



Angling Scotland Limited

Angling included as part of Scotland's route
map for the relaxation of lock down

Phase 1 update 23 May 2020





Introduction

Angling Scotland Ltd has been working with the Scottish Government, SportScotland and Marine Scotland to ensure that angling can start again as soon as it is safe to do so. We offer this advice to anglers and fisheries as best practice. We will continue to work with the Scottish Government and its agencies as we follow the route map to the new normality.

We rely on the angling community to reflect itself well, to follow the Scottish Government guidance in letter and in spirit and in doing so strengthen our hand in being able to best represent anglers and angling, and to better influence government thinking in the angling environment.

We hope that you find this guidance as both useful and sensible as we begin to reintroduce Angling into our lives.

David Ogg
Chairman, Angling Scotland LTD





Guidance for Anglers

The following guidance has been established to ensure a safe environment for all “Anglers” and all on-site staff, sets out the basis on how Anglers can return to a safe environment as outlined by the Scottish Government’s Phase 1 relaxation of restrictions.

Not only are Anglers expected to comply with the guidance they should also observe the government and public health restrictions. Guidance is subject to change and will be under continuous review. We would ask all Anglers to regularly check with Angling Scotland and their fisheries for regular updates.

IMPORTANT: Do not leave your home to take part in sport or physical activity if Scottish Government advice means you should stay at home because you or someone you live with has or has had symptoms of COVID-19, or you are in the most vulnerable category and have been advised to shield from the corona-virus

Prior to Angling:

- Anglers who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 7 days; household members for 14 days as per info on NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend an outdoor sports facility/activity.
- If you are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government, then you should stay at home.
- Travel from your home must be in line with Scottish Government guidelines – The latest advice can be found on the Scottish government website
- Schedule your session time in the manner prescribed by your fishery. Under no circumstances should you arrive without booking in advance.
- Disinfect your equipment including waders, nets and any other items that may come in to contact with you or the water.
- Ensure you have enough equipment for the entire session as the facilities at the fishery may be closed and you should not exchange equipment with other anglers.
- Aim to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to your session.
- Park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.

During Angling:

- Always stay at least two metres away from other people including before, during and after the activity or when taking breaks.
- Use your own net do not share nets with other Anglers
- Be aware that all onsite indoor facilities including toilets will be closed
- Do not share equipment, food or drink with others unless from the same household.
- Follow all local procedures that are implemented by your fishery or club.
- **Always follow good hand and respiratory hygiene guidelines e.g. washing of hands, use of face coverings in enclosed spaces.**





Guidance for Fisheries

The following guidance sets out the basis on how fisheries can open and provide a safe environment for Anglers as outlined by the Scottish Government's Phase 1 relaxation of restrictions.

Procedures are subject to change, we would therefore ask fishery managers to regularly check here for updates.

- All activity should be consistent with current guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene – facilities should also make sure they can adapt to changes in guidance at short notice.
- All essential maintenance and preparatory work has been completed in order to ensure compliance with Government guidance on physical distancing and hygiene.

General Guidelines

- Risk assessments should be carried out and documented for all activities and facilities. Consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection/transmission. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are protected.
- Put your risk assessment on display so that Anglers can understand the risks and measures taken to manage.
- At all times, participants and facility operators should adhere to the Scottish Government's social distancing guidelines of staying at least 2m away from others. Scottish Government guidelines are available at www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/
- All indoor facilities should remain closed to the public including clubhouses, toilets, locker rooms, retail outlets and activity areas.
- Limits on the number of participants should be considered to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained.
- Travel guidance outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to by anglers. Broadly speaking this means that anglers should be from the local area with minimal exceptions.
- Physical distancing rules outlined by the Scottish Government must always be adhered to.

Health, Safety & Hygiene

- Cleaning of equipment, hand and respiratory hygiene are core measures to be implemented and provision should be made for these.
- Clear guidance and plans are needed for cleaning of facilities and equipment, and waste disposal. For instance, common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) should where possible be left open but if not possible, regular cleaning with disposable gloves should be undertaken.
- Detailed guidance is available at;
 - www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings/
 - www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/hand-hygiene/





Guidance for Fisheries

Session times and access

The following guidance is discretionary and should be subject to the appropriate risk assessments taking place by fishery managers.

