



Return to Archery

Frequently asked questions

Phase one – Restricted shooting

Updated 22 June 2020

The key point to remember is that this is NOT a return to normal shooting. This is a restricted shooting phase, where archery can be practiced under current Government guidelines.

[NEW] Q. Are we able to run beginners' courses?

A. You may only coach archers that are able to shoot safely on their own without intervention. This can include archers that have partially completed a beginners' course, as long as the coach is confident that they can shoot safely without physical intervention. We are working with coaches on guidance for the resumption of taster sessions and have a gos while practicing social distancing. This is unlikely to be published in phase one restricted shooting.

[UPDATED] Q. Would it be ok if a disabled archer has a household member or carer to fix targets and pull arrows?

Yes, where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant from the same household) for a disabled archer is required, it should be limited where possible to one per archer, and they can pull arrows, and assist the disabled archer in their session, as long as they stay within the 5m lane and observe social distancing with all other people from outside their household. [For attendance of a carer from outside of their household please refer to government guidelines.](#)

[NEW] Q. Can a club volunteer assist me if I don't have anyone from my own household to help?

A. We encourage clubs to work with their archers to determine whether sufficient procedures can be put in place to accommodate their individual needs. Clubs should do everything practical to manage the risk associated with the transmission of COVID-19 and all risks need to be logged in a risk assessment with reasonable measures implemented to mitigate the identified risks.

If an archer requires additional support, where possible their carer or a member of their family or household is the preferred solution to providing the support required. If this is not possible, then please talk to the person concerned about how best to support them. Find solutions to enable them to participate, while providing appropriate protection for your workforce. Clubs/volunteers will need to use their discretion, in association with completing a risk assessment to identify the risks and possible solutions. Please be mindful that most clubs are run by volunteers, and individual decisions

should be made and respected when it comes to managing personal risk. [Please click here to download the guidance for supporting disabled archers.](#)

Q. What is the timeline for the different phases? I appreciate this is probably unknown, but I'm assuming that you have some rough idea of when phase 2 and phase 3 might be possible?

The timing for phases two and three will be led by government. We are working as flexibly as we can to ensure we can respond quickly as the government advice changes. We are still operating in challenging times, our planning remains fluid and flexible, and we are unable to give an indication of the timings for phase two and three. We may need to add or remove phases as we respond to the ever-changing impact of the virus and the subsequent guidance given by government. The latest information received from DCMS on the 15 May indicates the following:

Step 1 (as of Wednesday 13 May)

- unlimited outdoor exercise, alone, in household groups, or with one person from another household while observing social distancing.
- opening of outdoor sport facilities where they feel able to do so safely, to allow people to participate in activity while observing social distancing guidelines.
- return to training for elite and professional sports

Step 2 (no earlier than 1 June)

- sporting events behind closed doors for broadcast

Step 3 (no earlier than 4 July)

- Opening of indoor leisure facilities, where safe to do so and in line with social distancing.

Q. Why do toilets have to remain closed?

Toilets can be used in an emergency as long as the club can implement the [Government guidelines for keeping facilities and equipment clean](#). We recognise that some clubs may need to open toilet facilities in order to remain inclusive, and support their members in returning to restricted shooting. The club needs to record this in their risk assessment along with the mitigating actions in line with government guidelines for keeping facilities and equipment clean. Closing toilets will reduce the risk of transmission, it is important to remember that Archery GB guidelines **do not** support a return to 'normal' club shooting. Archers should only be at the club whilst exercising during their timed slot. The majority of archers will be able to attend their booking slot without needing to use the toilets, archers should not be using the club as they normally would before the virus hit, and everyone should be doing everything they can to reduce the risk of transmission. This includes avoiding using public spaces unless it's absolutely necessary and only if government guidelines are being followed. We understand it is a frustrating time for everyone and many clubs or archers won't be able to return to archery yet, but this is not a return to normal shooting.

Q. If I'm supposed to be shielding can I return to archery?

The Government guidelines say: If you're clinically extremely vulnerable, you're strongly advised to stay at home at all times and avoid any face-to-face contact to protect yourself.

This is called 'shielding' and the advice is:

- Do not leave your house.
- Do not attend any gatherings, including gatherings of friends and families in private spaces, for example, family homes, weddings and religious services.
- Strictly avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

[The Government is currently advising people to shield until 30 June 2020 and is regularly monitoring this position.](#)

Some clubs are in a position to support 'shielding programmes' which allow individuals and people from the same household to book sole access to the range for an hour in a safe environment. Not all clubs will be in a position to offer this to their members. We strongly recommend that if you are shielding you continue to stay at home until government guidance changes.

Q. What's the process for reporting a case?

A. If anyone develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) at the club they should be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. If these symptoms develop whilst at the club, they should be sent home, they should return home quickly and directly. If they have to use public transport, they should try to keep away from other people and catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue.

If a volunteer or other club members have helped someone who has developed symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell with symptoms consistent with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

It is not necessary to close the club or send any members home unless government policy changes. Keep monitoring the government response page for the latest details.

If you or a member, need clinical advice, they should go to NHS 111 online, or call 111 if they don't have internet access. In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member lives in a household where someone else is unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) then they must stay at home in line with the stay at home guidance.

Q. What is the maximum number of people allowed at the range? You refer to the need to maintain social distancing and remaining 2m from other people who are not part of your household. But I don't think you have mentioned the restriction on not gathering in groups of more than 2 people, nor the one about not meeting up with more than one person from outside your household.

