

Bowls Scotland Return to the Green COVID-19 Guidance 2021

FAQS

1. What is a bowling bubble?

A bowling bubble refers to a 'field of play bubble' or group of people which includes players, coaches, officials, and other support staff. There are maximum numbers permitted in bowling bubbles and these are outlined in our guidance.

2. How many bubbles can players be part of in one day?

In protection levels 0 -2, and where there is no cross over of play, players can be part of multiple bubbles per day. Clubs should risk assess this prior to informing players and must ensure all guidance is adhered to. If the club decides to allow this, then it is a player's individual choice and responsibility to be part of the multiple bubbles per day and a common-sense approach should be taken.

An example of this - Where members have attended the club and played on an individual rink, they will then be able to attend the club, or another club, for another session that day

In competitions played over one day, players can ONLY be part of one bubble per day.

Markers, umpires, and spectators are not included in Bowling bubble numbers in Level 0-2.

3. Our club is planning on having an internal Saturday round robin competition how do bubble numbers affect delivery of the competition?

If a member plays in a round robin competition, they can only be part of one bubble that day.

For example, at level 2, if you have up to 50 players then the round robin competition can be completed to a conclusion on that day.

For a round robin competition that exceeds the individual maximum bubble limit, then these bubbles can not cross over play during the day.

4. Is the club able to have an additional bowling bubble in protection level 3?

Yes – so long as these bubbles do not cross at any time on the field of play, over the course of the day.

5. Do players need to wear a face covering on the green while playing?

There is no requirement to wear a face covering playing our sport. If an individual wishes to wear a face covering, then this is their personal choice. Face coverings should be worn in the club house.

6. What type of booking system should we use?

Clubs should have a booking system in place that best suits their members. Our recommendation is that this is done via phone/text/email or online. Clubs should risk assess this and consider mitigation actions in it required to put in place that best suits the club.

Some other clubs are using online bookings system e.g., Skedda or Jotform

7. What information do we need from people attending the club for booking systems?

As part of Track & Trace, then there is a minimum amount information needed for all people at the club (Spectators, players & hospitality):

Name

Email/Phone Number

Time at the club

8. How long do booking sessions need to last?

This is a decision for the club. Sessions should be put in place where it is manageable for the club and accommodates its members. Good practice is to have a short time in between sessions to limit the crossover of people coming off as others are arriving to play.

9. Is it just the COVID Officer who is responsible for COVID safety measures at the club?

As part of the return to sport, clubs need a named COVID Officer. However, it is everyone's responsibility in the club to ensure players, coaches, volunteers, and visitors follow the measures in place and adhere to guidance to ensure a safe return to the club for all members.

10. Is it possible for Bowls Scotland to supply generic risk assessments that each club could modify to suit their own club?

Yes, blank risk assessment templates are available and there is more information on [sportscotland's website](#) on getting your facility ready for sport.

11. Who should a club contact with enquiries relating to hospitality?

Enquiries relating to hospitality should be directed to the clubs local authority who will be able to provide you with the most accurate and relevant information

12. What measures do clubs need to take to check water systems for Legionella?

If clubs have not been able to do regular checks on water systems, the water quality will need tested by a person qualified to check for Legionella and other contaminants prior to reopening.

When recommissioning water systems after a prolonged period of closure clubs should ensure:

- *The water systems are thoroughly flushed, cleaned, disinfected and, if a large complex building, storage tanks treated according to specialist advice before the building is opened.*
- *Cleanse and test for Legionella at least 7 days prior to reopening to ensure results are returned to confirm that the system is clean.*
- *All shower heads should be cleaned and de-scaled prior to use.*
- *All drains should be checked and unblocked, and any damaged drain covers should be repaired/ replaced.*

For further information see [HSE guidance on Legionella risks](#)

13. Do clubs need to review the ventilation in club facilities?

Evidence continues to suggest that, in poorly ventilated indoor spaces, airborne aerosols are a possible transmission route. Therefore, ventilation is an important part of mitigating against the transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Ventilation into the building should be optimised to ensure a fresh air supply is provided to all areas of the facility and increased wherever possible. Particular attention should be given to areas where high-intensity exercise activity takes place.

Clubs should ensure any existing ventilation systems are checked by an appropriately qualified professional and / or maintenance firm to confirm that they are fully functioning in accordance with current recommended guidelines.

The maximum capacity of the building may have to be limited to maintain an acceptable ventilation flow for people in the building.

Further information is provided in the [CIBSE \(COVID-19\) Ventilation guidance](#)

For specific information relating to different facility types please also refer to [Getting your facilities fit for sport – operational guidelines](#)

14. There was guidance last year around smoking, what is it for this year?

We would still encourage all members not to smoke/vape/electronic cigarettes on or around the green.

15. Can external groups with disabilities and their carers return and use the green?

Of course, but clubs should discuss this with the individuals and their support staff to ensure any adjustments and assistance are put in place. This will also form part of the club's risk assessment. Clubs can also reference Scottish Disability Sport COVID guidelines.

<https://www.scottishdisabilitysport.com/resources/>

16. What will be the process for clubs who do not comply with the guidance?

There is a process in place for clubs who do not comply with the guidance. Quite often this is clubs needing a bit more support to fully understand the guidance and our National Development Officers (NDOs) are here to help. We would encourage club COVID Officers to attend COVID Officer sessions delivered by our NDOs.

If a club deliberately goes against the Bowls Scotland COVID guidance, further action will be taken depending on the severity of the non-compliance. We would hope that all our clubs take the health and wellbeing of their members seriously and will work in partnership with Bowls Scotland to ensure a safe return to the green.

Our National Development Officers are here to help if you have any other questions:

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

Please see the [Bowls Scotland website](#) for most up to date guidance on Return to the Green.