

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Report to Union Council – March 2021

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Summary:

- Roadmap out of lockdown for Clubs & Societies
- CSP Annual Budgeting
- Supporting our Clubs & Societies (inc. CSP Elections)
- Storage improvement

Prep time and meetings with:			Operational work (day-to-day)	Project work (major goals)	Misc
College	Move Imperial & Sports Exec	Students & the Union			
15%	25% (inc. Budgeting)	40% (inc. Budgeting)	15%	0%	5%

I wanted to predominantly use this Council report to highlight the return to activity for our Clubs & Societies. I want the Union & College to enable CSPs to resume activity as soon as possible, and to support our members run their activities as soon as the government allows. The roadmap below outlines the next steps (subject to change, but correct at time of writing):

From 29th March:

All organised outdoor sport. Any CSP may seek approval for their sporting activity to take place outdoors from this date. To count as “organised outdoor sport” and to protect your members from financial penalties (up to £10,000), the activity must adhere to NGB guidance, and must have gone through the activity registration process with appropriate risk assessments and gained final approval. For all sports club, approved risk assessments from term 1 can be reused here. Unlike in term 1, this will be open to all CSPs, not just sports clubs. Limited access to storage facilities is possible to facilitate any approved activity – this will need to be booked in advance.

Outdoor Move Imperial facilities will re-open straight after College Closure on the 8th April. Anyone looking to resume training or fixtures will need to complete an activity registration and contact t.astle@imperial.ac.uk to book a pitch. Training & fixtures will be allowed to resume.

Step 2, no earlier than 12th April:

Individual access to West Basement Media rooms. In Step 2, students will be able to book use of the West Basement Media rooms through their CSPs. Anyone using these spaces will need to sign the relevant risk assessment and adhere to social distancing guidelines at all times. The helpdesk in the Union building will also be open to facilitate this activity.

Rule of 6 for any outdoor activities. In Step 2, on top of all organised outdoor sport, any group of 6 people from a CSP will be able to meet for any reason. Whether this is to take part in club activity, attend outdoor attractions, or just catch up with mates. All CSP activity must go through the activity registration process with appropriate risk assessments. Any CSP may seek approval for any activity with attendance of <6. Limited access to West Basement storage facilities is possible to facilitate any approved activity – this will need to be booked in advance.

The Blyth Centre, Ethos gym, and Reynolds Gym will reopen for individual use. More detail will be released shortly by Move Imperial and the Blyth Centre.

The Union helpdesk will be open to facilitate CSP bookings for Union space, access to storage, and parcel/delivery collection for CSPs.

Step 3, no earlier than 17th May:

All organised indoor sport. Any CSP may seek approval for their sporting activity to take place from this date. To count as “organised sport” and to protect your members from financial penalties (up to £10,000), the activity must have gone through the activity registration process with appropriate risk assessments and gained final approval. Unlike in term 1, this will be open to all CSPs, not just sports clubs, and for avoidance of doubt, Dance. All rooms within the Union building will be bookable for indoor sport & access to storage facilities is possible to facilitate any approved activity.

Rule of 30 for any outdoor activities. Step 3 enables anyone to get together outdoors up to a maximum group size of 30 people. So whether you want to host a CSP social in the park or move your previously indoor activity to the great outdoors, we fully support and encourage you doing these activities. Risk assessments will still be required for high risk activity, and all CSPs must continue to use the activity registration app.

Rule of 6 for any other indoor activity. In addition to the above activities already allowed, CSPs will be able to book rooms within the Union building. We are still in the process of seeking college approval for the use of rooms across college. To enable this, all students will need to adhere to college guidance at all times, and will be required to clean spaces before and after their activity (cleaning packs will be accessible from the Union helpdesk)

Domestic overnight stays. The rule of 6 will still apply at all times. However, domestic trips with 6 or fewer people will be allowed to happen. These must gain approval through the activity registration app.

Step 4, no earlier than 21st June:

No legal limits on any activity. We will review the need for activity registration closer to this time, but you will be able to meet-up and do whatever you want to.

Dinners & Venue hire. We would love to see every society able to get together for an End of Year dinner, but it will need to be safe. Any contracts must be signed by the Union, before a CSP may sign them. The DPFS has made this process far easier than previous years and exists for a number of reasons, but primarily to protect the Union, yourselves, and your CSP. Please make sure you check over the Financial Responsibility form you signed at the start of the year, and ensure that anything you book can be moved if COVID restrictions are not relaxed on the expected dates.

Domestic Tours. Tours within the UK will be permitted as soon as possible this year. International tours are still under review – we are looking to permit international tours as soon as there is clearer information what international travel might look like, and what the financial risk of quarantines/changing restrictions might be for CSPs and your members.

Beyond working with colleagues across college and within the Union to enable our CSPs to return to activity, I have been working with student volunteers to provisionally allocate next year’s CSP grant. This is a long and convoluted process but works out fairly for all clubs involved. All CSPs should know

that there has been a slight elongation to the budgeting window which will be communicated through Management Groups. I have also continued to review the pricing and membership structure of Imperial Athletes, and I am working with Move Imperial and the Sports Sector Committee to produce a holistic Imperial Athletes Budgets with every single sports club involved in the process (@Felix, happy to answer any questions you have on this).

We are also in the middle of Spring elections. All CSPs (with a handful of exemptions) are conducting their elections through eVoting – the same platform that is used for leadership elections, and it's great to see so many people standing to lead their clubs and societies. There are a handful of disgruntled CSPs and elections in Term 3 have been discussed at length at CSPB. I am working through the actions from our discussions on 16/03/2021 and will be reporting back to CSPB about summer elections.

We have made significant improvements to the storage in West Basement (fully pest proofed and deep cleaned & all club equipment returned), which has resulted in two full cages worth of equipment being disposed. The storage behind the Union Dining Hall has also been sorted, with a majority of CSPs no longer requiring the equipment they stored in there, and all dated publicity materials from previous years has been disposed. We are revisiting the storage guidelines and rules, and will continue to support CSPs store equipment safely and securely. The next storage areas being sorted are all those behind the Union Gym.

As always, I continue to support CSPs with any questions and queries they have, and I welcome any questions you may have on this report.