



National Cavy Club Show Regulations

Appendix 2020.01: NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations | Rev 02

1 Background

- 1.1.1 In March 2020, the National Cavy Club (NCC) Executive appointed a working sub-group to explore the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cavy fancy, and in particular on the ability of fanciers to start showing their cavies again.
- 1.1.2 A traffic light system was developed using red, amber and green to denote the different phases of the pandemic. The 'red' zone represented the period of time when it would not be possible to hold any cavy shows, and the 'green' zone a time when life returns to something like that before the pandemic, when we can all enjoy our hobby once again.
- 1.1.3 It was envisaged that there may be an 'amber' zone – between the red and green zones – when, with the appropriate precautions in place, it could be possible to hold some cavy shows.
- 1.1.4 It was concluded that the necessary precautions to ensure safe showing during an amber zone would be informed by two factors:
- 1/ the ability to comply with current Government guidance; and
 - 2/ the ability to instil sufficient confidence in fanciers that it is safe to attend shows; without this confidence to attend, it was considered unlikely that shows would be unviable events.
- 1.1.5 A set of regulations was developed that all fanciers and clubs will need to comply with when showing their cavies or organising shows for the duration of the amber period. The regulations have also been designed to give clubs more flexibility in how they hold shows and thus enable easier compliance with Government regulations. They are to be known as the NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations and will be attached as an appendix to the NCC's Show Regulations.
- 1.1.6 It was recognised that the regulations could have a big effect on fanciers and clubs alike, and that it was important that everyone understood why and how they had been compiled.
- 1.1.7 Members and Affiliated Clubs were consulted on the contents of the draft regulations and these were ratified by the Executive on behalf of the membership in September 2020.
- 1.1.8 The COVID-19 Show Regulations were updated in June 2021 in light of the Government's latest advice on the easing of lockdown restrictions.

2 Application of the COVID-19 Show Regulations

- 2.1.1 The regulations set out in this appendix are to be known as the NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations and are to be read in conjunction with the current version of the NCC Show Regulations.
- 2.1.2 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCC will regularly review Government advice. When it appears that restrictions are sufficiently relaxed such that large groups or people can mix and socialise, the Executive will meet to discuss whether it would be viable to sanction cavy shows with the COVID-19 Show Regulations in place; i.e. whether to move from the red zone to the amber zone.

- 2.1.3 The NCC will advise members and affiliated club from whence the COVID-19 Show Regulations shall come into force via its website or through the fancy press. They shall continue to apply until the NCC advises otherwise.
- 2.1.4 Where there is conflict between the scope of the NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations and those in the full Show Regulations, those in this appendix shall take precedent.
- 2.1.5 It is likely that it will be necessary to make future amendments to the NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations, including at short notice, in order to comply with the changing nature of the pandemic and society's response to it. Fanciers should ensure they keep up to date with the latest regulations by means of the NCC website and the fancy press.

3 Overriding regulations

- 3.1.1 The NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations will not supersede Government regulations. These regulations can be found via the Government website.
- 3.1.2 The NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations have been produced by the NCC as a supplement to the current Government guidance regarding the pandemic, which is subject to on-going change. As Government guidelines are amended, so the NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations will be reviewed and, where necessary, adjusted accordingly.
- 3.1.3 Clubs and fanciers must take into account regional variations in COVID-19 restrictions. Consideration must be given to any restrictions applying to the area where a show is to be held. Likewise, judges and fanciers attending shows must take suitable precautions to comply with any restrictions imposed on the area they are travelling from; e.g. it would not be permissible to send cavies to a show via AN Other if restrictions prevented the exhibitor themselves from attending. A precautionary approach should be taken so as not to compromise the safety of fanciers in other parts of the country.
- 3.1.4 The NCC expects all cavy clubs and all judges to adhere to the NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations.
- 3.1.5 It will be essential for all clubs to carry out their own risk assessment to ensure they can comply with the NCC COVID-19 Show Regulations. The regulations will consist of overarching requirements, together with identified areas of flexibility to accommodate local constraints. A checklist has been prepared to assist club secretaries when considering the viability of shows whilst the COVID-19 constraints are in place.
- 3.1.6 The NCC cannot be responsible for any additional costs associated with complying with the regulations. Clubs should satisfy themselves that they are able to hold a viable show before committing to unnecessary expense.
- 3.1.7 Some clubs may well find that it is not viable to hold shows at all during the amber period, this might, for example, be on financial grounds or through the practicability of the venue or restrictions put in place by the venue hirer.
- 3.1.8 Clubs will need to comply with any future Government initiatives, for example it may be necessary for clubs to hold records of attendees contact details.
- 3.1.9 No one should attend a show if they or anyone in their households have COVID-like symptoms or have done so within the time frames laid down by the Government. Likewise, attendees should consider their own personal vulnerability.
- 3.1.10 Clubs reserve the right to refuse entry or ask attendees to leave if they are showing signs of such symptoms.
- 3.1.11 The primary criterion will be that clubs comply with health and safety requirements, and this will be paramount throughout, e.g. hands to be sanitised on entry to the show venue and any equipment at the venue to be disinfected and on reuse.

