



COVID-19 Guidelines from 9th September 2020

09/09/20 Update:

Any clubs in localised lockdown areas should not open their woods to members, or hold open shoots, until the lockdown has been revised. Any member from a localised lockdown area MUST NOT attend open shoots. It is the member's responsibility to ensure they are adhering to government and NFAS guidelines.

The NFAS Committee are concerned with the safety of all members. Life will not be back to normal for a while yet and we all need to be responsible in keeping each other safe. These guidelines are published in conjunction with government guidelines published on the 9th September 2020 and the insurance company. The insurance company have advised that formally organised outdoor sports and leisure activities can continue in COVID-19 safe locations **only if** risk assessments have been completed *prior* to the activity and where social distancing can be observed.

All clubs and members should comply with all government guidelines, if this changes at short notice then government guidelines take precedence. These guidelines cover England only. Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland may have different rules that should be adhered to. Further government guidelines can be found here:

[Staying safe outside your home](#)

[Guidance for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England](#)

[Guidance for providers of outdoor facilities on the phased return of sport and recreation in England](#)

[Return to recreational team sport framework](#)

Social distancing is currently 2 metres, or 1 metre if this is not possible

- Anyone that has been in contact with someone who has, or is suspected as having, Covid-19 must not attend the club/woods/shoot. We recommend that anyone with vulnerable people living at home should not attend the club/woods/shoots unless government guidelines or personal health permit. Do not attend club/woods/shoots if you have symptoms such as a new and persistent cough, have a temperature, or lost the senses of taste and/or smell.
- Clubs **MUST** complete risk assessments following government or local guidelines in force at the current time for opening woods to club members AND for open shoots. If this is not possible then the club/woods should remain closed and/or shoots cancelled. The risk assessments should be available to all club members and visitors. If an incident occurs and a risk assessment has not been completed then the insurance company will not cover any claims and the club, and possibly individuals, may be liable.

Risk assessments should consider, but not be limited to, the amount of people allowed in groups observing strict social distancing measures, how to limit groups, the number of gates handled to access the property, if ropes have to be used for safe conduct on the course, and the state of

The home of unmarked field archery in the UK



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targets and if arrows can be pulled safely with minimal hand use. Blank risk assessment forms and examples on how to complete can be found under the Club Pack on the NFAS website - [Downloads](#)

- Coaching courses can resume if they can be undertaken with social distancing in mind. The group, including the coach, must not be more than 6 people. Equipment must be sanitised before and after.
- Clubs may open to guests however please be aware that they may limit places to their own club members first and must adhere to rules regarding gatherings.
- Facilities: Toilets may be opened according to government guideline, use of portable toilets should be minimised and running water, soap, disposable hand towels, hand sanitiser and thorough cleaning thought about. Ventilation is also important. Communal gathering areas should remain closed. First aid facilities should always be available to all.
- Be aware of distance always. Approach the target one at a time, pull your own arrows, then move away to allow others to pull their arrows. Try not to touch the target with your hands. Be aware when searching for arrows.

Indoor shooting and practice

- A COVID-19 risk assessment MUST be completed and available to members covering (but not limited to) parking, arrival, touch points in the woods, club house, refreshments etc
- Social distancing must be adhered to
- Toilets can be opened if they provide running water, soap, and disposable hand towels.
- Toilets must be cleaned thoroughly and aired frequently
- Use of portable/composting type toilets should be minimised
- Clubs provide hand sanitiser in toilets and other points and encourage use
- If refreshment facilities are available a robust cleaning regime should be communicated to all club members
- Close contact for setting up should be undertaken by people in the same household/bubble or courses adapted
- Sanitisation of targets/equipment completed before shooting

Clubs that are able to, and have the facility to, may wish to offer 'shielding sections' where facilities are opened up to those that are shielding without other members around.

Restricted open shoots

All shoots should be pre-book and prepay and COVID-19 risk assessments MUST be completed. These should consider, but not be limited to:

- Clubs must ensure the landowners agree with shoots being held during the pandemic
- Names and addresses should be taken and kept for 21 days of all participants to help with track and trace, should it become necessary



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- Clubs that have targets requiring 2 or more people to move and place should consider not doing so and adapting the course, or are from the same household
- Avoid shots and routes that include ropes, gates and styles unless they can be frequently cleaned
- Arranging staggered arrival times/rolling start
- Small groups of 3-4 depending on the course layout to allow social distancing
- Giving archers blank score cards to be filled in at peg to avoid exchanging cards
- How to manage early arrivals to avoid congregation
- Practice butts should be marshalled however if social distancing cannot be observed practice butts should be closed
- Pre event announcements should be communicated before arrival of archers, or factored into timescales if individually briefed on the day
- Encouraging archers to bring only the equipment they need and to keep in their cars and not in general admin areas
- Keeping numbers low and allowing space between groups
- Ensure shots allow archers to pull their own arrows and standing back safely without encroaching on other shots
- Ensuring the course is well marshalled to facilitate the flow of group and that marshals can socially distance
- Considering possible pinch points and adapting the course, e.g. shortening long shots, to ensure hold ups, and therefore bunching of groups, are minimised
- Considering how slow groups can be managed to stop groups bunching
- Once cards are handed in archers should leave and not congregate to chat at the end of the day in the admin or car park areas
- Toilets should be thoroughly cleaned before each event and uses of which should be minimised. Hand washing facilities should be provided with running water, soap and disposable hand towels in addition to hand sanitiser.
- Hand sanitiser should be available at admin points and strategic points throughout the course where possible
- No medal ceremonies – competitors can be notified by phone, email or via website announcements if they have won and medals sent by post, if applicable
- If catering, consider cashless payments. Communal access to sugar, milk, sauces etc should be removed and brought in house. Masks and other PPE should be considered for servers.
- Social distancing in inclement weather at catering points.

Blank risk assessment forms and examples on how to complete can be found under the Club Pack on the NFAS website. Link here: [Downloads](#)

If you are attending a shoot:

- Do not arrive before your allotted time
- Adhere to instructions given by marshals
- Always observe social distancing, do not be afraid to ask others to do the same



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- Wear face masks if social distancing of 2 metres is not an option
- Be prepared for processes to be different, ask if unsure
- Be prepared for practice butts to be closed
- Keep your lunch/drinks and equipment away from areas where others may congregate
- Give others space to pull their own arrows, try not to touch the target with your hands
- Take your own, and use, hand sanitiser before and after touching targets and other people's arrows if this is unavoidable
- Take others into consideration when searching for arrows, it is great to help others look, but be aware of social distancing
- Be aware of possible hold ups on courses – give the group in front plenty of room and consider not moving from your completed target until the course is clear to the next peg
- If you are a slow archer, consider ways you can reduce the time taken to ensure other groups are not held up
- Please abide by the rules that clubs have put in place for your safety, if you do not follow the rules you may be asked to leave the event. Any abuse of marshals or other members will not be tolerated and dealt with swiftly.

Unsurprisingly, government advice can be conflicting and confusing. If you have a query, please do not hesitate to contact general.secretary@nfas.net.

NFAS Committee