



ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION

COVID-19

CONVOYING GUIDANCE IN N.IRELAND 2021

Version 1 – 20th April 2021

Introduction

The following is guidance for affiliated Convoying organisations. Where pigeons are convoyed by a private/commercial organisations they may be subject to different guidance and should consult industry representatives.

The document should be read in conjunction with the race marking guidance.

Please note the guidance currently relates solely to N.IRELAND

The guidance is in no way intended to force anyone to race. Clubs, organisations and individuals should make their own decision.

The content of this document will mean carrying out the collection and convoying of pigeons in a different way to what we are used to, and will require careful consideration. Organisations or individuals may conclude they cannot meet the requirements and therefore should not race.

This document will not cover every eventuality. Convoying organisations may have to devise some solutions of their own based on the current Government restrictions/rules.

In order to race we need to meet these requirements. If we cannot meet the requirements then there will be no other avenue to facilitate racing.

Convoying organisation should not collect birds from any marking station unless they have received confirmation that the General License requirements for gatherings have been met – please refer to the race marking guidance for more detail.

Personnel

The following is based on the principles of the current restrictions. This includes the fact that you cannot meet in groups of more than ten people from more than two households.

Therefore Convoying organisations should consider the following

1. Social distancing rules mean individuals from different households should adhere to the two metres distancing rule. Therefore, there should not be more than one individual on the vehicle unless they are from the same household.
2. Organisations that cannot operate with two people from the same household but wish to send two people to the INLAND liberation site should consider sending a separate vehicle.

Please note that the RPRA rules regarding Convoyers licenses and requirements will not be relaxed.

The reference to INLAND racing above is relevant until we receive further guidance.

Loading

Organisations should communicate to clubs/marketing stations in advance how they wish to load the vehicles.

They should consider whether the Convoying team be loading the vehicle or will the race marking team.

Please note that assuming the race marking team will consist of more than one household; the conveying team and race marking team cannot both be part of the loading process. It has to be one or the other.

In the event that the race marking team load the vehicle then the conveying team should remain in the vehicle until the task is completed and the marking team has left the vicinity. The conveying team should then disinfect the relevant equipment that has come into contact with the race marking team with a suitable disinfectant wipe.

If the conveying team carries out the loading of the vehicle then they should disinfect the outer surface of the baskets and crates with a suitable wipe before doing so. They should also wear suitable gloves.

Paperwork.

Organisations should communicate to marking station in advance the process for passing all relevant paperwork to the Convoyer.

This should be provided in an envelope left with the baskets/crates prior to loading or if the marking team are loading, the paperwork should be left in the back of the vehicle for collection by the conveying team. The conveying team should handle the paperwork with gloves and disinfect the surface.

Due Diligence and responsibilities

It is important to stress that although the RPRA has developed this guidance to facilitate racing it is ultimately the organisation that is responsible to ensure Government restrictions and relevant health and safety requirements are met. It is not the responsibility of the RPRA.

It is advisable that all members of the conveying team are comfortable with the precautions put in place by the club, and accept any associated risk that may come with such activities during the restrictions.