

CHARTER BOAT FISHING

Best practice for the safe conduct of Charter Boat Fishing in Scotland under COVID-19 restrictions – Phase 3 v13

**Approved by
Scottish Government:
With effect
14th December 2021**

Published 21st December 2021

IMPORTANT:

All of Scotland continues to be 'Beyond Level 0', but the Scottish Government retain the option of putting in place local measures and travel restrictions to manage any future virus outbreaks. Therefore, protection levels guidance for sport and physical activity continues to be provided within this document along with additional information for 'Beyond Level 0'. A summary of changes relating to 'Beyond Level 0' is available in [Appendix 1 to Annex A to this guidance](#). With the omicron variant now spreading at pace, it may be necessary to reintroduce some of the restrictions we have in previous levels in the coming weeks and months. Full details of restrictions for all levels can be found at Table A at [Annex A to this guidance](#). **It is important that all Anglers, Fisheries and Clubs are aware of and comply with these restrictions. Charter boats are not permitted to operate in areas under Level 4 restrictions. In areas with Level 3 or below Charter Boats may operate provided that social distancing and other measures detailed in this guidance are followed.**

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/2021/12/Angling-Scotland-Covid-Guidelines-for-Individuals-Clubs-and-Fisheries-Phase-3-v13-14th-December-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 or identified as close contacts should follow Scottish Government and NHS guidance on self-isolation available at [Scottish Government: Test & Protect](#). No one who is self-isolating should attend a sports facility or 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.

Sports Events & Competitions

- Competitions. Organised sport competition can take place if guidance within this document is followed and subject to appropriate risk assessment and oversight by the designated Covid Officer.
- The maximum number of participants allowed to take part in a sport competition should be no more than:
 - Outdoors: Agreed bubble/daily participation numbers, by Level, as outlined in [Table A](#).
 - Indoors: Risk assessed maximum numbers following Scottish Government guidance on [the opening of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities](#)
- Operators and organisers should where relevant, as part of their risk assessment, consult with and obtain agreement from those bodies that they would normally require agreement from to run the competition. Where the competition would require a licence from the local authority under existing Civic Government legislation, this must include agreement from local Environmental Health Officers. Other bodies depending on the type, location, and scale of the event, may include the landowner, Community Council, the transport police, or other body responsible for the safety of the public.
- Events. Sports events, including spectator events, can take place subject to appropriate Scottish Government guidance being followed. Further information is available on the [sportscotland](#) website here: [Return to Competition & Events: sport events](#).

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1Cont Guidance for Skippers – Levels 0 to 3

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.
- 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](#)

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1_{Cont} Guidance for Skippers – Levels 0 to 3

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.

Travel Restrictions.

- There are no travel restrictions beyond Level 0 but Skippers should remind customers that any travel restrictions outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to. Further information on what travel is permitted is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on travel and transport](#).
- If reintroduced, information for each local government area, including their level is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local protection levels](#) including a post code checker.
- You should avoid car sharing with anyone from another household unless you deem it to be necessary. If individuals or groups do car share then they should follow [Transport Scotland: advice on how to travel safely and put in place appropriate risk assessment and mitigations](#)
- 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 local government area they should follow the travel guidance detailed below.
 - Participants in organised sporting or physical activity should, where possible, avoid any unnecessary travel out of area and keep journeys within area to an absolute minimum.

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1_{Cont} Guidance for Skippers – Levels 0 to 3

