

CHARTER BOAT FISHING

Best practice for the safe conduct of Charter Boat Fishing in Scotland under COVID-19 restrictions – Phase 3 v5

**Approved by
Scottish Government:
With effect
5 January 2021**

Published 5 January 2021

IMPORTANT:

Scottish Government has introduced a new [strategic framework document](#) for managing COVID-19 which became effective from 2 November 2020. This provides a 0-4 Level approach to restrictions with each local authority area (or sub-area) placed in a relevant protection Level depending upon its COVID-19 status which will be reviewed weekly. Clubs, operators and participants should be aware of their local area protection level and associated restrictions which may be in place and should consider this as part of risk assessment planning. Broad guidance for sporting activity which should be followed within each Level is set out in Table A at Annex A to this guidance.

With effect from midnight on 4 January 2021 much of Scotland was moved into Level 4 with certain extended 'stay at home' restrictions imposed. It is important that all Anglers, Fisheries and Clubs are aware of and comply with these restrictions. More detailed information on them and exemptions applicable for sport and physical activity is available at [Appendix 1 to Annex A to this guidance](#).

CHARTER BOATS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN LEVEL 4 AREAS UNDER THESE EXTENDED 'STAY AT HOME' RESTRICTIONS

Further information on protection levels that will apply in each local authority area are available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): allocation of protection levels to local authorities](#). A local post code checker is also available at [COVID restrictions by protection level in areas of Scotland](#).

It is to be read in conjunction with the Angling Scotland COVID-19 Guidelines which can be found at: <http://www.anglingscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Angling-Scotland-Covid-Guidelines-for-Individuals-Clubs-and-Fisheries-Phase-3-v5-5-January-2021.pdf>

People who are shielding are now permitted to undertake activities providing strict physical distancing is adhered to. Further information is available at [Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#)

People who are symptomatic and household members should self-isolate for 10 days as per NHS Scotland guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend a sports facility or activity. **activity.**

Introduction

Some sporting activities, including boat Angling, can now be undertaken outdoors, providing all activity is consistent with current Scottish Government guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene and travel. **Sportscotland** has produced the [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) to help owners and operators of sports facilities as they prepare for when sport/activity resumes.

Angling Activity undertaken on Charter Boats must fully comply with Scottish Government 5 level approach to restrictions, household, physical distancing and travel guidance with appropriate hygiene and safety measures also in place. **Participation Limits.** Limits on the number of participants accessing outdoor facilities should be risk assessed to ensure appropriate social distancing can be maintained

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1 Guidance for Skippers – Levels 0 to 3

General Guidance

- As a Skipper it is your decision to allow passengers onboard and, should you suspect they are displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms they should not be allowed to board. Before allowing anyone onboard you should ask if they have or have been in contact recently with anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19.
- To manage a safe return to organised sport and physical activities skippers should put in place Test & Protect procedures to help break chains of transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Further information is available at [Scottish Government: Test & Protect](#).
- you will also need to make sure that crew and all participants are made aware of, and can adapt to, changes in guidance at short notice. Information on Scottish Governments approach to managing COVID-19 is available at www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/
- It is the responsibility of the Skipper to ensure all appropriate management processes are in place so that they can effectively oversee and maintain the implementation of measures outlined herein. Skippers are advised to take time to ensure they reopen safely.

Risk Assessment.

- It is the responsibility of each Skipper to undertake a documented risk assessment, based on current guidance and their local circumstances, prior to activity taking place and to provide a safety briefing to all participants. Consider safety first, particularly focusing on minimising the risk of infection/transmission. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure participants and crew are always protected. You must put your risk assessment on display so that Anglers can understand the risks and measures taken to manage them.

Safety Briefing.

- You must carry out a full Safety Briefing listing all the measures in place to keep to Government guidelines and what passengers need to do to follow these guidelines.

Health & Safety.

- It is the responsibility of the Skipper to ensure that first aid and emergency equipment is maintained correctly, has been updated appropriately for the COVID pandemic and that first aiders have undertaken appropriate additional training.
- Consideration should be given to the wearing of face masks by all on board.

Hygiene.

- Cleaning of equipment, hand and respiratory hygiene are core measures to be implemented and provision should be made for these. Check to ensure that hand sanitizers or wipes are 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.
- Bins may be provided but should be regularly checked, cleaned/sanitised, emptied and disposed of using appropriate personal protective equipment.

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Hygiene continued

- 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.
- You should deep clean the boat after each trip, ensure you comply with any harbour rules around the use of cleaning equipment.

Health & Hygiene checklist and further Guidance.

- 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](#)

Insurance.

- Skippers should check with their insurance company that correct and full insurance cover is in place and valid before any activity takes place.

Physical Distancing.

