

Return to competition recommendations

1. The organiser must complete the COVID-19 risk assessment form. Available for download via the AI website.
2. The club running the competition must have a nominated COVID-19 officer, who has completed the COVID-19 officer training course, either provided by AI or Sport Ireland. Proof of the completion of the relevant course will need to be supplied.
3. Mass gathering limits are unlikely to end up applying, but it's worth having a quick count up. During phase 3 (until the 10th of Aug TBC) the maximum permitted at an outdoor gathering is 200 people, including all participants, coaches, parents / guardians, spectators, visitors, non-shooting members. etc. If we enter phase 4 on the 10th of August, the mass gathering limits rise to 500, which takes it far out of the concern of archery events. It is worth checking if other activities are taking place in any sort of shared venue, on the same day as a shoot, lest collectively they end up adding up to over the mass gathering limits.
4. Target spacing must be at least 2m, (this will mean that there is at least 2m, between the centre of a target face and the centre of the next target face on the adjacent butt).
5. Space and number of butts will be critical. To maintain 2m distancing, it will have to be one archer per bay on the shooting line at anytime. This means rather than operating an AB/CD line, you will either have to operate a three/four way split line or have less archers per butt. The knock on of this may be a much wider field with more butts than normal, or a much deeper area behind the shooting line, with multiple waiting lines each 2m apart. All of which would need to be well separated from any tents, chairs etc. (which in themselves will have to be spaced out more than normal.) If there are going to be more than one archer per butt, then there needs to be protocols put in place about not touching other people's arrows, and not touching the target face with hands etc. to reduce cross contamination possibilities. Similarly, facilities will need to be dealt with for assisted archers, to ensure that there isn't cross contamination. Each archer on the butt will need to retrieve their arrows, whilst the other archers stand back the required 2M safe distance.
6. Consideration needs to be given to hand washing facilities, be they some sort of temporary camping style foot pump affair, or if there is a possibility of getting a hose run in, to establish a temporary sink. Hand sanitiser is only suitable for relatively clean hands, it's no good if one has mucky or greasy hands (from laying out a field for example).
7. Redundancy and backup personnel. It can't be ignored that at any time, any of us may get a phone call from the HSE, due to some contact we have had, and be told to self-isolate for two weeks or until test results come back (running at between 36 and 48 hours at the moment). So, it would be foolhardy to run any sort of sporting event which relies on individuals, without readily available deputies. So key roles such as the field captain and the judge must have back up qualified individuals on call ready to step in. Also, the likes of a team to mark out and lay out the field should be large enough to still be operational if one or two have to drop out.
8. The recording of scores will need to be discussed in detail, in consultation with the shoot judge. Any sort of sharing of score cards, pens, judge marking up mistakes, cross signing of cards by multiple archers, are all potential cross contamination contact points. Further there will need to be an imaginative discussion as to how to process all of the cards by the club officials - probably involving wearing some degree of PPE.



9. Return to sport forms and contact tracing. There will need to be two systems in place to record people's information, one being a log of who attended the event, with contact details, at what time and on what days, for contact tracing purposes (watching out for the GDPR speed bumps). The second to record the results of everyone's return to sport form, declaring that they are without symptoms etc. etc. Ideally both systems should be electronic, online and must be GDPR compliant.

N.B. All record status shoots will be reliant on a Judge signing off on the implementation of the recommendations in their entirety.