4 Hosting a show

4.1 Venue and space available

4.1.1 Clubs will first need to consider the size of their venue, and then calculate the number of people they can safely accommodate, mindful of current Government regulations and any requirements of the venue (e.g. the maximum numbers in one airspace and social distancing) and other NCC regulations. This will determine the space available and so the number of exhibitors that can be accommodated, taking into consideration the need to also accommodate officials, judges, possible visitors, etc.

4.2 Numbers in attendance

4.2.1 The space available and/or imposed restrictions at a venue may necessitate a limit to the number of exhibitors and/or the number of visitors that can be accommodated, and how this limit is applied could also impact on the number of exhibits at any show venue.

4.3 Advice to those attending

4.3.1 Clubs will need to provide full and clear advice to exhibitors, judges and other visitors before the day as to what is expected of them.

4.4 Precautions and social distancing

4.4.1 PPE required, as advised by the Government. NB: It is important to recognise that some people are exempt from wearing face masks through age, disability or health; or because they need to communicate with someone who relies on lip reading; or because they have a reasonable need to eat, drink or take medicine.

4.4.2 Shows will be laid out to comply with current social distancing parameters, e.g. one-way systems, and separate entrance and exit.

5 Staging a show

5.1.1 For the duration of the amber period, clubs may make a choice regarding the staging of shows, and use either conventional staged penning (Penning Option A) or an alternative dedicated area for each exhibitor (Penning Option B) as detailed below. It is perceived that such choice will help clubs in making their venues COVID compliant, i.e. it could assist in social distancing. The chosen option MUST BE MADE CLEAR IN SHOW ADVERTS AND SCHEDULES.

5.1.2 For Penning Option B, clubs will provide a dedicated area for each exhibitor/exhibitor family (including tables and chairs (either supplied by the club or brought by the exhibitor – see checklist) to prepare and house their own cavies for the duration of the show, while maintaining social distance. Cavies must be housed for the duration of the show in a manner that safeguards their welfare, and which is appropriate to their age and size.

5.1.3 Exhibitors will be responsible for sanitising their holding area and clearing away at the end of the show, including the removal of all rubbish from the venue.

5.1.4 For either option, judges will maintain current social distances from exhibitors across the judging table and wear appropriate PPE. This is likely to necessitate the use of over-wide judging tables in order to comply with Government guidance. Sanitisers will be provided at each judging table.

5.2 Entering a show

5.2.1 If Government regulations require, clubs must maintain a record and contact details of all those attending the venue, including officials, exhibitors and visitors.

5.2.2 Where possible, entry fees, etc. will be paid in advance before the show, by online banking or posted cheques. This could include pre-payment of raffle ticket purchases, canteen purchases, and payment of judge's expenses.

6 Stewarding

- 6.1.1 For the duration of the amber period, clubs must make a choice regarding the stewarding of exhibits at shows, and utilise either conventional stewarding (Stewarding Option A) or stewarding by owner/nominated handler (Stewarding Option B), It is considered that this flexibility will better enable clubs to comply with Government regulations, e.g. regarding social distancing. The chosen stewarding option **MUST BE MADE CLEAR IN SHOW ADVERTS AND SCHEDULES.**
- 6.1.2 For Stewarding Option B, cavies will be stewarded by their owner or a nominated handler, with exhibits taken to the judging table and presented on the exhibitor's own board or equivalent, on which the cavy will remain for the duration of judging. The board or equivalent to be hessian-topped (or similar), natural coloured, without distinguishing marks, and a maximum of 30cm (12 inches) square and 15cm (6 inches) high; with the exception of longhairs, whose board will remain compliant with the NCC Show Regulations, i.e. be *"not more than that 50cm (20 inches) square with a flat top to be covered by plain, natural hessian and not higher than 15cm (6 inches), with no distinguishing marks or colour; all as approved by the relevant specialist breed club"*.
- 6.1.3 For either option, clubs will also be expected to appoint sufficient officials to facilitate exhibitors' movements to and from the judging table in a timely manner, particularly if more than one judge is present, and to ensure an orderly progression. The judging area will need to be marked out to ensure sufficient space for exhibitors to move freely and safely.

7 Judging

- 7.1.1 Stewards and/exhibitors (depending on the stewarding option chosen) will stand at the table at distances from each other that comply with current social distancing; such distances will be marked on the table with tape.
- 7.1.2 In order to comply with social distancing, the space available will determine the number of cavies on the table at one time. In normal circumstances, it is recommended that a maximum of four exhibits are present at the judging table at any one time; e.g. in classes with an entry of more than four, the judge will place the cavies in order and replace the fourth-place exhibit with the next exhibit and so on until the class is complete.
- 7.1.3 Judges will be asked to limit their handling of cavies to the minimum required to assess each cavy. They will need to sanitise their hands appropriately.

