



Returning to Archery

Phase 2 – Restricted
Shooting

**Guidance Notes for
Archers**

Version 2.2

Updated: 23 September 2020



FOR THE **LOVE** OF ARCHERY

INTRODUCTION

UPDATED FOR 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

We have indicated the key additions and updates to these guidelines with **[NEW]** and **[UPDATED]** on the following pages.

These guidelines currently apply to England. They have been produced in line with the Government guidance, updated as of **23 September 2020**, which can be read on the Gov.uk website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>

Northern Ireland

[NEW] Outdoor and indoor shooting is allowed. Gatherings are restricted to up to 15 people however, this does not apply to outdoor sports or an indoor activity. Read the current [Northern Ireland Government guidelines](#) for more.

Wales

[NEW] Outdoor and indoor shooting is allowed and everyone will need to follow the current [Welsh Government guidelines on social distancing and travel](#). Clubs in Wales will need to follow the Archery GB Guidelines on returning to archery.

Scotland

[NEW] Scottish Archery has confirmed changes to the latest guidance – they have published an update to the Phase 3 guidance for archery. Click [here](#) for more information.

Archery is a sport where close contact with others can be avoided. Archery GB has developed a set of practical guidelines for clubs to follow so that restricted shooting can take place where the local environment allows.

The choice to return to archery at this time is one that needs to be made locally by clubs, after considering their own circumstances. There are many clubs who are keen to return to archery as soon as possible, but we appreciate there will be those that have genuine concerns, or their local environment will make shooting safely impossible at this stage. It is the responsibility of each club to make their own assessment based on their local environment and circumstances.

We therefore ask you to read and consider the information below carefully, before making a decision to return to archery as safely as possible during this current phase.

Please do not feel pressured to shoot until you are confident you can do so safely, by following both the Archery GB guidelines and the current government advice.

PROTECT EACH OTHER

The clear Government message is that we can all help to control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:

- **Wash hands** - keep washing your hands regularly
- **Cover face** - wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
- **Make space** - stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

Please be aware that clubs need to remain flexible and have the ability to communicate changes to their members quickly. Your club must respond quickly if there is an increase in the virus locally, nationally or if any of your club's members or visitors to the range test positive for coronavirus.

PHASED RETURN

A return to archery is taking place on a phased basis, the phases will change in line with the latest government guidelines once it has been published. Currently we are working on a three-phase approach. Please note, these phases are subject to change as the government exit strategy becomes clearer.

Phase 1 - Outdoor only. Family units or individual shooting. Social distancing of 2m maintained between anyone not in the same household. No social activities, "turn up, shoot, go home", minimise contact with others. Coaching 1:5 allowed while maintaining social distancing.

Phase 2 – Indoor and outdoor shooting. Shooting in two details or family households (outdoor only). Limited numbers with appropriate social distancing between archers. Limited contact outside of shooting. Coaching 1: 5. Some competitions allowed but limited to social distancing.

Phase 3 – Full training and competition. Indoor and outdoor shooting. Social activities permitted – Further details to follow.

[NEW] From 24 September, the sport remains in **Phase 2** and these guidelines have been updated to reflect this change. We will continue to update archery specific guidance as and when the government advice is updated.

If you have any questions then please email membership@archerygb.org and a member of staff will get back to you, please note a number of the team are furloughed and this may take longer than usual.

STAY ALERT

- **[UPDATED]** Archers and Members **MUST NOT** come to the range/club if they show symptoms of any illness but in particular of Covid-19. [These are highlighted on NHS Direct](#). The main symptoms of coronavirus are:
 - a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

- If you are symptomatic, living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection then guidance is that you should remain at home. If you are classified as extremely vulnerable on health grounds, although you can meet people outdoors and, from 4 July, indoors, you should be especially careful and be diligent about social distancing and hand hygiene. For those shielding, you can now consider taking safe exercise outdoors and meeting up with one person outside your household, always maintaining social distancing and robust hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Archers and other Members should notify the club should they develop symptoms after attending the archery range.
- After the session, **everyone** should sanitise their hands, clean their equipment and anything else used at the session regularly.

ARCHERS

- We are advising clubs and coaches to use a booking system, which will support lane management to avoid disappointment and stagger timings to minimise encounters between people, including in car parks and at entrances. Turning up at the range without a slot should be discouraged.
- **[UPDATED]** As an archer, you must practice social distancing at all times and maintain a distance of at least 2 metres apart. If this is not practical/possible, then other mitigating practices, such as face coverings or physical barriers such as protective screens, should be used as per the 1m+ guidance. People from different households should not travel in the same car
- **OUTDOOR ONLY**
- Targets may be used by two archers from different households, when shooting **outdoors**, in two single details (as long as 2m social distancing is maintained); one archer; or one group of archers of any size if from the same household.

