



Bowls Scotland

Return to the Green COVID-19 Guidance 2021

Version 9: 9 August 2021

INTRODUCTION

Bowls Scotland continues to fully support and follow the Scottish Government guidelines relating to COVID-19, including ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all members of Bowls Scotland. Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland, **sportscotland** and our members, we have produced guidance for clubs in line with Scottish Government guidance on sport and physical activity. This guidance is not a 'one size fits all' approach as we appreciate bowling facilities vary across Scotland and as such individual bowling clubs should risk assess appropriately to ensure these procedures can be implemented.

The First Minister provided a Covid-19 update on 22 June 2021 and confirmed publication of an updated [Strategic Framework \(June 2021\)](#) and that a [Review of Physical Distancing](#) has been completed following the accelerated rollout of the vaccination programme.

A further update was provided on 3 August 2021 confirming that all of Scotland will move 'Beyond Level 0' on the 9th of August 2021.

Although restrictions are being eased it was also confirmed that Scottish Government will retain the option of putting in place local measures and travel restrictions to manage any future virus outbreaks.

A summary of changes relating to 'Beyond Level 0' is available in Appendix 2. This guidance will be subject to review should the Scottish Government issue further advice and updates. We would encourage you to read through all the guidance and supporting information thoroughly.

Please continue to err on the side of caution; clubs should not open unless all the necessary measures to ensure the safety of players and volunteers can be implemented. People who are symptomatic, including close contacts, should self-isolate for 10 days as per NHS Scotland guidance.

From the 9th of August 2021 close contacts 18 years of age or over who have been double vaccinated for more than 14 days or 5 to 17-year-olds, with no symptoms, will be able to take a PCR test and end self-isolation if the result is negative. No one who is self-isolating should attend the bowling club.

Clubs and players/members should be aware of their local area protection level and associated restrictions which may be in place and should consider this as part of risk assessment planning. Further information on protection levels that will apply in each local authority area are available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): allocation of protection levels to local authorities](#). A local post code checker is also available at [COVID restrictions by protection level in areas of Scotland](#).

All clubs are required to have Test & Protect procedures in place and appoint a COVID Officer to ensure the safe and managed return of lawn bowls in 2021.

Our message remains clear that public health and wellbeing remains the most pressing priority and we all have a responsibility to do what we can to continue to suppress the spread of the virus. Any club found in breach of the guidance may be deemed as bringing the game into disrepute and be subject to Bowls Scotland disciplinary action.

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DEFINITIONS – FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE

1. **Bowling Activity** refers to bowling activities which are undertaken in a structured and managed way following specific rules and regulations outlined in Bowls Scotland Return to the Green guidance. All organised activity should have documented risk assessments completed by a COVID Officer and mitigating actions put in place to ensure the health, safety and welfare of players, volunteers, and coaches.
2. **Non-contact sport or activity** is defined as “a sport or activity in which the participants are physically separated by playing rules such as to make it difficult for them to make physical contact during an activity”. Lawn Bowls is considered by **sportscotland** as a Non-contact sport.
3. **Sports competition is defined as** “any amateur participation sport, contest or race involving individual participants or teams who regularly compete against opponents as part of an organised SGB, league, local authority or club activity.” In terms of bowling, this would be competitions organised by local county or national associations i.e. leagues, knockouts, top ten, hat nights etc.
4. **Sports event is defined as** “an organised gathering or activity of limited duration that brings people together for the primary purpose of participating in the one-off sporting activity such as a marathon, triathlon etc.” In terms of bowling this would be Try Bowls, come and try sessions, open competitions, multiple day events or weeklong events.
5. **Bowling Bubble** refers to an outdoor sporting ‘field of play bubble’ that can consist of a maximum amount of people depending on the COVID protection level. At level 3 and 4 this includes coaches, officials, and other support staff.
6. **Levels** refers to COVID protection levels (sometimes known as tiers or tier system) set out measures that can be applied nationally or locally depending on the prevalence of the virus across Scotland. Each area has a COVID protection level with levels reviewed on a regular basis.

RETURN TO THE GREEN GUIDANCE SECTION 1: FACILITIES

PLANNING & PREPARATION

1. It is the responsibility of each club to appoint a responsible person/s, referred to as the COVID Officer, to act as the point of contact on all things related to COVID-19. A COVID Officer role descriptor can be found here: <https://www.bowlsscotland.com/clubs/club-support-covid-19>

An [e-learning module for COVID officers](#) is available to support those undertaking the role.
2. The COVID officer/s **MUST** ensure that full risk assessments, processes and mitigating actions are in place before any clubhouse or bowling activity takes place. Specific consideration should be given to the needs of those who are at greater risk.
3. As with any normal season, clubs should ensure check they have the correct and full insurance cover is in place and valid before any activity takes place.
4. Clubs should check with their landlord that they have permission to re-open.

