



Summary of temporary programme changes – until 31 July 2021

All sections

Participants can change section activities more than once. Time spent on previous activities will still count towards completion.

Previously, participants could only change activities once per section. However, due to the pandemic, we know many participants have already changed activities to something they can do from home, and will want to resume their original activity once social distancing limitations are lifted.

Some activities participants are doing from home may also not continue when normal life returns (e.g. helping with the coronavirus efforts in their community) so they will need to find something new.

Helping participants who can't do an expedition in 2019-20, but wish to progress to the next level.

For those participants who simply won't have the chance to complete an expedition in 2019-20 and want to progress to the next Award level, we have introduced two temporary rule changes.

- At Bronze and Silver, participants who have completed their Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections – achieving the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement – and progress to Silver or Gold, will be treated as if they have completed the previous Award level when it comes to the time they need to commit to their sectional activities.
- For those progressing from Bronze to Silver, this means they'll only have to complete six months of activity, not 12. For Silver to Gold, this means young people will not have to do an additional six months in either Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

Volunteering section

Participants can volunteer for family members, for example by mentoring or coaching younger siblings.

This should be more than a participant babysitting, or helping out with their usual chores! As with all DofE activities, they should be structured and help the participant to meet the benefits and outcomes of the Volunteering section.

Participants can choose to volunteer to help any family member, but we would suggest coaching or mentoring a family member, particularly younger siblings, as an activity which can easily be structured and help meet the outcomes of the section.. This could include:

- mentoring a younger sibling and helping them with their schoolwork or homework.
- coaching a sibling or another family member to learn an instrument or develop another skill.
- organising a sports session or arts and crafts session for someone they live with to participate in.

Participants can plan their sessions using resources online, and record what they do using a programme planner and activity log.

If a participant wants to help another family member in a different way, then their DofE Leader will just need to check it's suitable by ensuring it fulfils the aims of the section.

Physical section

No temporary rule changes.

Skills section

No temporary rule changes.

Expedition section

We've made a number of temporary rule changes to the Expedition section. These changes will help LOs and AAPs to run expeditions to support 2020's new cohort of participants and those young people whose expeditions have been delayed. This is likely to be outside the 'usual' expedition season – although it's worth noting that DofE expeditions can always be run at any point of the year.

The rule changes are as follows:

1. Bronze participants who progress to Silver will be able to use their Silver practice expedition as their qualifying expedition at Bronze, enabling them to achieve both their Bronze and Silver Awards. This expedition must meet the minimum requirements of the Silver practice expedition (two days and two nights). Participants wishing to do a combined Silver/Bronze expedition must meet the age requirements of the higher level (in the year group in which their peers turn 15) and be enrolled at Silver. Similarly, **Silver participants who progress to Gold will be able to use their Gold practice expedition as their qualifying expedition at Silver**. This expedition must meet the requirements of the Silver qualifying expedition (three days and two nights). In addition, participants wishing to do a combined Gold/Silver expedition must meet the age requirements of the higher level (age 16) and be enrolled at Gold.

2. At Silver and Gold level, practice expeditions and qualifying expeditions can be delivered 'back to back'.

3. We have relaxed the rules around recommended environments, so participants don't have to leave their local area to complete an expedition – for example, Gold expeditions are able to take place outside of wild country.

If you are planning an expedition in a wild country area, then you are still required to complete a Green Form and you will be given a notification number which you can enter on eDofE.

If you are planning a Gold level expedition outside of a wild country area then you do not need to submit a form and will not need to enter a notification number on eDofE.

4. Leaders can use motorised transport to take participants to the start point of their route and pick them up at their end point.

Travel to and from the expedition location each day is additional to the required hours of activity time.

5. Whilst campsites remain closed and shared indoor accommodation may not be available (or your centre may not allow their use), teams at all Award levels will be allowed to return home to sleep during their expedition. They should, however, still plan and cook their meals as a team, and of course meet the minimum hours of planned activity during each day.

Expeditions must be self-sufficient so, even though participants are going home to sleep, they need to carry appropriate expedition kit. Participants should carry some form of shelter and warmth in case of emergency, although this could be a survival shelter rather than a tent. Participants should also carry all of the food and clothing that they will need for the whole expedition.

6. Expedition Assessors for Silver and Gold levels can temporarily be known to the group (this includes helping run the DofE group, or supporting expedition training) – although they must still be an Accredited Assessor.

Expeditions in restricted outdoor spaces

As part of the temporary changes, expeditions can now be run in restricted outdoor spaces such as school grounds. This model offers LOs and AAPs greater flexibility in delivering expeditions whilst following the specific guidance and rules for their sector, and their own local policies and procedures.

Residential section

Several flexibilities have been introduced to support socially-distanced residentials.

The minimum number of participants on a residential has been lowered to four.

The attendees on the residential should still be unknown to each other.

Residentials can take place over two two-night blocks, rather than one four-night block.

Participants should aim to arrive before dinner on the first night (e.g. a Friday), and leave at the earliest mid-afternoon on the last day (e.g. a Sunday). Participants should be taking part in the same type of activity on each half of the residential, but they can do so with different people. Both parts of the residential must be completed within a 12 month period.