



Section 1: General Aeromodelling

Best practice for the safe return of radio controlled model aircraft flying at club level in Scotland under COVID-19 restrictions, phase 3

Introduction

This document sets out the guidelines for the safe execution of model aircraft flying and coaching / training at club level in Scotland for the duration of the Covid outbreak. The objectives are the safety of the club members and the prevention of contamination and further distribution of the virus.

Scope

This document is valid for general outdoor aeromodelling flying at local club level including and coaching and training of new members. Indoor flying is not included in the scope of this document. Section 2 sets out the guidance for competitions. Any local lock-down restrictions applied by the Government supersede this document.

Government Guidance:

During Phase 3 – Remember FACTS: Face coverings, Avoid Crowded Places, Clean your Hands Regularly, Two meters Distance, Self-Isolate and Book a Test if you have Symptoms.

People who are shielding are now permitted to undertake activities providing strict physical distancing is adhered to. Further information is available at Scottish Government: [Staying safe outdoors](#)

People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 7 days; household members for 14 days as per info on NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend an outdoor sports facility/activity.

Parents/guardians who are supervising their children should abide by Scottish Government physical distancing guidance and stay at least 2m away from those out with their own household. Groups of parents from different households should not congregate before, during or after the activity.

Information on Scottish Governments approach to managing covid-19 is available at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#)

Information on getting your club ready for a return can be found here: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport/>

Example Risk Assessment sheet: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport-resources/>

Covid-19 Officer Job Description: [Covid-19 Officer](#)

Protect Scotland app (Apple): <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/protect-scotland/id1526637715>

Protect Scotland app (Android): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.scot.covidtracker>

What is radio controlled model flying?

Model aircraft flying is a non-contact, normally outdoor leisure pursuit for people who wish to build and fly model aircraft, gliders and helicopters which are either electric, petrol, jet powered or not powered in the case of gliders and free-flight models. Outwith the Covid pandemic it provides a very useful activity for people who might otherwise find it difficult to socialise. It also has a marked effect on the mental and physical well being of all involved. This is markedly so on the older participants as this may well be the only chance they have to interact with like minded people during the week.



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Model flying is normally conducted outside at custom made flying sites ranging from 3 to 6 acres. A number of clubs will have sheds or shipping containers for maintenance equipment storage and weather protection. These are not licenced premises and are not big enough to be used for social functions. During the winter months flying may be conducted indoors in large sports halls but that is not covered by this document.

The number and types of model aircraft is varied depending on the skill level of the pilot, and there is a national training and development scheme to allow pilots to progress and improve their skill level.

Normally up to 4 pilots fly at a time in any one time slot where social distancing can be maintained.

Training may happen as long as social distancing is maintained and there is no equipment sharing unless sanitised before and after.

1. Covid-19 Officer

1.1 It is the responsibility of each club committee to appoint a responsible person/s, referred to as the [COVID officer](#), to act as the point of contact on all things related to COVID-19. An [e-learning module for COVID officers](#) is available to support those undertaking the role.

1.2 The COVID officer **must** ensure that full risk assessments, processes and mitigating actions are in place before any sport or leisure activity takes place. Specific consideration should be given to the needs of those who are at greater risk including some older adults or those with disabilities.

2. Numbers of attendees

2.1 For the duration of the Covid outbreak, the number of members allowed on a member club site at any one time will be restricted to 30 attendees.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 Each member club must prepare a Risk Assessment document considering safety first particularly focusing on minimising the risk of infection/transmission. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure members are always protected. Example Risk Assessment sheet: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport-resources/>

4. Travelling to and from a club

4.1 Check to see if toilet facilities will be available at the flying site.

4.2 Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home. Information on hand hygiene is available at: Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques

4.3 Where possible avoid using public transport and adhere to Scottish Government physical distancing and travel guidelines.

4.4 Arrive as close as possible to when you need to be at the venue. When waiting for your flight slot then do so in your car.

4.5 Take your own hand sanitiser to the venue and use regularly throughout the activity.

4.6 Take your own hydration / food to the venue.

4.7 If driving, park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.

4.8 Do not share a car unless you are from the same household.

4.9 Avoid touching fixed equipment including gates, fences or benches.

4.10 After completing your flight return directly to your car and wait for your next flight slot.

5. Test and Protect

5.1 All members **must** provide a contact phone number which will be retained by the club's Covid Officer for at least 21 days after their attendance. Where possible the arrival and departure times will also be recorded.



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Protect Scotland app (Android): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.scot.covidtracker>

6. Changing Rooms, showers and toilets

6.1 For the duration of the Covid outbreak all clubhouses and maintenance sheds will be closed and be out of bounds to the non-maintenance staff members. All toilet facilities will be closed and out of bounds to the members.

7. Spectating:

7.1 No visitors or spectating should take place other than where a parent/guardian is supervising a child or vulnerable adult. In all cases physical distancing should always be followed.

