



Angling Scotland Limited

Guidance for Anglers, Clubs and Fisheries for
the safe conduct of Recreational Angling Under
COVID-19 Restrictions

Phase 3
Effective 10 July 2020





Introduction

Angling Scotland Ltd has been working with the Scottish Government, **Sport**Scotland and Marine Scotland to ensure a phased resumption of angling activity as and when it is safe to do so. We offer this advice to anglers, clubs 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.

Some sporting activities can now be undertaken outdoors, providing all activity is consistent with current Scottish Government guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene – you will also need to make sure that your club, facility and anglers are made aware and can adapt to changes in guidance at short notice.

Information on Scottish Governments approach to managing COVID-19 is available at;

[Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#)

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.

Guidelines will be updated as we progress through the different phases of the Scottish Government COVID-19 route map. Current information is available here:

[Scottish Government: Covid-19 Framework for decision making](#)

David Ogg
Chairman, Angling Scotland Ltd





Guidance for Anglers

Participation Limits. Limits on the number of participants accessing outdoor facilities should be risk assessed to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained. This should take into consideration that in Phase 3, you can meet with:

- **Outdoor groups:** Up to 15 people, from up to 4 households can gather outdoors, with physical distancing maintained between households.
- **Indoor groups:** Up to 8 people, from up to 3 households can gather indoors (inc. overnight stays), with physical distancing maintained between households and avoiding creating 'bridges' between households.

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.

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 can participate provided that strict social distancing is adhered to. Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors([link](#))
- Travel from your home must be in line with Scottish Government guidelines. While the Scottish Government has removed the travel restriction for recreational and sporting activity from 3 July 2020. We are still strongly encouraging individuals to only travel as far as is necessary to participate in angling. Up to date guidance is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Getting Around](#)
- Schedule your session time in the manner prescribed by your fishery and aim to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to your session. 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.
- 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.
- If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into an appropriate bin supplied at the venue or place in a plastic bag and take home. Wash your hands afterwards for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face and ensure to clean your hands with at least 60% alcohol gel when you finish participating.
- **Always follow good hand and respiratory hygiene guidelines e.g. washing of hands, use of face coverings in enclosed spaces.**





Guidance for Clubs & Fisheries

Sportscotland has produced the [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) guidance to help owners and operators of sports facilities as they prepare for when sport/activity resumes. The guidance is applicable to all phases of the Scottish Government Covid-19 routemap and can be adapted to support other planning-based work being undertaken by sports, clubs and community organisations.

- 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.
- **Participation Limits.** Limits on the number of participants accessing outdoor facilities should be risk assessed to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained. This should take into consideration that in Phase 3, you can meet with:
 - **Outdoor groups:** Up to 15 people, from up to 4 households can gather outdoors, with physical distancing maintained between households.
 - **Indoor groups: Up to 8 people, from up to 3 households can gather indoors (inc. overnight stays), with physical distancing maintained between households and avoiding creating 'bridges' between households.**

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.
- Physical distancing rules outlined by the Scottish Government must always be adhered to. The number of participants accessing facilities should be risk assessed with limits considered to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained.
- 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/
- Only outdoor sport and physical activity should be undertaken at this time with all indoor exercise and social facilities remaining closed. Indoor and outdoor
- Outdoor hospitality, including catering and bar services can reopen from 6th July 2020 providing they adhere to Scottish Government guidance. Further information is available at [Scottish Government: Tourism and Hospitality Guidance](#).
- Travel guidance outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to by anglers. While the Scottish Government has removed the travel restriction for recreational and sporting activity from 3 July 2020. We are still strongly encouraging individuals to only travel as far as is necessary to participate in angling competitions. Up to date guidance is available at [Scottish Government Phase 3: Staying safe and protecting others](#)
- Clubhouses can re-open to provide indoor bar and restaurant services if following SG guidance. Further information is available at [Scottish Government: Tourism and Hospitality Guidance](#)
- Small retail units operated by venues/sport clubs may be opened provided all specific Scottish Government guidance for retailers is in place and adhered to. Further information from the Scottish Government is available at [Retail Sector Guidance](#)





Guidance for Clubs & Fisheries

Health, Safety & Hygiene

- Sports facility operators and clubs may now open toilets for public use if they follow the guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website [Opening Public Toilets Guidelines](#) .
- Public toilets are defined as any toilets accessible to the public. The opening of toilets should be accompanied by local risk assessment, and control measures should be proactively monitored by clubs/operators.
- All appropriate cleaning procedures and equipment/disinfectant should be provided as per Health Protection Scotland guidance.
- Ensure access to first aid and emergency equipment is maintained. Where equipment is stored indoors please ensure public access to indoor areas is restricted as much as possible with hygiene and safety protocols reviewed as part of the risk assessment.
- Please ensure that first aid equipment has been updated appropriately for the COVID pandemic and first aiders have appropriate training.
- 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.
- Make hand sanitizers or wipes available for use at entrance/exit to venue/facility where possible. Hand sanitiser should be at least 60% alcohol based and detergent wipes appropriate for the surface they are being used on. Cleaning products should conform to EN14476 standards.
- A checklist for health, hygiene and cleaning considerations and actions is available here: [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#)
- Further guidance is available at;
 - [Health Protection Scotland: General guidance for non-healthcare settings](#)
 - [Health Protection Scotland: Cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)
 - [Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)
 - [St. John's Ambulance: Covid-19 advice for first aiders](#)
- Bins may be provided but should be regularly checked, cleaned/sanitised, emptied and disposed of using appropriate personal protective equipment.
- All fixed equipment should be checked prior to use to avoid participants having to adjust or touch it.
- Where shared equipment is necessary for an activity appropriate hygiene measures must be put in place to ensure the equipment is thoroughly cleaned before, during and after use.
- No personal equipment should be left at a facility by a participant once the activity has ended.

