

## ***Exemption for disabled people doing outdoor sport***

### **Applicable – From 4 January; England only**

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 4 January detailing new national lockdown restrictions to be introduced across England, Archery GB can confirm that regrettably all indoor and outdoor archery clubs will need to close.

However, the Government has confirmed that organised outdoor sport for disabled people is allowed to continue.

We encourage clubs to work with their disabled archers and volunteers to determine whether sufficient procedures can be put in place to accommodate the archer's 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 a disabled 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.

***Please note, non-disabled people cannot take part in organised outdoor sport alongside disabled people. The exemption only applies to disabled people and any other people necessary to enable the sport to take place e.g. a carer, coach or agent helping the disabled person to participate.***

Please find below, a list of **FAQs** relating to the new lockdown restrictions in England for the delivery of outdoor archery activity for disabled people. These **FAQs** provide further guidance and information, and will be updated as further detail is published by the Government and Sport England.

***Why are disabled people exempt from the restrictions?***

Not allowing organised outdoor sport would have a disproportionate impact on disabled people.

We know disabled people face more barriers to taking part in sport and physical activity, so it's vital we do as much as possible to keep these opportunities accessible.

***What is the definition of organised outdoor sport? Are there certain criteria that must be met?***

The Government defines 'organised sport' as sport which is formally organised by a national governing body, club, public body, qualified instructor, company or charity, and which follows the sport's national governing body's guidance.

Specific sessions for disabled archers should be organised and approved by the club committee, in response to disabled archers' specific needs. We suggest initially surveying disabled archers to identify if they would like to return to the range at this current time and which days and times are preferred. The club committee, can then organise specific sessions, opening the club at the identified times and ensure volunteers and coaches are available to support as appropriate.

***Does the exemption for organised disability sport mean I am able to open my archery club to deliver disability-specific activity, despite the instruction from Government to close all archery clubs?***

Whilst indoor and outdoor archery clubs are required to close, the Government has provided an exemption for outdoor sports facilities to open for organised activity for disabled people.

This means that outdoor archery clubs are permitted to open specifically for the delivery of disabled activity. This is covered in the [Government's guidance on Stay at Home restrictions](#).

***Can disability specific archery sessions take place now that non-disabled archery coaching has paused?***

The Government defines persons with a disability as those who have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Archery sessions that are specifically intended for individuals who fall under this definition, may continue.

The archery club/coach, could ask individuals who fall under this definition to complete a self-declaration form, as per the example disability exemption form provided at the end of this document.

***Can non-disabled people take part in organised outdoor sport alongside disabled people?***

No. This exemption only applies to disabled people and any other people necessary to enable the sport to take place e.g. a carer, coach or agent helping the disabled person to participate.

***Where disabled people need support from a carer or personal assistant during activity, will this be allowed? E.g. an agent to pull out arrows.***

Yes. People who provide essential support (e.g. carers) to disabled people are exempt, and don't count towards gathering limits. Therefore, disabled participants can be supported by a carer(s)/personal assistant(s) while taking part in exercise. This can be in addition to others from your household, support bubble or one person from another household – this could be a coach or an agent.

Up to two carers for a disabled person, needing continuous care, aren't counted towards the gatherings limit on two or more people exercising outside.

***What are the numbers of disabled people that can take part outside together?***

There is no limit on numbers, however government guidance on organised outdoor sport must be followed.

***Do I need to maintain social distancing if I'm working with a disabled person who needs support?***

Social distancing should be maintained where possible, but in some circumstances, people will need physical assistance to be active. It's important you discuss this with the person to consider their needs and preferences.

Any coaches or instructors undertaking one-to-one sessions should ensure they're complying with Archery GB's safeguarding policies and procedures and conduct a thorough risk assessment before engaging in any sessions. This should include particular consideration for under-18s and vulnerable adults.

***What is the recommended procedure for the collection of arrows?***

An important task associated with supporting disabled archers is the collection of arrows and the recommended procedure is detailed below:

- 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.

## ***Self-Declaration Disability Exemption Form***

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 4 January regarding new national lockdown restrictions, to be introduced across England, Archery GB can confirm that regrettably all indoor and outdoor archery clubs will need to close.

However, the Government has confirmed that organised outdoor sport for disabled people is allowed to continue. This means that outdoor archery clubs are permitted to open specifically for the delivery of organised disabled activity.

The Government defines persons with a disability as those who have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

I declare that I am covered under the legal exemption for disabled people to attend the archery range for the delivery of organised outdoor sport, that is otherwise closed, to shoot under this exemption category.

If it is found that I have been untruthful in this declaration, I accept that it is my personal responsibility and not the responsibility of the club who accepted my declaration in good faith.

**Name:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**