



COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions:

Latest Update 23rd September 2020



PHASE 3 – UPDATES 14th SEPTEMBER IN BLUE

Players:

1. Are Bowls Scotland recommending people go back to Bowls?

*The Scottish Government, **sportscotland** or Bowls Scotland are not forcing clubs to re-open or any of our members to play bowls. If your club has the correct safety procedures in place and follows the information detailed in the Guidance document and as an individual you feel safe and have a desire to return to the bowling green, you can do so*

2. What is the updated Phase 3 Guidance for playing?

Bowling Activity Phase 3:

- On the green, a 'bowling bubble' of up to 30 people can be created whilst play is taking place, in effect suspending Scottish Government household number guidelines for the duration of the activity. Where possible, physical distancing should still be maintained (good hygiene)
- Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours can now resume as normal in line with the above 'bowling bubble'
- Maximum of 30 players on the green (please also see competitions guidance)
- **Players must only play in one bowling bubble per day.**

*We have produced specific guidance on Junior (Under 16s) bowling activity in line with the Scottish Government and **sportscotland** guidance. More information can be found on the Bowls Scotland website*

3. Do I have to wear a face covering whilst playing?

Face coverings are now mandatory for indoor hospitality. This means you must wear a mask when entering, leaving or moving round the clubhouse. You do not need to wear a face covering when playing.

4. Can I car share to the bowling club?

No, you should not share a car with someone you do not live with. Under the new measures people should only car share with members of their own, or, extended household.

5. Can over 70's bowl?

Yes. Players who are 70 and over can play but should follow current guidance to make their own decision about returning to the green. <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-general-advice>

6. I am shielding, can I now play bowls?

Yes. The Scottish Government has updated their guidance on people who are shielding. For information, please visit: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-shielding/>

7. I have a disability and require support; how can I return to the green?

Players who require personal support can bring a carer with them. Disability aids and wheelchairs must be sanitised before and after each session. If club equipment is to be used, prior permission along with instructions for use must be obtained

If you have a disability or have additional support needs, you can access shower/changing facilities within the club



8. I am classed as high risk; can I go and play bowls?

If you are at a higher risk, you should follow current guidelines to make your own decision about returning to the green. <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-general-advice>

9. Can I travel to my club to play bowls?

There are no restrictions on travel to your bowling club. Face coverings are mandatory (with limited exceptions) on public transport. <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

10. I do not want to bowl this season due to the virus, can club force me to pay membership?

All clubs will require funds to continue to stay open, therefore we encourage you to continue to pay your membership fee if you can, even if you do not intend to play

11. Can someone 16 or under play without a parent/guardian?

A further update on Phase 3 Guidance for Bowling Activity for Children and Young People is available on our website

12. Can I receive coaching?

Coaching is permitted if physical distancing can be maintained, and is in line with “bowling bubble”, physical distancing and good hygiene.

Coaches can provide multiple training sessions not exceeding 30 players in one session

When participating in training or coaching, where possible, avoid touching surfaces and sharing equipment and touching your mouth and face.

Phase 3 Guidance for Bowling Activity for Children and Young People is available on our website and more info is available here:

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-coaches-ready-for-sport/>

13. Can we run internal competitions and our Club Championships if we follow physical distancing?

Yes, internal club competitions may resume in line with bowling activity guidance.

Physical distancing, and hygiene guidelines should be adhered to. Individual bowling clubs should risk assess appropriately to ensure these procedures can be implemented for internal competitions.

14. Can we host open competitions?

Yes, open competitions may resume in line with bowling activity guidance

Individual bowling clubs should risk assess appropriately to ensure these procedures can be implemented before hosting an open competition. Please refer to the Phase 3 Guidance to Open Competitions which is available on our website.

All open competitions must have a Tournament License approved prior to the competition taking place. To complete a Tournament License Application, please visit our website.



15. Can we host club friendlies?

Yes. The maximum number of players on the green is 30. Players should only travel to/from friendlies with their own household, and not mix households i.e. car sharing, minibus hire

16. If we choose to run our club championship will the 2020 winner be able to enter Stage 1 of the District Championships alongside our 2019 winner?

If a club chooses to play their Club Championship in 2020 it will be at the discretion of the Club to decide the method of selection for the National Championship Playdowns (Stage 1) in 2021

Preparing for Play & Facility Considerations:

17. How do we ensure good hygiene at the club?

Cleaning of equipment, hand and respiratory hygiene are core measures to be implemented and provision should be made for these.