- All essential maintenance and preparatory work must have been completed in order to ensure compliance with Government guidance on physical distancing and hygiene
- At all times, participants and crew 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/.
- Use marked areas for passengers to sit in and fish from. Passengers should only move around, once on board, if it is absolutely necessary. You should discuss your measures for how people should move around the boat if necessary. If possible, you should have a one way system for people to move around the boat and a system of rotation to avoid passengers from coming into contact with each other.
- 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.
- No unauthorised persons should be allowed in the cabin at any time except in a medical emergency.

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Travel Restrictions.

- Skippers should remind customers that the travel restrictions outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to. Travel guidance outlined by the Scottish Government should always be followed. Further information on what travel is permitted is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on travel and transport](#).
- Information for each local government area, including their level is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local protection levels](#) including a post code checker.
- Specific information on car sharing is available from Transport Scotland: advice on how to travel safely.
- Sport & Physical Activity Participation
 - Participants can take part in organised sport and physical activity within their own local government area based on Level as detailed in Tables A and B at Annex A. Such activity is subject to exemption from household rules as detailed within this guidance.
 - When a participant travels out with their home local government area they should follow the travel guidance detailed below. Travel regulations are now legally enforceable.
 - Participants should, where possible, avoid any unnecessary travel out of area and keep journeys within area to an absolute minimum.
- Children & Young People (17 years or under)
 - Participants aged **17 years or under** can travel to and from Level 0, 1, 2 and 3 areas (but not Level 4) to take part in organised sport, physical activity, training and competition.
 - Children and young people living in a Level 4 area should only travel locally (within their local government area) to take part in organised sport as outlined in Table A at Annex A.
 - Children and young people living in a Level 4 area should only travel out with their local government area (up to 5 miles) to take part in informal exercise such as walking, running or cycling which starts and finishes at the same place. Such activity should follow [Scottish Government 'Stay at Home' guidance](#).
- Adults (18 years or over)
 - Participants aged **18 years or over** can travel to and from Level 0, 1 and 2 areas (but not Level 3 or 4) to take part in organised sport, physical activity, training and competition as outlined in Table A at Annex A.
 - Adults living in a Level 3 or Level 4 area should only travel locally (within their own local government area) to take part in organised sport or physical activity as outlined in Table A at Annex A.
 - Adults living in a Level 3 or Level 4 area should only travel out with their local government area (up to 5 miles) to take part in informal exercise such as walking, cycling or running that starts and finishes at the same place. Such activity should follow [Scottish Government 'Stay at Home' guidance](#).

Advance Planning and Communication with Anglers:

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- Skippers 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.”
- Provide Anglers with regular updates on any changes made.
- Physical distancing – the 2m rule applies to all settings. Boats and procedures need to adapt to encourage social distancing.
- Workforce – ensure that relevant workplace guidance is followed for crew members 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.

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2 Guidance for Anglers

General:

- **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. Individuals who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days; household members for 14 days as per NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend any outdoor sports facility/activity or attempt to board any boat.
- If you are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government, then you can now participate provided that strict social distancing is adhered to. [Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#)
- Not only are Anglers expected to comply with this guidance they should also observe the current 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 Skippers for updates.
- Travel from your home must be in line with Scottish Government strategic framework document and the levels approach to restrictions.
- Always maintain social distancing and stay at least two metres away from other people including before during and after the activity or when taking breaks.

Prior to Boarding:

- It is the skipper's decision to allow you on the boat. Should he suspect you are displaying any of the symptoms he is within his rights to refuse you permission to board.
- Schedule your session time in the manner prescribed by your Skipper. Under no circumstances should you arrive without booking in advance. Aim to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to the time specified by your Skipper
- Disinfect your equipment including waterproofs, nets and any other items that may come into contact with you or the water.
- Ensure you have enough equipment for the entire session and you should not exchange equipment with other anglers. Minimise the amount of fishing equipment you bring to the essentials, i.e. only 2 rods, 1 medium size dry bag, 1 box plus your bait board and bucket. Bait can be carried in the bucket along with weights etc. **Nothing is to be placed in the cabin.**
- Please bring your own soap / sanitiser, small bait board, small knife and bucket with a string attachment – do not risk cross contaminating others.
- Park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.

On Board:

- If you are asked to wear PPE by the skipper, you should do so.
- The cabin will be off limits to all passengers at all times. This is to protect the health of the Skipper/crew and minimise risk. Only the skipper can allow entry to the cabin in exceptional circumstances.

