

## SUPPORTING DISABLED ARCHERS

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.

## EXEMPTION

Currently an exemption exists for disabled people to take part in outdoor activities.

- From **29 March**, the Government have confirmed that the disability exemption will also apply for organised indoor activity. This means **disabled people can take place in both organised indoor and outdoor sport and physical activity**. 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. Not allowing organised indoor 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.
- 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.
- The exemption applies to those people that are required to help the disabled person to participate such as carer's personal assistants, coaches, agents and other volunteers. More information is provided below.

## COACHING

- 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.

## EQUIPMENT & AGENTS

- The sharing of equipment should be strictly limited, archers should use their own equipment wherever 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.
- 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.
  - ***Please note, non-disabled people cannot take part in organised indoor 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.***

## ARROW COLLECTION

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.

## ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- 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.

## FAQS

Please find below, a list of **FAQs** relating to the new restrictions in England for the delivery of indoor 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 indoor 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.

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.

■ ***What is the definition of organised indoor 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 indoor archery 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.

■ ***Can non-disabled people take part in organised indoor 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.

■ ***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.

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

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

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

The Government has confirmed that organised indoor sport for disabled people is allowed to continue. This means archery clubs are permitted to open indoor facilities 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 indoor archery range for the delivery of organised indoor 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:**