8. Physical Distancing

8.1 At all times competitors should ensure participants adhere to the current Scottish Government's physical distancing guidelines including before, during and after the activity or when taking breaks.

9. Health, Safety & Hygiene

9.1 If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into a plastic bag and take home. Wash your hands afterwards for 20 seconds.

9.2 Avoid touching your face and ensure to clean your hands with at least 60% alcohol gel when you finish participating.

9.3 Whilst aeromodelling has an excellent safety record there may be an instance where first aid treatment is required. The local club should consider how to administer as required ensuring masks and disposable gloves are used.

9.4 Each club member is expected to have their own first-aid kit and hand sanitiser.

10 Equipment provision and use

10.1 No club equipment is to be used during general flying sessions.

10.2 Bins: All members must take their own rubbish home with them as rubbish bins will not be provided.

10.3 Fixed Equipment: Disinfectant spray should be available on site to spray all gates and all tables

10.4 Equipment Sharing: All pilots have their own model aircraft and ancillary equipment and as a consequence equipment sharing is not required.

10.5 Club members must remove all personal equipment and waste at the end of a flying session.

11. Booking and Payment

11.1 All membership and insurance renewal fees should be pre-paid where possible.

11.2 The local club committee should consider electronic payment methods to reduce cash handling. A process for sanitising cash should be in place.

12. Communication

12.1 All members will receive a copy of the club's Risk Assessment and the operating guidelines prior to the attending.

12.2 Social distancing should be maintained at all times

13. Stay up to date

13.1 Scottish Government information is available at Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland.

13.2 Be aware that guidance can change, and restrictions may be reintroduced so please ensure you have checked the latest version of guidelines for your activity.



Section 2: Competitive Aeromodelling

Best practice for the safe conduct of radio controlled model aircraft competitions in Scotland under COVID-19 restrictions, phase 3

Introduction

This section sets out the guidelines for the safe execution of model aircraft competitions and coaching / training events in Scotland for the duration of the Covid outbreak. The objectives are the safety of the competitors and the prevention of contamination and further distribution of the virus.

Scope

This section is valid for competitions and coaching / training events for the disciplines identified in Appendix 1. Additional disciplines may be added if their safe working practices comply with this document. This document's issue status will be updated accordingly.

Government Guidance:

During Phase 3 – Remember FACTS: Face coverings, Avoid Crowded Places, Clean your Hands Regularly, Two meters Distance, Self-Isolate and Book a Test if you have Symptoms.

People who are shielding are now permitted to undertake activities providing strict physical distancing is adhered to. Further information is available at Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors

People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 7 days; household members for 14 days as per info on NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend an outdoor sports facility/activity.

Parents/guardians who are supervising their children should abide by Scottish Government physical distancing guidance and stay at least 2m away from those out with their own household. Groups of parents from different households should not congregate before, during or after the activity.

Information on Scottish Governments approach to managing covid-19 is available at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#)

What are radio controlled model aircraft F3a precision aerobatic competitions?

F3a aerobatics is the precise and controlled flying of various manoeuvres to a high standard. The competition levels for precision aerobatics are Clubman for newcomers, then Intermediate through to advanced, all increasing in the level of challenge. Competitions are either league or team based. Competitions are held at local, national, and international levels.



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Each pilot flies a sequence of 18 manoeuvres in their own individual time slot, each manoeuvre starting with 10 points and half a point being deducted for each error then multiplied by a difficulty factor. A "Round" is completed when every pilot has flown once. The highest scoring pilots gets 1000 points and every other pilots gets a pro-rata figure based on his percentage relative to the highest score. 3 rounds are normally flown depending on the weather. The overall winner is the pilot with the highest total of 2 rounds from 3. The overall annual league winner is the highest total of 6 scores from 8 competitions. Only 1 pilot flies at a time in any one time slot. Competitions are held outdoors at custom designed model aircraft flying sites ranging from approximately 3 to 6 acres in size. The general public are not invited to these events.

1. Covid-19 Officer

1.1 The nominated Covid-19 Officer for F3a Aerobatics is Tom Laird, email tomlaird100@gmail.com / Mob: 07761-645644.

2. Numbers of competitors

2.1 For the duration of the Covid outbreak, the number of competitors will be restricted to 30 attendees.

2.2 If the number of entrants exceeds 30 then the CD must split the event to allow people from the first group or bubble to leave before anyone from the second group arrives, otherwise the gathering would exceed 30 which is not allowed.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 A Risk Assessment document must be in place prior to each competition.

4. Travelling to and from a competition

4.1 Be aware that toilet facilities will not be available at the venue.

4.2 Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home. Information on hand hygiene is available at: Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques

4.3 Where possible avoid using public transport and adhere to Scottish Government physical distancing and travel guidelines.

4.4 Arrive as close as possible to when you need to be at the venue. When waiting for your flight slot then do so in your car.

