



## UKPSA Covid-19 Guidance for Affiliated Clubs and Members – Updated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

This guidance is for UKPSA members and affiliated shooting clubs, who must comply with the government legislation on Coronavirus (Covid-19) relevant to their country. As a guiding principle if an activity cannot be undertaken safely, and in compliance with the legislation it should not take place.

The following general advice should always be followed.

**Individuals** - need to take personal responsibility and only engage in the sport as a participant or an official if they feel they are safe and comfortable to do so.

**Self-isolation** - If you have any of the Covid-19 symptoms you must stay at home and arrange to have a [test](#) to see if you have COVID-19. If you have been officially advised to self-isolate or have been advised you have Covid-19 you **must not** attend a range or UKPSA event.

**Person at increased risk (shielding)** - anyone who is at increased risk of severe illness from Covid-19 is advised to take especial care and should be mindful of social distancing measures and personal mitigation during sporting activities.

**Note:** The UK government have stated that Covid-19 advice **does not** supersede normal health and safety legislation. Any range or venue not complying with the relevant authority may be subject to legal enforcement and individuals may face criminal prosecution. Shooting clubs and venues operating during the Coronavirus pandemic should ensure they are operating safely, are protecting their users and operators, and are minimising the risk of spread of infection.

### Re-commencing shooting practice and competition

Where it is legal and safe to do so the following four step process must be followed.

#### 1. Carry out a risk assessment

Before any venue is used for shooting or competition the club should carry out a risk assessment to evaluate the risks and decide what actions are required to ensure safe use. There is a template and specific Covid-19 advice on the [HSE website](#) Members should comply with the legislation and for sanctioned UKPSA matches a copy of the risk assessment must be provided to the Range Master in advance of the event.

Individuals should carry out their own personal risk assessment based upon their specific circumstances and that of their family and extended bubble. We are keen that those who wish to participate in our sport should be able to do this, but no member should be penalised if they choose not to take part until they feel safe to do so.

#### 2. Prepare the range/venue

Considering the relevant government legislation, UKPSA guidance and your risk assessment prepare the shooting venue so that members and visitors can park, enter, use the facilities, and exit safely. This should as a minimum include:

- Configuring or re-configuring the entrance, exit and range procedures, to follow the principles of social distancing where practicable.
- Providing easily accessible hand washing facilities with soap and water. If these are not available, then providing hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol content.
- The prominent display of warning signs and the amended range rules at the venue entrance and throughout.
- Specific briefing for all club officials and range officers on acceptable behaviour and shooting practices.

### 3. Amended Range Safety Rules

Prepare and publish amended range/venue instructions that will apply to all users and any specific matches. The instructions should contain guidance on shooting practices (see 4.) for any IPSC shooting disciplines. The rules should be sent to all club officials, range officers, members and posted in a prominent position throughout the venue. Members or competitors failing to comply with the rules should be asked to immediately leave the venue and could face disciplinary action.

As a minimum these should include:

- All new safety measures applied by the club for the specific venue and any matches and how these should be used.
- Any changes to normal range rules or club procedures, for example reduced capacity or hours of operation.
- The conduct required of members, competitors or visitors at the venue including how the requirement that the maximum number of people gathering in one place (currently 30 in England) is not exceeded.
- A reminder to all members, competitors and visitors that they **must not** attend the range if they or their household have Coronavirus symptoms, are within 14 days of the day when the first member of their household showed symptoms of Coronavirus, or have been officially notified to self-isolate.

### 4. Range procedures for practice and competition

#### 4. (a) England

Best practice remains that except where defined mitigation is in place everyone should follow the principles of social distancing in line with current guidance where practicable. Those gathering in any one place must not exceed 30 in total. For sanctioned UKPSA matches all range procedures and adaptations related to the match and venue must be agreed in advance with the Range Master. Where possible these should be provided in advance to any competitors so that they understand what is required and can make their own assessment of whether it is safe to attend considering their own health and circumstances.

