



# Angling Scotland Limited

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

Phase 3  
Effective 24 August 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.

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

## General Guidance

Anglers are expected to comply with the guidance outlined in this document and also observe the government and public health restrictions. Guidance is subject to rapid change, particularly as we moved forward within the Scottish Government's Routemap and the likelihood of localized, targeted restrictions to control the spread of infection increase, and will be under continuous review. We would ask all Anglers to regularly check with Angling Scotland and their fisheries for regular updates and most importantly stay up to date:

Scottish Government information is available at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#). Be aware that guidance can change, and restrictions may be reintroduced - ensure you have checked the latest version of guidelines applicable to angling.

- **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.
- Anglers who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 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.
- [Test and Protect](#), is Scotland's way of putting into practice NHS Scotland's test, trace, isolate and support strategy. The gathering of contact information from anyone attending sport/leisure activities or facilities in a secure and safe manner, will assist NHS Scotland's Test and Protect service to identify any clusters of cases, contact those who may have been exposed to the virus, and request them to take appropriate steps to prevent potential onward spread.
- [Maintaining customer records](#). In order to support Test and Protect sports facility operators (clubs and fisheries) are required to collect the name, contact number, date of visit, time of arrival, and where possible the departure time of all those attending facilities or activities. Where attending as a small household group, the contact details for one member – a 'lead member' – will be sufficient. It is important that sport facility operators and customers cooperate, as it will be crucial to national efforts to suppress the virus. Sports facility operators will store information for 21 days and share it with public health officers when requested. A leaflet providing information on the Test and Protect service from NHS Scotland is also available [here](#).
- [Face Coverings](#). Participants and visitors to indoor sports facilities should wear face coverings before and after activity or when in on-site fishery facilities (e.g. reception, tackle shop etc). Face coverings do not need to be worn in hospitality environments i.e. café, restaurant or bars.
- [Physical Distancing](#). Children aged 11 years and younger are not required to physically distance at any time, as set out in Scottish Government guidance. For those 12 years of age and over taking part in sport or leisure activity, normal Scottish Government physical distancing and household number guidelines should be followed unless otherwise advised by your relevant Sports Governing Body, Club or facility operator, as certain activities have exemptions. Normal physical distancing and household number guidelines will however be applicable before and after the sporting activity or when taking breaks. Coaches, officials, parents and guardians should continue to observe physical distancing when involved in children's activity as a coach, official or spectator. Please refer to specific club or facility guidelines. Where access through an indoor space is provided it should be for one person at a time, ideally with a one-way system in operation. Participants should ensure not to make contact with hard surfaces such as door handles and move through the area without stopping or congregating at any time. Further information on physical distancing guidance is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others](#)
- [Supporting anglers with disabilities](#). Where a participant with a disability requires functional support to enable their participation in physical activity and sport this can be provided without maintain physical distancing. This support can be provided by a coach or other individual. In such circumstance the responsible 'Covid Officer' should consider appropriate mitigating actions as part of the risk assessment. For instance, providing appropriate PPE, limiting the number of participants an individual provides functional support to, limiting the duration spent in close proximity, or a combination of actions.



### **Prior to Angling**

- Please check before you leave that toilet facilities will be available at the sports facility.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home. Information on hand hygiene is available at: [Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)
- Take your own hand sanitiser to the sports facility and use regularly throughout the activity.
- 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](#). Where possible avoid using public transport and adhere to Scottish Government physical distancing and travel guidelines.
- **Participation Booking.** Where a venue operator allows, book in advance and made payment online.
- 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. If you arrive early and need to wait, then do so away from the venue and clear of any entrances or exits.
- 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.
- Avoid touching fixed equipment including gates, fences or benches.
- After completing your session return directly to your car (if appropriate) and leave.

### **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 also produced [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) resource to help sport facility operators prepare for reopening. The resource supports Scottish Government guidance by providing further detailed checklists for the reopening of a range of sport specific facilities.