- Where appropriate you may be provided with target faces and target pins to keep, and re-use or dispose of at home after use. If this not possible then ensure any shared equipment is cleaned/sanitised after contact.
- Archers should use their own equipment if possible (or equipment that is loaned to them by the club, which is kept by the archer for a period of time). Where this is not possible and is deemed a barrier to participation, clubs, coaches and archers need to do everything practical to minimise the risk of transmission. These include:
 - The frequent cleaning of objects, equipment and surfaces that are regularly touched, ensuring there is adequate disposal arrangements for waste.
 - Sanitisation of all equipment after every use, before being used by someone from a different household.
 - Wash/sanitise your hands thoroughly before and after using, handling or cleaning equipment.
- **[NEW]** To support the NHS Test & Trace initiative, clubs, and coaches, should use a booking system for **all archery sessions (indoors and outdoors)**, to keep a temporary record of club participants for 21 days. You are not required to do anything until NHS Test and Trace contact you for further details.
- If your club is providing timed slots, please follow your club's guidance by arriving shortly before your designated time, wearing and with the correct gear and be ready to shoot. After your slot, you should leave as soon as you have packed away your equipment. Clubs are advised to stagger start times to minimise the risk of archers meeting others outside of their household.
- In order to minimise contact, there is no need to remain at the club if you are not shooting.
- Clubs may ask archers to shoot as many arrows as possible during each end, reducing the number of times archers have to collect arrows.
- **INDOOR ONLY**
- **[NEW]** From Thursday 24 September, indoor team sports are now subject to the rule of six. Indoor archery **can** take place, as long as these guidelines are implemented. Activity can continue for children (under 18s), and organised activity for adults (including coached sessions and club nights held indoors) is permissible. These can take place in larger numbers in COVID-19 secure venues, provided sub-groups of more than six do not mix. There is an exemption for activity for disabled people, which can take place in any number.
- **[NEW]** Individual targets should be booked by an archer, a single household, or a maximum of two archers from different households. Archers should not mix targets or groups and ensure social distancing at all times.

- **[NEW]** Archers and other members must **not** gather in groups of more than six before and after archery sessions. The club is responsible for ensuring this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) and if it cannot ensure this, then such activity should not take place. Archers and volunteers must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit.
- **All members** must wear face coverings when shooting **indoors** and in all indoor environments, except when actively shooting. Anyone with a medical condition or under 12 years of age is exempt.
- In some cases, archers should come prepared to start shooting. Toilets can be used as long as the club can implement the [Government guidelines for keeping facilities and equipment clean](#).

ARCHERY DISCIPLINES

[UPDATED] Field Archery – In addition to the general guidance above, field archery can take place. It is preferred that practice/club shoots archers only shoot with one other person not from their household (observing social distancing) or with members of the same household on each target. At competitions, archers can shoot in groups of four, at all times keeping at least 2 metres from other archers. Refer to the Return to Competition documents for more information.

Clout, flight and other disciplines – All archery disciplines can take place, following the generic guidance above. Social distancing measures should apply at all times. Any equipment should be handled as little as possible and cleaned before and afterwards.

Competitions – a pilot for field archery was held in July 2020, and guidance on how field competitions could return safely will be issued shortly.

SUPPORTING DISABLED ARCHERS

Archery is an inclusive sport and Archery GB is proactively working on solutions to ensure people with disabilities or long-term health conditions can continue to participate safely in the sport. For people who are shielding, we strongly recommend you follow [the Government guidelines on shielding and protecting yourselves which can be found here](#).

It is an individual decision to return to archery which should be made in conjunction with the latest medical and government advice.

We encourage clubs to work with their archers to determine whether sufficient procedures can be put in place to accommodate their individual needs. Clubs should do everything practical to manage the risk associated with the transmission of COVID-19 and all risks need to be logged in a risk assessment with reasonable measures implemented to mitigate the identified risks.

If an archer requires additional support, where possible their carer or a member of their family or household is the preferred solution to providing the support required. If this is not possible, then please talk to the person concerned about how best to support them. Find solutions to enable them to participate, while providing appropriate protection for your workforce. Clubs/volunteers will need to use their discretion, in association with completing a risk assessment to identify the risks and possible solutions. Please be mindful that most clubs are run by volunteers, and individual decisions should be made and respected when it comes to managing personal risk.

