



1st May 2020

Issue: BICC-COV19MSP-Draft

## **British International Championship Club Marking Station Procedure during COVID 19 Restrictions**

**Applicable to: All BICC Marking Station Official's in Charge (OIC's) and all other Officials**

### **Introduction**

This draft procedure has been written for the implementation and use by all active BICC marking stations during the coronavirus Covid 19 restrictions and it is requested that it is followed at all times until social distancing restrictions are removed or amended by the Government and/or the RPRA.

### **Purpose**

The procedure has been created to support the safety of the club's members and marking station officials during the marking of pigeons for BICC races. The procedure will be implemented by the marking station Official in Charge (OIC) and all marking station attendees. Members and officials are requested to adhere to the procedure at all times.

An official updated version of the procedure will be located on the BICC website at all times where both officials and members can familiarise themselves with the process we wish to adopt when marking pigeons during social distancing.

### **OIC and Officials**

All marking station OIC's and officials will have been consulted in advance by the BICC committee to ascertain if they are willing to attend and be involved in BICC marking stations whilst the coronavirus is resulting in social distancing measures being implemented. It is imperative that all OIC's are not showing any signs of coronavirus symptoms such as a high temperature or new cough and should also check with all officials due to attend that they are also free of any symptoms.

All BICC OIC's will have a copy of this procedure to ensure that they and all attending marking station officials are fully conversant and briefed on the requirements of the procedure and its requirements prior to any race marking taking place.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The BICC will provide each marking station with PPE in the form of disposable surgical gloves, face masks and eye protection for use during the marking of all pigeons and whilst ever present at the marking station. The surgical gloves should be thrown away at the end of each race marking day, but the face masks and eye protection should be retained by each of the officials and reused at subsequent race marking days.

In addition, the BICC will provide each marking station with antibacterial spray and blue disposable rolls for wiping down all equipment being used, both before and at the end of each race marking event.

### **Marking Station Set Up**

We would ask that each marking station OIC to plan and agree in advance with the officials how the marking station can be safely set up prior to marking commencing. The PPE provided should be worn at all times when setting up the marking station, including when removing the crates from the delivery vehicles and when setting out the tables, crate and marking equipment ready for use.

### **Points of Entry/Exit and Equipment**

The marking station OIC's and officials are asked to spray and wipe using the antibacterial spray and blue disposable rolls any door handles, light switches or other surfaces considered relevant at the start and end of each marking session.

It is advisable to prop open any doors such that attending members do not have to touch these surfaces when gaining entry and exit from the marking stations.

All equipment to be used during marking should also be thoroughly cleaned before and after use.

### **Marking Station Logistics**

Each marking station should in advance consider the layout of the crates and marking tables in such a way that creates the maximum possible space between officials working on race marking the pigeons and wherever reasonably practicable trying to ensure that marking officials can remain a sensible distance apart, ideally being 2 meters/six feet.

If possible and where space allows, consider spacing the crates wider apart than normal so that more than one official can mark birds at any one time, whilst being as far apart as possible from their colleagues.

Additional, please seek to locate the ETS ring reader and ETS base clock as far apart as possible, so that the person checking the base information and the marker remain as far away from each other as possible, whilst still being able to communicate the pigeon's details with each other.

### **Member/Officials Barrier**

The marking station should have a distinct barrier and collection point, (for example a table or identified floor space) where each competing member can place their pigeons, clock and paperwork ready for collection by the marking station officials. When each member has placed their pigeons at the collection point, they should be asked to stand back approx two meters/six feet until all of their pigeons have been marked, following which they should then be asked to step forward and collect their basket, clock and sign any paperwork.

Each marking station will be given a sign, which should be displayed where arriving members can see it, and which will ask all members to remain behind the sign in an orderly line and approx two meters/six feet apart at all times.

The OIC is asked to continuously check that all members waiting to have their pigeons marked remain safely distanced as described above. At no time should any members be allowed beyond the barrier and in or around the marking officials, or near to the marking table or crates.

### **No Double Handling Principle**

The marking officials should remove each pigeon from members baskets, race mark the birds and put them into the race crates. It is important to ensure that pigeons are not passed from one official to another, such that no double handling takes place.

### **Non-Food and Drink Principle**

The BICC would like to ensure that all its marking station officials and attending members are kept as safe as possible when attending a BICC race marking event. It is therefore requested that all marking stations adopt a principle of not allowing food or drink to be either purchased or consumed within the marking station area.

### **Paperwork**

All paperwork relating to the race should be collated at the end of the race marking and put into a large envelope that will be provided by the BICC, sealed and given to the pick up driver. This should include all race entry sheets, ETS print outs and cheques. Under no circumstances should OIC's accept any cash for entries.

### **Sealing and Loading of Crates**

It is requested that only marking station officials seal and load crates onto the transporters. Whilst doing this the officials should continue to wear the PPE equipment at all times until all work including tidying up or closing the marking station has been completed.