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On Board Cont...:

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- Use your own hand wash and sanitiser regularly, ensure the area you are fishing from is regularly cleansed, especially handrails.
- The skipper will issue guidance on toilet facilities. If use of the boat's toilet is permitted, ensure you wear disposable gloves and follow the Government advice on cleaning your hands before and after use. Clean anything you touch in the toilet thoroughly using the cleaning equipment provided by the skipper, disposing of used material in the bin provided.
- Keep all your 'rubbish' in your own bag and dispose of it ashore to avoid cross contamination.
- Bring your own soft drinks (no alcohol, no glass bottles) and food. The boat's galley area will not be available to passengers.
- Be aware that there will be no access to the wheelhouse or indoor facilities. Dress appropriately.
- Do not share equipment, food or drink with others unless from the same household.
- If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into an appropriate bin supplied on board 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.**

3 Useful Links

[Angling Scotland Website](#)

[Angling Scotland Facebook](#)

[Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#)

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

[Scottish Government: Stay at Home guidance](#)

[Scottish Government Phase 2: Staying safe and protecting others](#)

[Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#)

[Scottish Government Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Getting Around](#)

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

[Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#)

[Professional & Performance Sport Resumption Guidance](#)

[Getting your coaches ready for sport](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): public use of face coverings](#)

[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](#)

Table A: Sport & Physical Activity Protection Levels

		Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
OUTDOOR SPORT Organised outdoor sport, competition, events and Physical Activity (PA)	Overview	An outdoor sporting 'field of play bubble' can consist of a maximum of 30 people including coaches, officials and other support staff at any one time. Multiple bubbles, each with up to 30 people, can be used in training, competition or small-scale sporting events if all guidance is followed (200 max per day unless with exemption).				Scottish Government household number rules apply for exercise, sport and recreation
	Children & Young people (u18 years)	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Non-contact sport & PA permitted Contact sport & PA prohibited
	Adults (18+ years)				Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	
INDOOR SPORT Organised indoor sport, competition, events and Physical Activity (PA)	Overview	The number of participants allowed to take part in organised indoor sport or physical activity should follow Scottish Government guidance on the opening of sport and leisure facilities and sport specific SGB Guidance . 'Group' activity refers to adults, from more than 2 households (6 members) who take part in organised sport or physical activity. 'Individual exercise' refers to organised sport or physical activity within household rules i.e. 1:1 coaching. For further information see definitions within this guidance.				
	Children & Young people (u18 years)	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Indoor sport & PA prohibited: Leisure Centres, gyms and other indoor sports facilities closed. Exemptions available for professional/performance sport (ALL Levels)

Table A: Sport & Physical Activity Protection Levels

		Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	Adults (18+ years)		Non-contact sport & PA permitted Contact sport & PA prohibited	Non-contact sport & PA permitted Contact sport & PA prohibited	Indoor <u>individual exercise only</u> No contact or non-contact group activity	As above
COACHING	Overview	General guidance is available within this document for coaches, leaders, personal trainers, deliverers and instructors, <i>herein referred to as coach/es</i> . In addition Getting Coaches Ready for Sport provides a 4-stage approach/checklist to further support coaches to plan and deliver safe sessions.				
	Indoor & Outdoor coaching	The local protection level in place for sport and physical activity will dictate what activity can be coached, indoors and outdoors and to whom in that area. See indoor / outdoor above for further information. Coaches can take multiple sessions per day, however the numbers allowed in each session will depend upon the protection level in place.				
PERFORMANCE SPORT	Professional & Performance	Professional & performance sports with Resumption of Performance Sport guidance in place and approved by Scottish Government or sportscotland is permitted at all Levels.				
TRAVEL	Indoor / Outdoor Sport & Physical Activity	For further information please refer to Travel Guidance within this document.				
HOSPITALITY & RETAIL	Clubs & Sports Facilities	Clubhouses and sports facilities which provide catering and bar services, can operate providing they adhere to Scottish Government guidance appropriate to the protection level in which they are operating. Further information 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 appropriate to the protection level in which they are operating is in place and adhered to. Further information from the Scottish Government is available at Retail Sector Guidance .				

Table A: Sport & Physical Activity Protection Levels

		Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
TOILETS, CHANGING & SHOWER ROOMS	Clubs & Sports Facilities	Where changing rooms and showering facilities are to be used specific guidance relating to use of 'Changing and Showers' is available at Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport. This is applicable at all levels where facilities remain open.				Indoor sports facilities closed. Changing rooms closed.
		Operators may open public toilets if they follow the guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website Opening Public Toilets Guidelines				Public Toilets open.
WORKFORCE	Contractors & Staff	Sports facility operators must ensure that Scottish Government guidance on workforce planning in sport & leisure facilities 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.				
	Meeting Rooms	Although gym and leisure facilities can open, we would encourage providers to consider whether meetings and training must be completed in person or whether these can be completed online or via telephone. If it is essential that meetings and training takes place in person, Scottish Government guidance for general workplaces must be followed and a risk assessment should be completed.				

Table B: Travel Summary

Age Group	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
U18s	✓	✓	✓	✓	Local Travel Only
18+ (Adults)	✓	✓	✓	Local Travel Only	

Level 4 Guidance (Stay at Home)

Introduction

The guidance within this appendix is applicable to sport and physical activity facilities and activities where Scottish Government have identified the requirement for **enhanced Level 4 ‘stay at home’** restrictions to be applied.