A. We have shared our plans with DCMS and received positive feedback. They agree that our guidance is in line with the latest government guidance, and follows the agreed principles for a phased return to sport. We are interpreting each 5m lane and target like its own individual range. Archers should stay in their own lane (one person per target unless they are from the same

household). Archers should always remain 2m apart from anyone else at all times, and when at the range they should be exercising/ shooting. They should not congregate and chat behind the shooting line, in car parks or anywhere else while at the range, as that could be classed as a gathering. If archers want to shoot/exercise with one other person from outside of their household, we recommend you let your club know that you would like to book a target/lane next to each other and maintain social distancing at all times. Turn up – shoot – go home.

Q. The link to the government guidance on PPE is confusing, particularly when moving targets.

A. We are not in a position to give medical advice regarding PPE. We recommend that where social distancing cannot be maintained e.g. when moving targets, clubs need to mitigate the risk of transmission. This can be done by reducing the number of times targets are moved, reducing the number of people allowed to move targets, using people from the same household, wearing PPE such as face masks and gloves, and sanitising hands immediately afterwards. Clubs need to tailor their own processes to accommodate their own environment and circumstances. We recommend all risks and mitigating actions are logged in your risk assessment so you can evidence that you have taken reasonable precautions to mitigate the risk.

[You can read more on PPE and face coverings by clicking here.](#)

Q. Our club is concerned we won't be able to get the stocks of hand sanitiser required - is it ok to ask members to bring their own?

A. Clubs need to follow public health guidelines for hygiene, hand sanitiser should be available particularly as toilets are closed and hand washing facilities may not be available. We recommend clubs take steps to provide hand sanitiser particularly for volunteers. Clubs can ask members to bring their own, but they will need to clearly communicate this at the time of booking. All decisions should be logged in the risk assessment.

A. Restricted archery is now permitted following the Government announcement on public space, outdoor activity and exercise published on 11 May 2020, which can be read on the [Gov.uk website](#). Archery GB has issued guidance for clubs, coaches and members.

[UPDATED] Q. Why can't I return to archery in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales?

A. We are working with each of the four devolved nations to ensure that we can publish guidance as soon as possible after it has been released. Each home nation is working to a different plan for restrictions being lifted and at a different speed. You must follow the government advice for the area in which you reside.

Wales

In line with the First Minister's announcement, the Welsh Archery Association (WAA) is pleased to confirm that clubs can now take the necessary steps to re-open and welcome archers back to archery from Monday 22 June. Only outdoor shooting is currently allowed and everyone will need to follow [the current Welsh Government guidelines on social distancing and travel](#). Clubs in Wales will need to follow the current Archery GB Guidelines on returning to archery.

Scotland

Scotland's First Minister (FM) has confirmed that Scotland will move into Phase 2 of the "Route Map out of Lockdown" Scottish Archery has published their Phase 2 guidance for archery: [The phase 2 guidance for Scottish Archery can be found by clicking here.](#)

Northern Ireland

Archery Northern Ireland has published its return to archery announcement and they will be following the Archery GB guidance. Please visit <https://www.archeryni.org.uk/> for further information.

[UPDATED] Q. If I live in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales can I travel to an English club?

A. Only if the government guidance for the area in which you live and the government guidance for where you want to travel to allows you to do so. You will also need to check it's ok with the club you would like to visit.

Q. Why is my club not open?

A. Club committees may need time to work through the guidelines and be confident that they can safely open the range. The choice to return to archery at this time is one that needs to be made locally by clubs, after carefully considering their own circumstances. There are many clubs who are keen to return to archery as soon as possible, but we appreciate there will be those that have genuine concerns, or their local environment will make shooting safely impossible at this stage. It is the responsibility of each club to make their own assessment based on their local environment and circumstances. Clubs that rely on external venues may need to liaise with the venue owner before archery can resume. Please be patient and respect your club's decision on whether opening at this time is feasible.

Q. Can I attend a different club if mine is not open?

A. We encourage clubs to work together to help the archery community get back to archery. Clubs with sufficient facilities may wish to partner with other clubs in their locality, should sufficient space be available. We have had positive discussions with County Associations to help coordinate this where possible. Please be mindful that some clubs may wish to restrict slots to their own members while they adjust to the new guidelines, please be patient while we all take time to adjust to the new way of working, and we will do our best to support those that are unable to open just yet.

[UPDATED] Q. Is coaching activity allowed?

A. Coaching can take place as long as the restrictions described within this guide are adhered to. You may coach:

- Sessions limited to group sizes of no more than six, including coach(es)
- Archers that are able to shoot safely on their own without intervention.

- Archers that that have partially completed a Beginners' Course and have therefore already been taught to shoot safely. Coaches should consider if the individuals are able to shoot safely without physical intervention. If this is the case, you may continue to provide them coaching sessions within the guidelines provided.
- Only on a prearranged basis.
- You can meet with different archers in a single day as long as it is in gatherings of no more than six and you are maintaining social distancing.
- Coaching can take place so long as the restrictions described within this guide are adhered to.

Q. Does Archery GB's insurance protect the club against claims if someone contracts Coronavirus whilst at the club?

A. Yes, the insurers would respond to defend the claim. As long as the club is following government guidance around social distancing and they can evidence that they have followed Archery GB's guidelines. It is essential that clubs record and evidence that they are working to and controlling the social distancing measures expected by the government, clubs should complete a thorough risk assessment. The person making the claim would need to be able to prove they contracted the virus at the club, which would be very difficult to do.

[If you have a question that hasn't yet been answered](#)

We appreciate that we haven't been able to answer every question yet, we are working our way through them and will update the FAQ's regularly. If you have any questions please email them to membership@archerygb.org or call 01952 677888 Monday to Thursday between 9am-5pm. Please note, many of the team are now on furlough, so it may take a little longer than usual to get back to you.