

Policy Statement

This policy sets out the criteria which the National Centre for Circus Arts is using to determine when close contact training between Open Training Members is permissible. This policy is regularly reviewed and updated based on changes to government guidance.

For the purposes of this policy, close contact training refers to physical contact, sharing of equipment or training within 3m of somebody else.

Criteria

Members are permitted to train in close contact if they are:

- a) **Members of the same household or support bubble** (see UK govt. guidance on [making a support bubble with another household](#)).

OR

- b) **Working together as a fixed team** in accordance with UK govt. guidance on [working safely in performing arts](#).

All members of the fixed team must be working together exclusively; they won't have trained or performed in close contact with anybody from outside of the fixed team for a period of at least 10 days prior to the training session.

The concept of a fixed team is only to be used where close contact training is *necessary* for the fulfilment of *professional* performing arts activities.

Any one person may only train in close contact with one other person/group. For example, somebody who is part of a support bubble with a person/group who they train with cannot simultaneously train with another group as a member of a fixed team.

Defining 'necessary'

If an activity can reasonably be adapted to accommodate social distancing, it should be. Forming a fixed team should only be considered if there is no way of social distancing without fundamentally changing the nature of the activity.

For example, two aerialists who wish to collaborate together on the development of their own respective solo skills/acts might wish to work in close contact in order to exchange ideas and skills. However, they could reasonably do this while maintaining a social distance and using separate equipment. On the other hand, two aerialists working together on a duo aerial act cannot reasonably adapt their training in order to maintain social distancing.

Defining 'professional'

The concept of a fixed team should only be used for professional artists, not those training for recreational purposes, however high their skill level might be.

Any training in preparation for a specific paid job constitutes professional activity. Training which isn't specifically for a paid job is also permissible providing the artists have a track record of paid employment as circus artists and they are pursuing paid work as circus artists. For example, an already established hand-to-hand pair may train in order to maintain/develop their skills even if they do not have upcoming paid jobs.

If you are a member of a fixed team, you should still maintain social distancing when you can

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