- Children & Young People (17 years or under)
 - People can travel to and from Level 0, 1, 2 and 3 areas to take part in organised sport, training, and competition which is for persons under 18 years of age.
 - Children and young people can also travel to and from a Level 4 area, if for example, they belong to a club which is outside their own local government area. This flexibility is to allow children and young people to take part in sport or organised activity, but they should travel no further than they need to. If attending a sport/activity in a Level 3 area or below, Level 4 guidance will apply to the whole activity e.g. 12 to 17-year-old outdoor activity should be restricted to non-contact and include a maximum of 15 participants.
 - Children and young people living in a Level 3 or 4 area can also travel out with their local government area to take part in informal exercise such as walking, running or cycling. Such activity should follow Scottish Government 'local protection levels' guidance.
- Adults (18 years or over)
 - Participants aged **18 years or over** can travel to and from a Level 0, 1 and 2 area to take part in organised sport, physical activity, training, and competition. However, to help suppress the spread of the virus, it is advised that people should not utilise facilities or take part in activities that are not allowed in their home local area protection Level. Participants should not travel to a Level 3 or 4 area to take part in organised sport or physical activity.
 - Adults living in a Level 3 or 4 area should only travel locally (within their 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 can also travel up to 5 miles out with their local government area to take part in informal exercise or recreation such as walking, cycling, golf or running that starts and finishes in the same place.. Such activity should follow Scottish Government 'local protection levels' guidance.

Advance Planning and Communication with Anglers:

- 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.
- Use your own hand wash and sanitiser regularly, ensure the area you are fishing from is regularly cleansed, especially handrails.

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2_{Cont} Guidance for Anglers cont...

- 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](#)

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ANNEX:

- A. Table A: Sport & Physical Activity Protection Levels
- Table B: Travel Summary

APPENDICIES:

1. Beyond Level 0 Guidance
2. Level 4 Guidance

Table A: Sport & Physical Activity Protection Levels

		Beyond Level 0	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
OUTDOOR SPORT Organised outdoor sport, competition, events and Physical Activity (PA)	Overview	No field of play bubble restrictions apply beyond Level 0, although limits on participation numbers at competition and events may be applicable. For Levels 0-4 outdoor sporting 'field of play bubbles' apply for organised sport as noted below. At Levels 0-2 figures exclude coaches and support staff*. Multiple bubbles can be used for training, events, and competition if appropriate guidance, set out within this document, is followed. Indoor and outdoor stadium, or equivalent events/competitions, involving spectators are subject to relevant Scottish Government guidance.					Local training / competition only. U12s: max 30 including coaches. Over 12s / adults: max 15 including coaches.
		No bubble restrictions	Maximum bubble size: 500 participants* Total Daily Limit: 5000 participants	Maximum bubble size: 100 participants* Total Daily Limit: 1000 participants	Maximum bubble size: 50 participants* Total Daily Limit: 500 participants	Maximum bubble size: 30 participants Total Daily Limit: 200 participants	
	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	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	U12s: Contact sport & PA permitted <u>12-17 years:</u> Non-contact sport & PA permitted.
	Adults (18+ years)					Non-contact sport & PA permitted Contact sport & PA prohibited	Non-contact sport & PA permitted Contact sport & PA prohibited
INDOOR SPORT Organised indoor sport, competition, events and Physical Activity (PA)	Overview	Organised indoor sport or physical activity should follow Scottish Government Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safer Businesses and Workplaces and sport specific SGB Guidance . 'Group' activity refers to adults, who take part in organised sport or physical activity, where the number of participants is larger than allowed under normal household rules. 'Individual exercise' refers to organised sport or physical activity which takes place 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	Contact & non-contact sport & PA permitted	Indoor sport & PA prohibited: Leisure Centres, gyms and other indoor sports facilities closed.
	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	