The sharing of equipment should be strictly limited, archers should use their own equipment wherever possible (or equipment that is loaned to them by the club and is kept by the archer for a period of time). Where this is not possible and is deemed a barrier to participation, clubs need to do everything practical to minimise the risk of transmission. These include:

- The frequent cleaning of objects, equipment and surfaces that are regularly touched, and make sure there are adequate disposal arrangements for waste.
- Sanitisation of all equipment after every use, before being used by someone from a different household.
- Wash/sanitise your hands thoroughly before and after use.

The COVID-19 Secure guidelines can be found by [clicking here](#).

To minimise potential cross-contamination, we recommend that for each session, a disabled archer is allocated a specific volunteer, or agent, who is responsible for providing support for that one archer. That volunteer will also be responsible for managing the target face (and target pins). A booking system may help facilitate the partnering of archers and volunteers.

An important task associated with supporting disabled archers is the collection of arrows.

This is a recommended procedure for arrow collection:

- Prior to shooting, the arrows and other equipment are cleaned thoroughly.
- Agents to consider face coverings, and where possible avoid touching the target, pulling out arrows using an arrow puller, to reduce the direct handling of the archer's arrows.
- Where possible, maximise the number of arrows shot by the archer, to help minimise the amount of handling by the agent.
- The agent would transfer the arrows in a tube quiver which will be used when carrying the arrows back from the target to the archer.
- The quiver to be safely positioned by the archer so they can access their arrows.
- The archer can then take the arrows from this quiver and place them into their own quiver for the next round of shooting. This further reduces the handling of the arrows by the volunteer.
- The archer and agent frequently wash/sanitise their hands, before and after the collection of arrows.
- Physical contact with anyone outside of your household is not permitted.

Activity Alliance have produced guidance [Reopening Activity: An inclusive response](#), in consultation with partners across sport, leisure and disability equality. The resource covers areas such as session planning, engagement, and workforce. It complements and builds on other guidelines from government, Sport England, professional associations, and governing bodies.

For further information or support please email membership@archerygb.org

CLUBS

These guidelines will cover the majority of archery clubs; however, we recognise that not all clubs will be able to open during Phase 2 for various reasons, and clubs should only open if they can confidently meet the guidelines. Please read the *Guidance Notes for Clubs* document for more information.

- **[UPDATED]** The return to archery remains **Phase 2** is outdoor and/or indoor shooting.

CLUB FACILITIES & INDOOR VENUES

From 25 July, club facilities, and indoor shooting areas, can open. For clubs with owned or leased facilities they should follow **COVID-19 Secure guidelines**. It is important to maintain social distancing and good hand hygiene in these circumstances.

- **[NEW]** From Thursday 24 September, indoor team sports are now subject to the rule of six. Indoor archery **can** take place, as long as these guidelines are implemented. Activity can continue for children (under 18s), and organised activity for adults (including coached sessions and club nights held indoors) is permissible. These can take place in larger numbers in COVID-19 secure venues, provided sub-groups of more than six do not mix. There is an exemption for activity for disabled people, which can take place in any number.
- Due to the variety and number of different venues used by clubs, Archery GB is not in a position to give guidance to how a club should reopen, manage and clean a facility.

COACHING

One to five coaching can take place as long as the restrictions described within this guide are adhered to. Contact the club or your coach for more details.

We recognise that some clubs and organisations are ready to resume the delivery of archery experiences for beginners.

Please see the *Guidance Notes for Coaches* for more information.

[UPDATED] COMPETITION

Although record status competitions may be some weeks away, there are other opportunities you can do to increase variety of activity within the club.

- We have released the Summer Metrics for July & August, and now extended into September, and this is available to all archers – using the lanseo Scorekeeper app.
- The Progress Awards has been updated to include adults.
- Competitions at the club can be done in the time available either shooting a complete or partial round, or making up your own round!
- Any scorecards should be kept by the archers, and any collation of scores could be done online.
- **[NEW]** Some competitions are taking place under the Archery GB Covid guidelines and further information will be made available on the website.

An announcement on the Return to Competition was released on 7 August 2020. See the website for more details.

SPECTATORS

Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) or a carer for a disabled archer is required, it should be limited to one per archer, with social distancing strictly observed while watching the sessions (consider marking out specific boxes/areas for this purpose).

Parents are responsible for supervision for children and in line with social distancing guidelines. Children are not always good at hand hygiene; the virus can be spread by touching contaminated surfaces. Therefore, pay special attention to children's hand hygiene.

Please respect the club's decisions – the majority of clubs are run by volunteers and they are managing a complex situation whilst doing their best to allow you to shoot.

Please note guidance can change quickly and we will respond to any changes made by government as soon as is practicable to do so. Keep up to date with the latest information at www.archerygb.org/covid19