covered.

I'm pleased to say this is covered. Domestic elite sportspersons can attend elite training overseas in a non-exempt country, and be exempt on return to Scotland. This is on the basis that you will be continuing activities as an elite sportsperson operating under the relevant resumption of performance sport guidance on return to Scotland. All will need written evidence from the Governing Body confirming that they are an elite sportsperson who is travelling abroad to participate in training for an elite event, and that you will be continuing activities as a sportsperson on return to Scotland.

Many thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Area 3J North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ
M: 0131 244 [redacted] | E: [redacted]@gov.scot



From: [redacted]@scottishfa.co.uk
Sent: 12 November 2020 14:01
To: [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]@scottishfa.co.uk
Subject: FW: Elite Athlete Exemption

Good afternoon [redacted]

Apologies for yet another query, however I have received the request below from Celtic FC in connection with quarantine exemption for their team following a proposed winter training camp overseas.

I would be grateful for your thoughts on this request and whether or not we would be able to provide exemption to the players under these circumstances.

Many thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@celticfc.co.uk
Sent: 12 November 2020 12:42
To: [redacted]@scottishfa.co.uk
Subject: Elite Athlete Exemption

Dear [redacted]

Further to our conversation, I have been asked by club executive and football management to seek elite athlete exemption for a winter training camp in Turkey.

We would like to undertake a warm weather training break during the first week of January 2021 in order to set the team up for the numerous club and international fixtures our players will have during the second half of the season.

Whilst recognising the heightened Covid-19 related risks associated with international travel we will ensure that suitably robust control measures, comparable to those applied when we compete in European competition matches, will be in place. It is also recognised that current projections, by government appointed experts, indicate that the state of the virus in the UK could be at a very elevated level at this time of the year. Therefore, moving our playing squad and immediate support staff to a bio-protected bubble environment within a market that is projected to have a much lower prevalence of the virus is considered to be a positive and appropriate risk mitigation measure.

The training camp would be between league fixtures, and limited to a maximum period of 6 days. Given the difficulties around the continually changing travel corridor exemption list, and the inability to plan ahead on this list with any degree of certainty, it is intended to rely upon the availability of the elite athlete exemption provisions, set out in our legislation, to be able to do this.

As noted, the camp will be run using the exact set of bio-protected bubble protocols currently in place for European competition namely private club charter flight, private transfers, restricted areas within hotels, private dining areas and a hotel complex will be selected that has training facilities on site ensuring exposure to outside forces is minimised wherever possible.

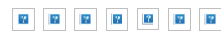
Like European matches, only those who have received negative results from RT-PCR tests and who are approved by the Club will travel and our regular club PCR testing programme will be continued during the winter break period.

The information above is to provide you with an awareness and understanding of our intentions. As you would expect, detailed operational plans for our winter training camp are still being finalised. However, please be assured that our arrangements would be carefully planned and delivered in continued compliance with established protocols, and fully reflective of our own internal safety and risk management programmes.

We trust that the above provides a sufficient level of detail at this stage for your awareness and to enable the SFA to support this key programme for our club and our players. If you need more information or wish to discuss this further, please contact myself by email or phone [redacted].

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Head of Medical Services
Celtic FC
Celtic Way, Lennoxtown, G66 7LP
Direct Tel: +44 (0)1360 [redacted]
Direct Fax: +44 (0)1360 [redacted]



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