Clear guidance and plans are needed for cleaning of facilities and equipment, and waste disposal. For instance, common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) should where possible be left open but if not possible, regular cleaning with disposable gloves should be undertaken.

Make hand sanitizers or wipes available for use at entrance/exit to venue/facility where possible. Hand sanitiser should be at least 60% alcohol based and detergent wipes appropriate for the surface they are being used on. Cleaning products should conform to EN14476 standards.

A checklist for health, hygiene and cleaning considerations and actions is available here: [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#)

Further guidance is available at:

[Health Protection Scotland: General guidance for non-healthcare settings](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: Cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)

18. Can toilets in the club be open?

Yes – toilets and throughways may be open, but clubs should risk assess if access to the toilets can be done safely and in line with good hygiene and physical distancing.

Clubs need to consider the preparation and access of the toilets, as well as informing members of the process for accessing.

More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-and-customer-toilets-guidance/>

*Additional information is available in **Number 17 FAQ***



17. Can we open our bar and kitchen?

Yes, both outdoor and indoor hospitality can resume (on the 15th July for indoor) but clubs must risk assess to determine if operating the bar can be done safely and in line with good hygiene and physical distancing.

Clubs must check their operating plan and licensing agreement

Clubs need to consider:

- Table service with no standing/all customers seated
- Face coverings by staff
- Face coverings for customers entering, leaving and moving around the facility
- Clear systems for safe ordering and payments
- Clear systems for safe use of toilet facilities
- Use of screens between seating areas
- Good ventilation
- Good signage
- Reduced noise measures e.g. no background music, to reduce need for customers to shout
- Clear messaging on need to provide contact details to support Test & Protect

More information is available in **Number 17 FAQ** and here:

<http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-tourism-and-hospitality-sector-guidance/>

18. What do we need to consider if bar staff and cleaners are on furlough?

Clubs should decide when it is the appropriate time to return staff to work from the Coronavirus Government Job Retention ('furlough') scheme.

A furloughed employee can take part in volunteer work if they do not provide services to or generate revenue for or on behalf of or linked to your club/organisation.

Clubs should follow HMRC guidance around this. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

19. Why do we need to book members into the green, spectating, and bar area?

If there is a further outbreak of COVID-19, by asking members/players to book in and knowing who has been at the club it will help quickly identify and isolate, thus avoiding a return to lockdown. Test and Protect, Scotland's approach to implementing the '[test, trace, isolate, support](#)' strategy is a public health measure designed to break chains of transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community. <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

It is a mandatory requirement that bowling clubs collect the name, contact number, date of visit, time of arrival, and where possible the departure time of all those attending facilities or activities. This information should be stored for 21 days and should be shared with Public Health Officers if requested.

A leaflet providing information on the Test and Protect service from NHS Scotland is available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect-coronavirus-service/>



20. Should players download the Test and Protect App?

Bowls Scotland are encouraging all our clubs and members to download the Scottish Governments new Test & Protect App. This will help keep your friends, family and fellow bowlers safe. For more information or to download the App: <https://protect.scot>

21. Can external organisations access the club for activities?

Yes, but as facility operator it is the responsibility of the club to ensure any external organisation follows all guidance in place for accessing indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities. This includes providing contact details for Test and Protect and adhering to good hygiene, household rules and physical distancing.

Clubs should risk assess before hosting any external organisations and ensure the organisation/group is aware of their responsibilities.

We recommend the club have access to the external organisations risk assessment and main contact details.

More information can be found here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on the opening of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities.](#)

21 How do clubs contact members about playing including those who do not have online access and organise playing time?

Clubs should use the appropriate method of communication for their members, whether this is via social media, club website, email or by phoning members. Whatever the method of communication, a booking system and log should be implemented to ensure a log of attendance at the green is in place. This will support contact tracing, if required. A booking template is available on the Bowls Scotland website

22. How often should mats and jacks be cleaned?

Cleaning products must be made available by the club. Players must use the cleaning products after each game to cleanse all mats and jacks (ensure these are completely dry of disinfectant before use on the green again).

Mats and jacks should be cleaned additionally at the end of the day and before the start of sessions the following morning

23. Are there an any insurance implications with opening?

Clubs should check with their insurance provider and put any additional measures in place as per their insurance company's recommendation (for example player disclaimers).

