

## **Argyll and Bute Council COVID-19 Event Pack and Sporting Activity Guidance Update**

In March 2020, the Scottish Government stepped up measures to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19), to protect the NHS and save lives. As yet we do not know when buildings will be allowed to open fully, however we are preparing our workforce and facilities for reopening.

Argyll and Bute Council are implementing virus control restrictions to ensure our services and communities are Covid-secure, in premises, sporting and leisure areas, business practices and staff deployment to reduce the risk of Coronavirus disease as low as is reasonably practicable. Key to this will be the principles of social distancing and good respiratory hygiene practices (hand washing and capturing coughs and sneezes) by staff, and customers using our facilities which in turn will enable both service users and customers to do the same.

Internal Risk Assessments of all service activities will be carried out to identify Covid-19 risks and actions agreed to mitigate against these risks. Groups and business users of our facilities and premises will be required to produce risk assessments/method statements prior to being allowed access to our facilities and premises which cover the relevant activities. Advice is available from the Scottish Government website as well as the majority of National Governing Bodies/Sporting Organisations (please see attached link: [Sportscotland COVID 19](#))

Public health posters will be on display throughout facilities informing staff and customers about social distancing, cleanliness and good hygiene protocols.

Staff or customers showing signs of Covid-19 (temperature, cough or breathing difficulties) will be either sent home or refused entry to our facilities in line with government regulations.

Customers using our facilities must take reasonable personal responsibility when taking part in physical activity, this will also include spectators where appropriate. Social distancing (distance of at least 2m between people) must be enforced, where possible, at all times.

Where appropriate, Argyll and Bute Council will ensure there are visible signs outside the facility promoting social distancing.

Our staff will limit the number of members and users who can access the facility (this should be done in line with facility capacity calculations) for the safety and protection of our staff and customers. This may also include where appropriate potentially limiting car parking spaces to promote social distancing. For stadia, queuing will be the responsibility of the organiser.

Face masks at this time will not be mandatory for staff unless their role requires them to wear one.

### **Outdoor Facilities and Activities**

Outdoor activities should only be considered if social distancing can be followed.

Social distancing and cleanliness is to be promoted when customers book online and will be reinforced by Council Officers.

Group activities will be organised in a series of formations to comply with social distancing with appropriate spacing between participants monitored by the coach/instructor throughout the activity. This will conform to the organisers risk assessment/method statement.

Participants are not to cluster in groups outside or inside our facilities before or after the activity.

Organisers/applicants should follow the advice of the National Governing Bodies in relation to safe participation of outdoor sports as per attached link: [Sportscotland COVID 19](#))

## **Events**

Argyll and Bute Council host a diverse events sector, consisting of a range of small, medium and large businesses, many of which will also provide services for other sectors such as cultural, community, sporting and business activities.

We want a strong events sector to help drive both our own and Scotland's economic recovery and future prosperity. The current Scottish Government Guidance for the Events Sector is accessed through the below link:

[Scottish Govt. Events sector guidance](#)

## **Risk Assessments:**

To help event organisers decide which actions to take, the Scottish Government Guidelines state you need to carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment, just as you would for other health and safety related hazards. The list of considerations in the Scottish Government guidance should provide you with a good starting place. The key areas which you need to consider are outlined in each of the sections.

Argyll and Bute Council will not process any event applications without a suitable risk assessment/method statement covering the event which includes a COVID-19 assessment.