Table A: Sport & Physical Activity Protection Levels

COACHING	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.		
	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. Coaches can take multiple sessions per day, however the numbers allowed in each session will depend upon the protection Level in place.		
PERFORMANCE SPORT	Elite sports with Resumption of Performance Sport guidance in place and approved by Scottish Government or sportscotland is permitted at all Levels.		
TRAVEL	For further information please refer to Travel Guidance within this document.		
HOSPITALITY & RETAIL	Clubhouses and sports facilities which provide catering and bar services, can operate providing they adhere to Scottish Government guidance. 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 is in place and adhered to. Further information from the Scottish Government is available at Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safer Businesses and Workplaces .		
TOILETS, CHANGING & SHOWER ROOMS	Where changing rooms and showering facilities are to be used specific guidance relating to use of 'Changing and Showers' is available at Keeping 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 Coronavirus (COVID-19): Opening Public Toilets Guidelines .		Public Toilets open.
INDOOR FACILITIES (can open up to Level 3)	OVERVIEW	Specific information relating to indoor sports facility guidance is available at Keeping Your Facilities Fit for Sport . Below is a summary of overarching guidance for operators regarding occupancy limits, physical distancing, and appropriate ventilation / CO2 levels (ppm) which should be monitored. Test & Protect procedures should continue in all indoor settings.	
		Beyond Level 0 Return to normal facility occupancy levels but focus on good ventilation and 'Give people space' messaging. <u>Ventilation</u> : Monitor to maintain levels at 800-1000ppm. No physical distancing required. Face coverings must be worn out with activity. Maintain hygiene and surface cleaning measures.	Level 0 Restrict maximum occupancy in buildings to 7sqm per person to achieve enhanced ventilation (equivalent to 15 l/s/p). <u>Ventilation</u> : Monitor to maintain levels at 800-1000ppm. 1m physical distancing out with activity. Face coverings must be worn out with activity.
		Levels 1 – 3 Restrict maximum occupancy in buildings to 9sqm per person to achieve enhanced ventilation (equivalent to 20 l/s/p). <u>Ventilation</u> : Monitor to maintain levels at <1000ppm. 1m physical distancing out with activity. Face coverings must be worn out with activity.	
WORKFORCE	Sports facility operators must ensure that Scottish Government guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safer Businesses and Workplaces 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.		
	Although gym and leisure facilities can open to Level 3, where local restrictions or Levels apply, 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, Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safer Businesses and Workplaces must be followed and a risk assessment should be completed.		

Table B: Travel Summary (Organised sport and physical activity)

Age Group	Beyond Level 0	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
U18s	No Restrictions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18+ (Adults)		✓	✓	✓	Local Travel Only	Local Travel Only

Beyond Level 0 Guidance

Introduction

To ensure that it is safe to progress 'Beyond Level 0', guidance is being linked to the 'Gateway condition'. This relates the amount of vaccine coverage to the Scottish Government's new strategic intent to 'suppress the virus at a level consistent with alleviating its harms'.

Most legal restrictions relating to Covid-19 were lifted on the 9th August 2021 when Scotland moved to 'Beyond Level 0'. This included restrictions on physical distancing and the size of social gatherings. Additionally, no businesses must legally remain closed due to Covid-19.

However, as of 17th December 2021, businesses and service providers are now legally required to take reasonably practical measures to minimise spread of coronavirus on their premises, for example measures which limit close face-to-face interaction, such as supporting working from home, making adjustments to the premises and putting in place protective measures such as signage, screens and other mitigations.

In determining these measures, consideration must be given to the Scottish Government guidance available at [Scottish Government: Safer Businesses and Workplaces](#).

The information outlined below summarises the key areas which will change as we move 'Beyond Level 0' and should be read in conjunction with [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.

It is the responsibility of each club committee, sports facility operator and/or deliverer (herein referred to as the operator) to ensure that full risk assessments, processes and mitigating actions continue to be applied 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 sport and physical activity operators, in all settings, should review their 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.

Scottish Government may update or change Levels and restrictions at any time, including local areas subject to them. Therefore, COVID officers should regularly check the [Coronavirus in Scotland](#) section of the Scottish Government website for updates.

Travel Restrictions

'Beyond Level 0' no travel restrictions will be applicable, within or between areas in Scotland, which are not categorised under the protection level system. Please refer to [Travel Guidance within the](#)

[Return to Sport document for further information on where restrictions will apply should a local area move into protection levels.](#)

Scottish Government are also continuing to monitor the UK wide and International Covid-19 position. Further information on restrictions applicable between Scotland and other parts of the UK and internationally is available on the Scottish Government website at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): travel and transport](#).