Organised Outdoor Angling for Children (to be read in conjunction with the Angling Scotland Best Practice for Coaching & Instructing)

- Organised outdoor sport specific activity can be undertaken by children and young people from the 13 July, with a phased implementation, subject to SGBs agreeing guidance with **sportscotland** covering the following;
- All sports organisations providing children's activity must abide by relevant SGB guidance and have a named 'Covid Officer' who will complete documented risk assessments and ensure all appropriate mitigations are put in place by the sports organisation before any children's outdoor activity is undertaken.





- Physical distancing;
 - Children aged 11 years and younger are not required to physically distance, as set out in Scottish Government guidance. This extends to organised sports activity and the field of play.
 - For older children aged 12-17 a 'field of play bubble' can be created during organised sports activity that allows contact whilst the activity is taking place, in effect suspending physical distancing guidelines for the duration of the activity. Normal physical distancing guidelines will however apply before and after the activity takes place.
 - Coaches and other adults supporting organised activity should attempt to keep physically distant where possible, but it is recognised that this will not always be possible. In such circumstances the club 'Covid Officer' should consider appropriate mitigating actions as part of the risk assessment.
 - Specific consideration should be given to supervision of children under the age of 5 years as it is not appropriate for young children to maintain the models of physical distancing that are suitable for older children, either practically or in terms of child development. You may, for instance, ask a parent to be present.
 - Where an employee is providing an activity, relevant work placed risk assessments and consultation should take place in advance of any activity being undertaken. See the Businesses, workplaces and self-employed people section at [Scottish Govt: Covid-19](#)
 - Parents/guardians who are supervising their children should abide by Scottish Government physical distancing guidance and stay at least 2m away from those out with their own household. Groups of parents from different households should not congregate before, during or after the activity.
- Health, safety & hygiene measures for children's activity should be in line with guidance provided within this document.
 - In the event of first aid treatment being required it is recognised that a suitably qualified coach/supervising adult may require to attend to a child. The sports organisation 'Covid Officer' should consider processes for managing this as part of the risk assessment. This could include but not be limited to;
 - Provision of suitable PPE
 - Training of coaches/supervising adults
 - Presence of one parent/guardian being required at the activity
 - Participant numbers and duration of organised activity;
 - Where there is likely to be close contact between children in an organised sporting activity mitigation should be put in place to minimise risk and keep participants safe.
 - SGB guidance should therefore consider limiting the numbers taking part and the required duration of the activity.
 - The focus should be on delivering the organised activity with as few participants as possible interacting with each other and for the minimum amount of time, whilst still allowing the activity to be run effectively.
 - The focus of activity at this stage should be non-competitive, essentially a return to training. No competition, matches or other activity between sporting clubs/organisations should be arranged.
 - Holiday camps or extended sports activity which would not normally come under the jurisdiction of an SGB should refer to the appropriate local authority, umbrella body or care commission guidance. These bodies may wish to use relevant SGB guidance but if not applicable, Scottish Government household, physical distancing and group size limits should be applied.
- Adult involvement and ratios;
 - All adults involved in coaching / actively engaging with children in an organised environment should have undertaken appropriate SGB safeguarding and, where available, Covid-19 training.
 - Sports organisations should always ensure appropriate ratios of coach/adult to child as per SGB guidance and follow all related safeguarding advice.
 - Health, safety and welfare policies should always be risk assessed and implemented.





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 the “Guidance for Anglers” in this document.
- 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.

Useful Links

[Angling Scotland Website](#) [Angling Scotland Facebook](#)

[Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#)

[Scottish Government: Covid-19 Framework for decision making](#)

[Scottish Government Phase 3: Staying safe and protecting others](#)

[Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#)

[Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Travel](#)

[Coronavirus Government Job Retention \(‘furlough’\) scheme](#)

[Scottish Government: Tourism and Hospitality Guidance](#)

[Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#)

[Professional & Performance Sport Resumption Guidance](#) [Getting your coaches ready for sport](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: General guidance for non-healthcare settings](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: Cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)

[St. John's Ambulance: Covid-19 advice for first aiders](#)

[Retail Sector Guidance](#)





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 2 protocols?

It is the individual Angler's responsibility to adhere to the laws of the land. Fisheries however must ensure the sport is practiced 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?

Travel restrictions outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to. While the Scottish Government has removed the travel restriction for recreational and sporting activity from 3 July 2020. We are still strongly encouraging individuals to only travel as far as is necessary to participate in angling competitions. Up to date guidance is available at [Scottish Government Phase 2: Staying safe and protecting others](#)

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

No - not in this phase. The Government guidance for phase 2 only permits individuals to arrange to meet with up to two other households (or extended households) at a time outdoors, and no more than 8 people in total at a time. and this must be outside and socially distanced. Despite applying the social distancing measures the government does not yet want us meeting in large groups due to the increased risk of spreading the virus. We would advise everyone to take the opportunity to get out fishing but to follow the Scottish Government Guidance until the restrictions on social gathering are eased further.

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 over 70s fish?

Yes – however, members who are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government are advised to practice 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.

