

FLS Events FAQ update.

The [current Scottish Government guidance \(from 24th August\)](#) is that some organised outdoor events and activities can now take place, in line with the Covid-19 guidance issued by [Scottish sports governing bodies](#).

Recognising the potentially longer lead-in time for planning organised events. FLS will now recommence the planning for events.

I was in the process of planning an event at the time of lock down. Can this now be rescheduled?

FLS stopped the planning of all events requiring a Permission until the 31st of August. Following the review by the Scottish Government on the 20th August and with reference to the guidance being developed and published by sports governing bodies, we have reviewed this position and will move forward on the following basis;

- If your event was agreed, or in the planning process with us by 23rd of March at the start of lockdown, please get back in touch to let us know your plans. We will prioritise events that fall into this category.
- You will need to provide FLS with an up-to-date governing body licence/permit (issued since 20th August), when considering rescheduling your event.
- For these events, 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 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.

I would like to start the 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. We do not yet have a clear picture of demand, but would envisage accepting new event applications for planning purposes from mid-September onwards.
- 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 (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 which is in place at the time of event and the progression within and between Phases 3 and 4 of the Route Map.

Events Covid-19 FAQs Supplementary Information

In an effort to understand some of the challenges currently facing event organisers, we have read through 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.
- 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.
- 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;

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/sports-culture-and-leisure-activities/>

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/6017/phase-3-return-to-sport-and-physical-activity-guidance-210820-final.pdf>