- Session times should be managed and booked in advance – anglers should not simply turn up to fish.
- Daily session times and intervals are at the discretion of the fishery – the following groupings should be permitted;
 - Individuals anglers.
 - Angling pairs from the same household, with household members.
 - A non household angler can travel, but not in the same car. They can fish at the same location, exercising social distancing.
- Competitions are not recommended in phase 1 of re-introduction.
- Booking records should be kept to assist with contact tracing should the need arise.

Advance Planning and Communication with Anglers:

- Fisheries should ensure clear and regular communication to all Anglers. Setting out what they are doing to manage risks and encouraging them to follow follow the "Guidance for Anglers."
- Provide Anglers with regular updates on any changes made.
- Physical distancing – the 2m rule applies to all these settings. Facilities need to adapt to encourage social distancing.
- Workforce – ensure that relevant workplace guidance is followed for contractors and staff and ensure existing health and safety advice is maintained and aligned. This should be detailed in the risk assessment.
- Cleaning – hand hygiene is a core measure and provision should be made for this where possible.
- Anglers should use their own nets. Provision of a means to disinfect nets prior to fishing would be advisable.





Useful Links

[Government guidance on physical distancing & travel](#) – Click Here

[NHS Inform Physical Distancing](#) – Click Here

[Government guidance on shielding](#) – Click Here

[NHS Covid-19 information](#) – Click Here

[Scotland's route map and framework for decision making](#) – Click Here

[Angling Scotland Website](#) – Click Here

[Angling Scotland Facebook](#) – Click Here

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a time limit of how long I can fish?

All fisheries are asked to put guidelines and measures in place to manage use of facilities to ensure social distancing at all times. It is a matter for each venue to determine availability/ capacity and whether to impose time limits.

Can members of the same household share tackle and fish together?

Yes – provided they live in the same household. You should update a fishery ahead of arrival, and make them aware of the situation.

Can over 70s fish?

Yes – however, members who are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government are advised to practise caution and stay away from risk.

Do Anglers need to bring their own hand sanitisers?

It is recommended everyone brings their own hand sanitiser and uses frequently during their fishing session.





Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we have to book in advance? (freshwater fisheries)

Fisheries need to know in advance to ensure that they can maintain physical distancing – i.e control numbers for availability / capacity reasons. It will also help to keep a record of contact details which may help in future track, trace and isolate steps.

Whose role is it to monitor Anglers and ensure they adhere to the Phase 1 protocols?

It is the individual Angler's responsibility to adhere to the laws of the land. Fisheries however must ensure the sport is practised safely and in accordance with the protocol.

Are Anglers exempt from Government public health measures now?

No, Anglers are always expected to observe ALL public health guidance.

Can I travel to my preferred fishing spot?

Under the Government guidance individuals will be permitted to travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise but are advised to stay within a short distance of their local community and travel by walking, wheel or cycle where possible. 5 miles was stated as a guide, not a fixed distance, but should be considered in decision making. Anglers are therefore advised to exercise best judgment with respect to travel and to stay as local as possible.

Can our planned club outing go ahead if we maintain social distancing?

No – not in this phase. The Government guidance only permits individuals to arrange to meet with one relative or individual from another household at a time, and this must be outside and socially distanced. Despite applying the social distancing measures and complying with the travel restrictions, the government does not yet want us meeting in large groups due to the increased risk of spreading the virus. Planning to meet individuals from outside the household therefore breaches this guidance. We would advise everyone to take the opportunity to get out fishing but to do so alone until the restrictions on social gathering are eased further.

When can we fish competitions again?

Competitions will return at a later stage once restrictions on social gatherings are eased further. They are not permitted in this phase. The Government guidance only permits individuals to arrange to meet with one relative or individual from another household at a time, and this must be outside and socially distanced. Despite applying the social distancing measures and complying with the travel restrictions, the government does not yet want us meeting in large groups due to the increased risk of spreading the virus. Planning to meet individuals from outside the household for a competition therefore breaches this guidance. We would advise everyone to take the opportunity to get out fishing, but to do so alone for the time being. We have developed proposals for the way in which competitions could safely resume under COVID-19 restrictions and will be engaging with Ministers for these to be considered for implementation as soon as it is safe to do so.

