



Returning to Archery

Supporting disabled
archers – Phase 2

**Guidance Notes for
Supporting Disabled
Archers**

Version 4.00

Updated: 27 November 2020



FOR THE **LOVE** OF ARCHERY

INTRODUCTION

UPDATED FOR 2 DECEMBER 2020

Archery is an inclusive sport and Archery GB is proactively working on solutions to ensure people with disabilities or long-term health conditions can continue to participate safely in the sport. For people who are shielding, we strongly recommend you follow [the Government guidelines on shielding and protecting yourselves which can be found here](#).

It is an individual decision to return to archery which should be made in conjunction with the latest medical and government advice.

The Government have confirmed that there is an exemption for indoor group activity for disabled people and it is safe and appropriate for activity for these groups to continue indoors in both Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas as long as it is done in line with the Archery GB's COVID-19 Secure guidelines for clubs, archers and coaches.

The exemption is to help disabled people stay active. As we know, not allowing indoor sport would have a disproportionate impact on disabled people, as a significant proportion of team sport for disabled people takes place in indoor settings. We know that disabled people face more barriers to participating in sport and physical activity, so it is vital we do as much as possible to keep these opportunities accessible.

However, we must ensure that this is done safely. We know that a large proportion of disabled people are more likely to feel worried and anxious about returning to sport and physical activity in the risk of contracting coronavirus.

Coaching disabled archers: Sessions can take place for disabled people in groups of any number, indoors or outdoors.

All members must wear face coverings when shooting **indoors** and in all indoor environments, except when actively shooting. Anyone with a medical condition or under 12 years of age is exempt.

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.

The sharing of equipment should be strictly limited, archers should use their own equipment where ever possible (or equipment that is loaned to them by the club and is kept by the archer for a period of time). Where this is not possible and is deemed a barrier to participation, clubs need to do everything practical to minimise the risk of transmission. These include:

- The frequent cleaning of objects, equipment and surfaces that are regularly touched, and make sure there are adequate disposal arrangements for waste.
- Sanitisation of all equipment after every use, before being used by someone from a different household.
- Wash/sanitise your hands thoroughly before and after use.

The COVID-19 Secure guidelines can be found by [clicking here](#).

To minimise potential cross-contamination, we recommend that for each session, a disabled archer is allocated a specific volunteer, or agent, who is responsible for providing support for that one archer. That volunteer will also be responsible for managing the target face (and target pins). A booking system may help facilitate the partnering of archers and volunteers.

An important task associated with supporting disabled archers is the collection of arrows.

This is a recommended procedure for arrow collection:

- Prior to shooting, the arrows and other equipment are cleaned thoroughly.
- Agents must wear a face covering except where exemptions apply and where possible avoid touching the target, pulling out arrows using an arrow puller, to reduce the direct handling of the archer's arrows.
- Where possible, maximise the number of arrows shot by the archer, to help minimise the amount of handling by the agent.
- The agent would transfer the arrows in a tube quiver which will be used when carrying the arrows back from the target to the archer.
- The quiver to be safely positioned by the archer so they can access their arrows.
- The archer can then take the arrows from this quiver and place them into their own quiver for the next round of shooting. This further reduces the handling of the arrows by the volunteer.
- The archer and agent frequently wash/sanitise their hands, before and after the collection of arrows.
- Physical contact with anyone outside of your household is not permitted.

Activity Alliance have produced guidance [Reopening Activity: An inclusive response](#), in consultation with partners across sport, leisure and disability equality. The resource covers areas such as session planning, engagement, and workforce. It complements and builds on other guidelines from government, Sport England, professional associations, and governing bodies.

The [National Disability Sports Organisations \(NDSOs\)](#), have a handy resource to help disabled people and providers to know more about their opportunities.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) have produced a [Covid-19: Supporting your blind and partially sighted members and participants](#). They have also produced a [Helping You Help Others](#) document, which includes tips to help you feel comfortable assisting people with sight loss during Covid-19.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

As the guidance is expanding, the following areas are covered in a separate document, and you should read those guides as well, where relevant.

Guidance is available for:

- **Clubs**
- **Coaches**
- **Competition** – including discipline support & TO guidance
- **Archers** - The Guidance Notes for Archers should be circulated to all club members
- **Implementing a Booking System**

Please note guidance can change quickly and we will respond to any changes made by government as soon as is practicable to do so. Keep up to date with the latest information at www.archerygb.org/covid19

For further information or support please email membership@archerygb.org