- 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.
- **Test and Protect**, is Scotland's way of putting into practice NHS Scotland's test, trace, isolate and support strategy. Containing outbreaks early is crucial to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect the NHS and save lives, and avoid the reintroduction of social and economic lockdown. This will support the country to return to, and maintain, a more normal way of life.
  - **Maintaining customer records.** It is a mandatory requirement that sport facility operators collect the name, contact number, date of visit, time of arrival, and where possible the departure time of all those attending facilities or activities. Where attending as a small household group, the contact details for one member – a 'lead member' – will be sufficient. Sports facility operators should store information for 21 days and share it when requested to do so by public health officers. A leaflet providing information on the Test and Protect service from NHS Scotland is also available [here](#).
  - **Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office.** In order to gather and store customer information securely, sports facility operators may need to be registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This will be the case if you are using an electronic system to gather and store data. If you are unsure whether you need to register, please contact the ICO via their helpline on 0303 123 1113, or visit [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)
- **COVID-19 Officer.** All sports facility operators providing sport specific activities must abide by relevant SGB guidance and have an appointed 'Covid Officer' who will complete documented risk assessments and ensure appropriate mitigations are put in place before any sporting activity is undertaken. The nominated club committee, appointed [COVID-19 officer](#) or sports facility operator (herein referred to as the COVID officer) should ensure all appropriate management processes are in place so that they can effectively oversee and maintain the implementation of measures outlined herein. **An e-learning module for COVID officers is available at [here](#).**
- **An indicative date of 14 September 2020 has been identified by Scottish Government for further changes to sport and leisure activity.**

### 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. Clubs and fisheries should check with insurers to ensure adequate cover is in place.
- 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/](http://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/)





- From 31 August indoor sport and leisure facilities are able to open if Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance for the opening of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities](#) is fully implemented.
- Indoor and outdoor hospitality, including clubhouses and sports facilities which provide catering and bar services, can operate providing they adhere to Scottish Government guidance which is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance](#).
- Retail units operated by sports facility operators may reopen 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](#).
- 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](#)
- **Bookings & Payments.**
  - Online bookings should be taken if possible. If not, alternative measures should be put in place including phone bookings.
  - Consider introducing buffer periods between sessions to stagger start times so that participants do not all arrive/leave at the same time.
  - Where possible use online or contactless payment options and avoid handling cash.

## Health, Safety & Hygiene

- Sports facility operators and clubs can 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.
- Changing rooms are an area of increased risk of transmission and should remain closed for now other than for people with disabilities, additional needs or in exceptional circumstances. From the 31 August 2020 access to indoor locker rooms and storage areas is permitted for the dropping off and collection of sports equipment or clothing. The sports facility operator should ensure mitigating actions are put in place to minimise the risk of virus transmission including physical distancing, hygiene and cleaning measures.
- 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. In the event of first aid treatment being required it is recognised that a suitably qualified person, coach or supervising adult may require to attend to the injured participant. The 'Covid Officer' should consider processes for managing this as part of their 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 for children/vulnerable adults
- 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.





## Guidance for Clubs & Fisheries

- 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](#)
- Face Coverings:
  - Sports facility operators should ensure participants and visitors wear face coverings, if indoors, before and after activity or when in non-playing areas of the facility e.g. reception, locker rooms and storage areas. This is a mandatory requirement.
  - Face coverings may not be required when using hospitality services such as café's, bars and restaurants. For further information refer to Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance](#).
- 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.
- 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](#)
  - [HSE: First Aid During the Coronavirus](#)

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

- 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 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 those over 12 years of age taking part in an organised outdoor activity, a 'field of play bubble' can be created whilst a sporting 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. For those over 12 years of age taking part in indoor sporting or leisure activity normal physical distancing rules should be followed. Risk assessments should, where possible, consider mitigating actions to reduce the likelihood of participants encroaching within 2m of each other. For instance, SGBs and sports facility operators may consider, where appropriate, different formats of competition, zoned participation areas or staggered starts.
  - No formal presentation ceremonies should take place during or after an activity or competition and the focus should be on reducing numbers in attendance at any one time.
  - 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 responsible '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 Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#).
- 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 identified '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;
  - 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.
  - 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.
- 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.
  - Clubs should always ensure appropriate ratios of coach/adult to child as per the 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 and staff/contractors

- Fisheries should ensure clear and regular communication to all Anglers. setting out what they are doing to manage risk, and what advice they are giving to individuals before, during and after visits to the venue/activity and encouraging them to follow the "Guidance for Anglers" in this document.
- Provide Anglers with regular updates on any changes made and make them aware in advance of measures you are putting in place at your venue/club, and guidelines they are asked to follow. Such as:
  - Physical distancing – the 2m rule applies to all these settings. Facilities need to adapt to encourage social distancing.
  - Cleaning – hand hygiene is a core measure and provision should be made for this where possible.
- 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.
- Communicate clearly opening times and how people can safely access a facility, if relevant, for example through a booking or queuing system.
- It is more important than ever to consider inclusive guidance for people who need support to be active and sports facility operators should consider this as part of their work to encourage people to return.
- Ensure signage on guidelines for participating safely and promoting hygiene measures are clearly displayed and up to date.





## 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](#)