This guidance is not applicable to professional or performance sports activity which is approved through the ‘Resumption of Performance Sport’ process by Scottish Government or **sportscotland**.

The information outlined below should be used in conjunction with, and where appropriate supersede, the [‘Return to sport and physical activity guidance’](#) to inform the development of sport specific information which will be shared with participants, clubs, local authorities/trusts, third sector and other sports facility operators within Level 4 areas.

It is the responsibility of the relevant facility operator / COVID officer to ensure that full risk assessments, processes and mitigating actions are in place before any sport or leisure activity takes place and to check if the activity is in an area which is subject to additional Scottish Government localised measures and restrictions.

Where a local outbreak has been reported, sports facility operators and deliverers should review their facility/operational risk assessment and consider if additional mitigating actions should be put in place to reduce risk. This may, for example, include; suspending activity, enhancing hygiene and physical distancing measures or introducing additional activity restrictions.

Be aware that the Scottish Government may update or change Levels and restrictions at any time, including the local areas subject to them. Therefore COVID officers should regularly check Scottish Government advice and guidance relating to local outbreaks and measures at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local advice and measures](#).

Travel Restrictions in Level 4 areas

Those living in a Level 4 local authority area can travel within that area to undertake outdoor sport, exercise and recreation including walking, cycling, golf or running that starts and finishes at the same place (or up to 5 miles from the boundary of their local authority area for informal exercise), as long as they abide by the rules on meeting other households.

Exemptions are also applicable for essential animal welfare reasons, such as exercising or feeding a horse or going to a vet.

When taking part in sport, exercise or recreation participants should at all times follow [Scottish Government ‘stay at home’ guidance](#)

Outdoor Sport & Leisure Activity

Operators in Level 4 areas may continue to open outdoor sports areas, courts, pitches and facilities (with the exception of ski centres/resorts) if documented risk assessments are undertaken and all appropriate mitigating actions including the guidance herein is put in place to ensure the safety of participants, staff and volunteers. Please also refer to additional guidance produced by [sportscotland](#) at: [Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport](#).

Restrictions on the number of people who can take part in sport, exercise and recreation has been updated and is as follows;

“Only a single household group, or a group containing no more than 2 people from 2 different households can meet outdoors for sport, exercise or recreation purposes. Children under the age of 12 from these households do not count towards this number but where separate households are participating 2m physical distancing should be maintained at all times.”

UNDER THIS RULE, REGRETTABLY IT HAS BEEN DECIDED BY SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT THAT CHARTER BOATS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO OPERATE UNDER THE EXRTENDED LEVEL 4 ‘STAY AT HOME’ GUIDANCE.

Group sport, exercise or training activity should not be undertaken by young people or adults over 12 years of age in a Level 4 area. Household rules apply.

Children under the age of 12 years can meet outdoors for sport, exercise or recreational and do not count towards the total number of people permitted to gather outdoors. Children under 12 years can therefore take part in non-contact group activity. In such circumstances the number of coaches involved must not exceed household limits i.e. maximum of two for any given session.

Coaches should not deliver a session to more than one other person if aged 12 years or older at any given time.

Indoor Sport & Leisure Facilities

Indoor sport and leisure facilities including club houses, changing rooms and activity areas should remain closed at Level 4. Exemptions are available as noted below.

Public Toilets

Operators may open indoor toilets for public use if they follow Scottish Government [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 operators.

All appropriate cleaning procedures and equipment/disinfectant should be provided as per Health Protection Scotland guidance.

Storage Areas & Lockers

One off access to storage areas and locker rooms is permitted to retrieve personal equipment which is essential for an activity to be undertaken. Personal equipment should not be returned to these areas.

Where equipment cannot reasonably be taken home and is stored on site, such as kayaks, boats etc, access to retrieve and return such equipment to storage areas is allowed if appropriate risk assessments are undertaken.

Risk assessments should include mitigating actions to reduce the risk of virus transmission such as individual access, booking slots and cleaning/hygiene protocols.

Access to outdoor facilities

Where external access to outdoor sports facilities is not possible, access through an indoor area can be provided if suitable risk assessments and safety measures are put in place. These should include restricting access to one person at a time, ideally with a one-way system in operation, and no contact with hard surfaces such as door handles. Persons moving through the area should not stop or congregate at any time.

Hospitality

Additional restrictions are in place for hospitality businesses with Level 4 areas subject to bar and café closures. Sports facility operators providing catering or bar services should refer to Scottish Government guidance for applicable guidance including takeaway services. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance.](#)

Retail

Retail units operated by sports facility operators in Level 4 areas should follow Scottish Government [Retail Sector Guidance.](#)

DISCLAIMER

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