7.2 Schedules

- 7.2.1 Show schedules may need to be modified to suit the likely entry and to ensure a meaningful number of exhibits in each class (e.g. avoiding classes with only one or two exhibits). For Stewarding Option B, duplicate classes and challenges will need to be reduced to limit over handling and movements in the hall. Suggested model schedules can be made available.
- 7.2.2 To aid social distancing, it is envisaged that the number of judges at a show will be kept to a minimum and, where entry numbers dictate, all judges will be expected to judge multiple sections of a show, including any pet sections.
- 7.2.3 For the remainder of the year 2021, clubs should not host breed club or area club stock shows. This is to keep shows simple in the early days, avoid over-handling of stock and limit steward movements, and because any need to maintain social distancing will inevitably slow down the logistics of running a show, and it is important that shows are able to run to programme and finish at a reasonable time. Hosting shows would add further delays and increase the risk of close interactions between stewards/exhibitors. This will be reviewed following feedback on shows. Breed club or area club shows could be held independently, but clubs should be mindful of the longer distances that may be travelled to such events. Points, etc. could be awarded on host club classes to facilitate competitions.

7.3 Junior exhibitors

If there is a need to limit the number of attendees at a venue, the requirement for junior exhibitors to steward their own cavies may be relaxed.

Local club health, safety and viability risk assessments – checklist template

Introduction

To comply with Government regulations there will be a number of considerations that the individual clubs will need to take into account on a case-by-case basis. How these are actioned will depend on a number of club-specific factors, e.g. the particular size and shape of a show hall, the facilities available, the demographics of their membership, etc.

The following template has been compiled to assist clubs in undertaking the necessary health, safety and viability risk assessments and to aid implementation of any measures.

All clubs should be able to confirm that they have undertaken a suitable risk assessment before holding a show. A club may be asked to evidence this in the event of a dispute.

FACTOR	RESPONSE
<p>Is the venue available?</p> <p>Do the terms and conditions allow a cavy show to take place?</p> <p>Landlords may not wish to rent out venues for shows at this time.</p>	
<p>Does the size and shape of the venue comply with Government regulations at the time of the show, and enable those attending to safely distance?</p> <p>This is likely to be a moveable criterion.</p>	
<p>Is it possible to plan and suitably mark out layouts that maintain appropriate and necessary distancing, including (where appropriate) provision of exhibitors holding and preparation areas?</p>	
<p>What is the maximum number of people your show venue can safely accommodate?</p> <p>This will need to be broken down into officials, judges, exhibitors and others.</p> <p>You may wish to add a contingency for visitors, or you may make the decision not to allow visitors. Be mindful that a number of people may arrive on spec (including your own club members).</p>	<p>Officials:</p> <p>Judges:</p> <p>Exhibitors:</p> <p>Others:</p> <p>Visitor contingency:</p>

<p>As a result, what is the maximum number of exhibits the venue can hold?</p> <p>This may be an iterative criterion and you may need to cap individual exhibitors from entering large numbers to ensure fairness; equally, you may not wish to have a scenario where a large number of exhibitors enter only one or two cavies each.</p>	
<p>How will you limit exhibitor numbers?</p> <p>You might consider a maximum of two people per exhibitor/household in the hall at any one time.</p> <p>Priority should be given to club members. You could instil a first-to-enter arrangement.</p> <p>Whichever method is chosen, it must be fair and be made clear to all.</p>	
<p>If you have allowed for visitors, how will you control numbers?</p> <p>You may need to limit the number that are in the venue at any one time.</p>	
<p>If required by the Government, what arrangements do you have in place for recording the contact details of all persons attending your event?</p>	
<p>What arrangements do you have in place in the event that someone develops symptoms at the show?</p>	
<p>Financial implications.</p> <p>Do you need to increase entry fees to cover a lower entry and additional outlay on PPE, etc.?</p>	
<p>What arrangements do you have for officials and stewards on the day?</p> <p>Show committees will need to arrange additional stewards to cover door arrival/departure, the day's mobility around show hall, etc. Sanitiser stations at entrances and at judging tables.</p>	
<p>What PPE will the club be providing and what will you expect those attending to provide?</p> <p>This must be made clear before the event.</p>	
<p>Which staging option will you chose?</p> <p>How will you make this clear to exhibitors before the day?</p>	
<p>Which stewarding option will you chose?</p> <p>How will you make this clear to exhibitors before the day?</p>	

If using Staging Option B, do you have access to sufficient tables and/or chairs for exhibitors?
 If not, you will need to make it clear in the advert that exhibitors will need to supply their own.

Will you have a canteen?
 If so, what arrangements will you have in place to ensure it can operate in a safe manner?
 It may be that the provision of food is not practicable at this time.
 Refreshments could be limited to drinks and packaged food.
 Final arrangements are likely to be led by Government guidance.

What arrangements will you make to ensure toilet arrangements are safe?
 For example, it may be appropriate to instigate a one in one out approach.
 Final arrangements, including method of cleaning, are likely to be led by current Government guidance.

Regulations ratified by the National Cavy Club on 9th September 2020, and subsequently updated by the Executive on 16th June 2021.

These Regulations are available on the NCC website; hard copies are also available on request from the NCC secretaries.