4.5 Take your own hand sanitiser to the venue and use regularly throughout the activity.

4.6 Take your own hydration / food to the venue.

4.7 If driving, park your car in such a way as to facilitate physical distancing.

4.8 Do not share a car unless you are from the same household.

4.9 Avoid touching fixed equipment including gates, fences or benches.

4.10 After completing your flight return directly to your car and wait for your next flight slot.

5. Test and Protect

5.3 All competitors must provide a contact phone number. This will be retained by the Contest Organiser for 21 days after the event. The arrival and departure times will also be recorded if possible.

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Protect Scotland app (Android): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.scot.covidtracker>

6. Changing Rooms, showers and toilets

6.1 For the duration of the Covid outbreak all indoor facilities and clubhouses will be closed and be out of bounds to the competitors. All toilet facilities will be closed and out of bounds to the competitors.



7. Spectating:

7.1 No spectating should take place other than where a parent/guardian is supervising a child or vulnerable adult. In all cases physical distancing should always be followed.

7.2 While the SAA thanks the host club for their assistance in holding the events, the CD should request that the club advises its members that spectators will not be allowed during the competition.

8. Physical Distancing

8.1 At all times competitors should ensure participants adhere to the current Scottish Government's physical distancing guidelines including before, during and after the activity or when taking breaks

9. Health, Safety & Hygiene

9.1 If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into a plastic bag and take home. Wash your hands afterwards for 20 seconds.

9.2 Avoid touching your face and ensure to clean your hands with at least 60% alcohol gel when you finish participating.

9.3 Whilst aeromodelling has an excellent safety record there may be an instance where first aid treatment is required. This will be administered as required ensuring masks and disposable gloves are used.

9.4 Each competitor is expected to have their own first-aid kit and hand sanitiser.

10 Equipment provision and use

10.1 No club equipment is to be used during an aerobatic competition.

10.2 Bins: All competitors must take their own rubbish home with them as rubbish bins will not be provided.

10.3 Fixed Equipment: Disinfectant spray should be available on site to spray all gates and all tables.

10.4 Equipment Sharing: All pilots have their own model aircraft and ancillary equipment and as a consequence equipment sharing is not required.

10.5 Competitors must remove all personal equipment and waste at the end of a competition.

11. Booking and Payment

11.1 All entries will be pre-paid where possible.

11.2 Contact details for all competitors is known and available in line with Data Protection regulations

11.3 Each competitor has individual time slots for their flights. Multiple pilots are not allowed to fly at the same time.

11.4 PayPal is the preferred payment method. Cash should be deposited in a container and sanitised.

12. Communication

12.1 All competitors will receive a copy of the event Risk Assessment and the operating guidelines prior to the event. The flight order and judges will be advised before the event.

12.2 Social distancing should be maintained at the Pilot's Briefing and Results Briefing

13. Stay up to date

13.1 Scottish Government information is available at Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland.

13.2 Be aware that guidance can change, and restrictions may be reintroduced so please ensure you have checked the latest version of guidelines for your activity.

14. Award Ceremonies

14.1 No formal presentation ceremonies should take place during or after a sporting activity or competition as the focus should be on reducing the numbers in attendance at any one time.



Appendix 1 F3a Specific Guidance

1. Pilot's Assistants

- 1.1 Pilots and Assistants may form a working "bubble" for the duration of the competition.
- 1.2 Members of a "bubble" should be from the same home club and not from different clubs.
- 1.3 Members from one bubble must not mix with members from a different bubble.

2. Equipment

- 2.1 Only the pilot should place and recover the model to prevent cross contamination.

3. Health and Safety

- 3.1 The biggest danger is a burn from a lithium battery and water will be available to flush the burn area. An ambulance will be called if required.

4. Equipment Provision and Use

- 4.1 Where possible the electronic score system will be used. If this is not available the judge will place the score sheets into a transparent polythene bag or tray before the scores are transferred to the laptop.
- 4.2 Judges Assistants are not allowed as this would contravene social distancing rules.

Revision History

Rev	Date	Details
1	28/7/2020	New document, first issue
2	6/8/2020	Minor updates.
3	24/8/2020	Updated to reflect 20 th August 2020 guidance. Paragraphs re-numbered to align with guidance doc. Appendix added to allow modular format.
4	31/8/2020	Updated to add club-level guidance.
4a	3/9/2020	"Getting your club ready" link added
5	7/9/2020	Links to Risk Register and Covid Officer added Disinfectant spray requirement added to par 10.3 Paragraphs re-numbered Scope updated regarding local government imposed lock-downs Section2. Par 2.2 added
6	13/9/2020	Section1, Par 1.1 strengthened and Par 1.2 added Links to Apple and Android version of the "Protect Scotland" app added in 3 places. Par 14 added to Section 2 Appendix 1, Par 1.3 added.