FLS Events FAQ update.
FLS is following Scottish Government guidance on organised outdoor events and activities, in line with the Covid-19 guidance issued by Scottish sports governing bodies.

FLS recognises the potentially longer lead-in time for planning organised events and potential differences in protection levels across Scotland, and has commenced planning for events in/after 2021.

Organisers must follow Scottish Government guidance on travel and transport, particularly when potential participants may come from different areas of Scotland or elsewhere.

I was in the process of planning an event at the time of lockdown. Can this be rescheduled?
• You will need to provide FLS with an up-to-date governing body licence/permit, when considering rescheduling your event.
• Please allow a minimum of 6-8 weeks to refresh plans and, as part of this, agree a revised date and, if necessary, different forest venue:
  - Our sites are subject to unprecedented demand from visitors and local communities.
  - Our forest operational plans have now changed and we will need to recheck your event can take place in a safe environment.
  - If you are considering a different time of year for your event, we will need to recheck any environmental issues, which may impact on the forest venue and date.
• As event organisers, the Scottish Government Guidance and your sports’ governing bodies require you to adjust your plans to take account of the additional mitigation and Covid-19 control measures, including the impact these measures have on participant numbers.
• Event organisers are strongly recommended to engage early with the local community and local stakeholders such as the emergency services to give them confidence in your plans as an event organiser and ensure the good reputation of your sport. FLS will require evidence that this additional communication has taken place as part of the additional Covid-19 planning measures, before agreeing a revised venue and location with you (see supplementary information on the next page).

I would like to start planning for a new event. Can I do this now?
• Our staff continue to work from home and their availability may be restricted. Our priority is to work with the event organisers with postponed events as outlined above.
• You will need to provide FLS with an up-to-date governing body licence/permit (or other evidence that you are following the Scottish sports governing body’s guidance in place for your sport).
• We will review this position in line with Scottish Government guidance.

Note: where a Permission for an event or group activity is issued for a future date, you must plan for the possibility of a short notice postponement or cancellation, if a lockdown/restrictions (localised or national) is implemented.

In all cases, the final agreed event date and participant numbers will be subject to Scottish Government guidance on events and the local protection levels in place at the time of the event.
Events Covid-19 FAQs Supplementary Information
In an effort to understand some of the challenges currently facing event organisers, we regularly review the Covid-19 specific events guidance which has been issued by a number of sports governing bodies. We have extracted some items, from across this guidance, which are particularly relevant to our (mostly rural) forest venues.

Our staff will ask you to show evidence of the following Covid mitigations:

• Contact details for your event’s Covid-19 officer
• Your communication with the local community, including local emergency and health services. They should be contacted to ensure they are aware of the event and any potential ramifications of holding the event locally, at each local protection level.
• How you plan to control and manage the number and physical distancing of people involved at each stage in your event. This will include participants, officials, contractors, first aid personnel, spectators and other users of the forest.
• Your plan for communicating any short notice changes or cancellations.
• Sanitisation, toilets, cleaning and reinstatement: your plans for ensuring your event footprint is left in the same state as when you arrived, with no additional risk to any forest user caused by your event.
• Travel & accommodation: what plans/recommendations are in place for travel to your event, parking at the location and overnight stays?
• Assurance that that all event advertising is factually correct and includes information about what facilities will be available for use, including parking, toilets, spectator areas, etc.
• Eating/drinking, refreshments and their disposal: what guidance has been prepared for participants.
• First Aid/medical and Test & Protect: your plans.

We advise all event organisers to consider if the event they are planning is possible within the current guidelines and timescales. If you are not comfortable delivering an event under the current conditions, for example, if you feel some measures would be too difficult to implement, please do not resume your activities at this stage. Get in touch with FLS to discuss when/where you think you might be ready to plan it in the future.

Useful links:
Scottish Government Covid-19 Guidance
Scottish Government Covid-19 Events Sector Guidance
sportscotland latest sport and physical activity guidance
EventScotland Covid-19 advice for event organisers