The following range procedures are **recommended for club practice /matches** and are **required at UKPSA sanctioned matches and training events**:

- All people attending the range must provide their full name and contact details and the Club/Match Director should maintain a record of which individuals are squadded together on-site to facilitate track and trace.
- Clubs, matches or training events may require all participants to complete a self-declaration at commencement and end of day that they are free from Covid-19, or Covid-19 symptoms and have not been officially requested to self-isolate.
- Shooting practice and matches must be designed so that at no point from arrival to leaving there are more than 30 people gathered in one place. For example pre-designated squads might be directed straight to a specific range to register and told not to mix or engage with people outside their squad. Lunch breaks should be taken as a squad with a suitable distance maintained between squads. Once the competitors have completed the match, they should leave the venue.
- On arrival all users should thoroughly wash their hands or use hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol content. They should be encouraged to do so at frequent intervals (for example after each stage). Facilities for hand washing or hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol content must be available on each range/stage.
- Surfaces like firing benches, props, target stands etc. should be cleaned on arrival and regularly. Shared surfaces that cannot be easily cleaned (i.e. mats for prone) should not be used. In enclosed and indoor spaces members and competitors should avoid touching any surfaces.
- Indoor venues and venues with enclosed outdoor spaces may require face coverings to be worn except when actually on the line shooting (i.e. there are extractor fans in use and the competitor is facing downrange and away from anyone else).
- Social distancing should be maintained by competitors while waiting to shoot, and during the stage briefing and the walk through.
- The Range Officer when running a competitor should maintain the normal distance (within an arm's length) and must wear a suitable face covering (given the other safety equipment required for shooting then a Perspex face

shield is recommended). If in an emergency, they are required to touch the competitor they must, once the Range is Clear command has been given, wash or sanitise their hands and disinfect any surfaces.

- The competitor must not touch the range officer or ask them to hold any items (e.g. chamber safety flag, ammunition, firearm etc.).
- Social distancing must be maintained in Safety Areas and depending on the size only one person may be permitted to use a Safety Area at a time.
- When re-setting, or patching, people should strive to maintain social distancing. Floor markings or designated lanes may be used to help people understand safe distances.
- Only the RO should touch the scoring tablet or clipboard at a match. They will advise the score and time to the competitor who will verbally accept or challenge it without coming closer than two metres.
- Personal gloves may be worn for setting plates or picking up brass. Disposable gloves are not recommended.
- Range equipment like shot timers, tablets, staple guns etc. should not be shared if possible. If this is not possible then they should be sanitised before being used by someone else.
- At a sanctioned match, the repeated failure to comply with the range procedures, may be treated as Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

#### **4. (b) Scotland**

See general advice for range procedures above which should be followed for both outdoor and indoor IPSC shooting. Outdoor competitions or events where groups of more than 30 congregate at any one time are not recommended in the revised guidance for phase 3 in Scotland but this is at the discretion of the Scottish Governing Body. Shooting at indoor venues is permitted from 31<sup>st</sup> August subject to compliance with published advice for preparing to re-open sports facilities from Scottish Government and Sports Scotland as follows:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-sport-and-leisure-facilities/>

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport/>

#### **4. (c) Wales**

As England but only outdoors shooting is permitted and it must be organised by a business, a public body or charitable institution, a club, or the national governing body of sport. The person organising the activity needs to have carried out an appropriate risk assessment. For indoor facilities contact details must be provided by all users and retained for use in contact tracing. The re-opening and use of any facilities should follow the guidance issued by the Welsh Government.

<https://gov.wales/sport-recreation-and-leisure-guidance-phased-return-html#section-44228>

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-05/unlocking-our-society-and-economy-continuing-the-conversation.pdf>

#### **Further Advice and Guidance**

NROI members can contact the NROI Chairman at [NROI@UKPSA.org](mailto:NROI@UKPSA.org)

UKPSA affiliated clubs can contact the Regional Director [RD@UKPSA.org](mailto:RD@UKPSA.org) or Public Relations Officer [PRO@UKPSA.org](mailto:PRO@UKPSA.org)