24. Should we monitor player compliance at the green?

Clubs need to do what works for them and their environment. This might be having a club volunteer oversee sessions or a trust policy in place and encouraging members to be vigilant and take responsibility



25. Can clubs allow people to watch play on the green?

*Bowling clubs can allow access for people to watch bowling on their greens **ONLY** if:*

- *Physical distancing can be maintained for example:*
 - *No more than two to a bench*
 - *Benches must be at least two meters apart*
- *Good hygiene is maintained for example:*
 - *Benches are cleaned after every use*
- *Clubs can accommodate the additional numbers and ensure physical distancing remains (including standing and seated spectators)*
- *Clubs can ensure spectators will adhere to the all other Bowls Scotland and club guidance Spectators under the age of 16 should be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times*

26. Can we share our ideas on social media?

Yes - Clubs are encouraged to think creatively about how best to make their sport or activity possible within the guidelines, and we would love to hear from you

27. What if club members do not comply with the rules?

We expect all club members to comply with club rules and Scottish Government guidance. If a member is not deemed to have followed club rules, it is up to individual clubs to take the necessary action.

28. What is the recommended gap between sessions to allow a safe change over?

Clubs should allocate a minimum of 30 minutes between 'booking slots' to minimise the number of players arriving and leaving at any one time and allow for any shared equipment to be sanitised by those finishing play and for those arriving prior to commencing their session

29. How do we hold a committee meeting to discuss this and other matters?

We recommend clubs continue to host meetings online, by phone or email. Bowls Scotland has advice on online platforms, please contact your National Development Officer for more information.

Club meetings can take place within the clubhouse dining/bar area only if Scottish Government hospitality guidance, physical distancing, household rules and good hygiene are maintained.

30. The committee do not want to open the club, however members still want to play?

It is entirely up to club if they open or not, there is no urgency to return to the green. We understand that members might want to get back to bowling as soon as possible so we would ask clubs to keep communicating with their members and encourage them to be patient and understand your decision not to open. In time when restrictions are lifted, this may make it easier for both clubs and players to get back on the green



31. Our club has only one entry and exit how can we structure how people access/leave the green?

Clubs should look at the template on Green Layout which outlines additional support in this area. Clubs should consider how to support any player with mobility issues

32. Can benches and bins be used around the green?

*Benches are permitted for the following reasons **ONLY**:*

- *Players changing shoes*
- *Players preparing or finishing play*
- *Spectators*
- *As part of offering an outdoor bar service*

Benches should only be used if good hygiene and physical distancing can be maintained.

Bins may be provided but should be regularly checked, cleaned/sanitised, emptied and disposed of using appropriate personal protective equipment.

33. Will first aid cover be available at the club?

Clubs should risk assess if First Aid is to be provided and is accessible within the club house (this include updating the first aid equipment for COVID-19 and First Aiders have undertaken appropriate additional training).

Access to indoor First Aid facilities by players should be limited (for example a club volunteer/staff where possible should administer First Aid outside).

Clubs should ensure they have players emergency contact details and inform them of how First Aid is accessed.

<https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/covid-19-advice-for-first-aiders>

34. Can we use our locker rooms?

Yes. From 31st August access to locker rooms/changing rooms and storage areas is permitted for the dropping off and collection of bowling equipment.

Showering facilities should be avoided where possible, however they may be made available for participants with disabilities or additional needs

Bowling clubs should ensure participants and visitors wear face coverings in non-playing areas of the facility e.g. locker rooms and storage areas. This is a mandatory requirement.

*Additional information is available in **Number 17 FAQ***

35. Are we allowed to have potential new members play?

It is entirely up to clubs. It is quite feasible that there may be non-members from your local community that wish to use bowls as part of their daily/weekly exercise. If new members want to participate then this may be an opportunity to introduce them to bowls as long as guidelines are followed



36. What other checks should we do prior to opening?

Please see the general guidance for bowling activity on our website which includes templates and additional information

37. I am a coach and need my PVG, how do I do this?

We are currently working through processing PVG forms and Secondary Organisation Contracts submitted before or during COVID-19 lockdown

The PVG application process has resumed with online forms the norm. We will no longer accept paper forms.

If any member has any wellbeing concerns, please contact your clubs Wellbeing and Protection Officer or contact: safeguarding@bowlsscotland.com

38. If we have any questions about opening, who do we contact?

Firstly, please ensure you have read all the guidance and FAQs as these might be able to answer any questions you may have. However, if you still require assistance, please contact our National Development Officers can support with any additional questions you may have:

- *Districts 1-10: Stuart Bell - 07525 134385 or stuartbell@bowlsscotland.com*
- *Districts 11-24: Daniel Baker - 07821 118774 or danielbaker@bowlsscotland.com*
- *Districts 25-32: Lawra Cox - 07715 025736 or lawracox@bowlsscotland.com*