Health, Safety & Hygiene

High levels of personal hygiene and respiratory etiquette will remain essential as we move Beyond Level 0.

Operators should continue to follow Scottish Government guidance on health, safety and hygiene measures including face covering advice. Please refer to the [Health, Safety and Hygiene](#) section of the Return to Sport guidance for further information including relevant links.

Test & Protect

Contact tracing and testing of close contacts will continue as we move forward through the pandemic, including 'Beyond Level 0'. Test & Protect will change as the population becomes more protected by vaccination but will still play a role in mitigating clusters and outbreaks where they arise.

Operators should continue to maintain customer records and follow applicable guidance available in the [Test & Protect](#) section of Return to Sport guidance.

Competition & Events

Organised sporting competition and events can take place 'Beyond Level 0' but should continue to follow guidance outlined in the [Sports Events & Competition section](#) within Return to Sport guidance.

At 'Beyond Level 0' there are no limits on spectator numbers, subject to organisers obtaining relevant permissions, where they normally would be required to do so. However, operators/organisers should follow Scottish Government's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Certification Scheme - Information for Businesses and Event Organisers](#) where attendance thresholds are met. A COVID vaccine certificates or a record of a recent negative COVID-19 test result (from either a Lateral Flow Device or PCR) is needed for:

- indoor events (unseated) with 500 or more people
- outdoor events (unseated) with 4,000 or more people
- any event with 10,000 or more people

Professional football and rugby stadium operators should follow Scottish Government's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Stadium Sector Guidance for Professional Football and Rugby](#).

Other bodies depending on the type, location, and scale of the event, may include the landowner, Community Council, the transport police, or other body responsible for the safety of the public.

Where a competition/event requires a license from a Local Authority under existing Civic Government legislation, this must include agreement from local Environmental Health Officers.

Hospitality

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 should follow Scottish Government's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Safer Businesses and Workplaces](#) guidance.

Level 4 Guidance

Introduction

The guidance within this appendix is applicable to sport and physical activity facilities and activities where Scottish Government have identified the requirement for **Level 4** 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 Protection Levels](#).

Travel Restrictions in Level 4 areas

Those living in a Level 4 local authority area can travel out with that area to undertake informal outdoor sport, exercise and recreation including walking, cycling, golf or running, as long as they abide by the rules on meeting other households.

Children and young people may travel to and from a Level 4 area, if for example, they belong to a club which is outside their own local government area. This flexibility is to allow children and young people to take part in sport or organised activity, but they should travel no further than they need to. If attending a sport/activity in a Level 3 area or below, Level 4 guidance will apply to the whole activity e.g. 12 to 17-year-old outdoor activity should be restricted to non-contact and include a maximum of 15 participants.

Adults living in a Level 4 local authority area may travel within, but not outwith, that area to take part in organised sport.

Travel exemptions are 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 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 in level 4 has been updated and is as follows:

Children (aged up to 11 years)

Children can take part in outdoor contact and non-contact organised sport including training, group exercise and competition within their usual club or facility environment. Inter club competition should not take place.

An outdoor sporting 'field of play bubble' can consist of up to 30 children, coaches, and officials at any one time.

Young People (aged 12-17 years)

Young people can take part in outdoor non-contact organised sport and physical activity including training, group exercise and competition within their usual club or facility environment. Inter club competition should not take place.

An outdoor sporting 'field of play bubble' can consist of up to 15 young people, coaches, and officials at any one time.

Adults (aged 18 years or over)

Adults can take part in outdoor non-contact organised sport including training, group exercise, aerobics, fitness classes and competition within their normal club or facility environment.

An outdoor sporting 'field of play bubble' for adults can consist of up to 15 people, including coaches, and officials at any one time. Physical distancing should always be maintained.

Where there are multiple bubbles operating at the same venue these must be risk assessed to ensure there can be no mixing of participants before, during or after the activity. Specific mitigations could include staggered start times, limiting car parking or controlling access/egress points.

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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