



Bowls Scotland Carpet Bowls and Short Mat Recommendations for Play

This document has been developed to support Bowls Scotland affiliated clubs in delivering Carpet Bowls and/or Short Mat within their club house facility. This document should be read in conjunction with current Bowls Scotland Return to the Green COVID-19 Guidance 2021 and Scottish Government advice and guidance.

Bowling Activity

- A 'bowling bubble' can be created whilst play is taking place, in effect suspending Scottish Government household number guidelines for the duration of the activity. Good hygiene measures should be followed and where possible, physical distancing should still be maintained
- Singles & Pairs ONLY should play in line with the above 'bowling bubble', exceeding no more than 4 per carpet
- Normal household guidelines MUST be adhered to before and after play
- The maximum number permitted in one 'bowling bubble' session is 16 (for example 4 players x 4 carpets)
- Players should only play in one 'bowling bubble' per day
- No external competition matches, or club friendlies should take place
- A player with a disability that requires functional support to enable their participation can be provided without maintaining physical distancing.

Before, During and After Play

- Players should always adhere to the bowling activity guidance outlined above
- Players should wear a face covering whilst playing
- When changing ends clubs should consider a one-way system
- Setting of the mat and jack:
 - At the start of the session one player will be nominated to set and collect the mat. One player will be nominated to always set the jack (this will always be the same player but will be instructed by the winning side to its position)
- Resetting the block
 - One player should be nominated to reset the block, no matter who hits it
- Removing dead bowls
 - Players are responsible for the lifting of their own dead bowls
- Touchers/Measuring:
 - One player will be nominated to measure, the nominated person should not touch any bowls
 - Touchers will only be marked with spray chalk

Setting up Equipment:

- Equipment should be set out and put away by a maximum of three nominated individuals per session
- An adequate ventilated space should be used to ensure physical distancing can be maintained eg. if a club wishes to play more than one mat, there must be at least 2m between each mat.
- Players should avoid sharing equipment eg. Bowls, measures, cloths etc
- Where sharing of equipment is unavoidable, equipment should be sanitised before and after every session. Any member that touches shared equipment should maintain good hygiene throughout the session
- All other equipment should not be used eg. Scoreboards

General Club Guidance

- 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 a bowling club.
- It is the responsibility of each club and coach to ensure documented risk assessments are completed prior to any activity taking place. Consider safety first, particularly focusing on minimising the risk of infection/transmission. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are always protected.
- Clubs should nominate a designated person responsible for completing documented risk assessments and ensuring all appropriate mitigations are put in place by the bowling club before any indoor bowling activity can resume. This person should also ensure all members and volunteers are aware of and understand their responsibilities under the guidance and any related public health guidance. This will include strict hygiene measures and the ability to contact trace participants.
- COVID Officer E-Learning Training is available free of charge and can be accessed by visiting <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/support-for-clubs-and-community-sport-organisations/preparing-your-organisation-as-coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-ease/>
- For guidance on club house facilities, including safe hygiene practices, please read the Bowls Scotland Return to the Green COVID-19 Guidance 2021 and **sportscotland's** Getting Facilities Fit for Sport <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport/>
- Face coverings are now mandatory for indoor hospitality. This means you must wear a mask when entering, leaving, or moving round the clubhouse.
- Bookings should be taken in advance for short mat / carpet bowls sessions, where possible, to comply with Test & Protect and restrict numbers playing at any one time
- Clubs should ensure players register for the Test & Protect App: <https://protect.scot/>
- Clubs should provide clear guidance on when sessions are available and what is expected for players attending sessions. i.e. physical distancing, good hygiene measures etc.
- Locker rooms should only be used to collect bowls equipment and shoes
- If your club uses external facilities (such as a village hall/community centre) to organise activities, the club should also ensure indoor leisure facilities guidance is followed. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-sport-and-leisure-facilities/>
- First Aid:
 - 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)
 - 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>

Our National Development Officers are here to help:

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

General FAQ enquiries should be directed to: info@bowlsscotland.com

More information on Short Mat can be found here: <https://scottishsmbf.wixsite.com/home>