5. Clubs should only re-open when it is safe to do so, in accordance with Scottish Government and Bowls Scotland guidance.
6. When a local area is operating 'Beyond Level 0' it is recommended that 'Give people space' messaging should be promoted.
7. No face-to-face meetings permitted in Level 3 and 4. Face to face club meetings are permitted from Beyond Level 0-2 where clubs have the appropriate risk assessments in place.
8. Clubs must ensure that all players, volunteers, and visitors are aware of the requirement to adhere to Scottish Government and Bowls Scotland guidance prior to any bowling activity being undertaken and reserve the right to intervene where there are any clear and visible breaches of this guidance by participants.
9. Where a player with a disability requires functional support to help them participate coaches, carers or those supporting the participant can provide this without maintaining physical distancing. In such circumstance the responsible 'COVID Officer' should consider appropriate mitigating actions as part of the risk assessment. For instance, providing appropriate PPE, limiting the number of participants an individual provides functional support to, limiting the duration spent in proximity, or a combination of actions.
10. To protect club employees, relevant work placed risk assessments and consultation should take place in advance of any activity being undertaken. See the Businesses, workplaces, and self-employed people section at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#).

TOILETS AND CHANGING FACILITIES / LOCKER ROOMS

11. Information on access to toilets, changing facilities and locker rooms are outlined in the [Bowls Scotland Activity Overview Summary Document](#).
12. Where changing rooms and showering facilities are to be used specific guidance relating to use of 'Changing and Showers' is available at [Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport](#).
13. Information on toilet access can be found here [Opening Public Toilets Guidelines](#).

EQUIPMENT PROVISION AND USE

14. For use of any equipment, clubs should risk assess and have appropriate cleaning measures in place to reduce the risk of contamination.
15. At levels 3 and 4, clubs should remove equipment that is not essential for all bowling activity. For example, 2m Sticks, Score Boards, Chalk, etc. Pushers/bowls collectors should only be used where there is a required medical need/support.
16. Benches are permitted for the following reasons ONLY:
 - Players changing shoes.
 - Players preparing or finishing play.
 - Spectators (spectating guidance in this document MUST be followed)

17. Bins may be provided but should be regularly checked, cleaned/sanitised, emptied and disposed of using appropriate personal protective equipment. Bins should be removed at Level 4.
18. Cleaning products (soapy water) 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 before use on the green again).
19. Where shared equipment is necessary for an activity, appropriate hygiene measures must be put in place before, during and after use.
20. Players **should not**:
 - Pick up any other player's bowl.
 - Share equipment e.g., cloths, measures, etc.
 - Moisten their hands with saliva before delivery.
21. Players are encouraged to 'give people space' and should continue to avoid shaking hands and high-fives.

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT

22. Clubs should organise a system for booking and allocation of rink times that ensures the safety of players.
23. Where possible use online or contactless payment options and avoid handling cash.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

24. Clubs should communicate clearly and regularly with members setting out what they are doing to manage risk, and what advice they are giving to individuals before, during and after visits to the bowling club.
25. Clubs should make members aware in advance of measures they are putting in place at the venue, and guidelines they are asked to follow.
26. Clubs should communicate clearly opening times and how members can safely access the club, if relevant, for example through a booking system.
27. Clubs should ensure signage on guidelines for participating safely and promoting hygiene measures are clearly displayed, up to date and in accessible formats.
28. Clubs should consider how to reach people when publishing information and how this can be accessible to all.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND HYGIENE

29. As restrictions are eased, the emphasis will continue to be on personal responsibility, good practice, and informed judgement. The latest information on Coronavirus in Scotland can be accessed on the Scottish Government website. Clubs and members should however continue to:
 - maintain and promote good ventilation. Further information is available at [Scottish Government Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): ventilation guidance](#)

- wear face coverings in indoor sport and leisure facilities when not taking part in physical activity.
 - use good hand and respiratory hygiene and surface cleaning
 - stay at home and book a test if you develop coronavirus symptoms
 - apply and adhere to 'give people space' messaging
30. Clubs should ensure that first aid equipment has been updated appropriately for the COVID-19 pandemic and first aiders have appropriate training. All first aid equipment should be accessible.
31. In the event of first aid treatment being required it is recognised that a suitably qualified person, coach, or supervising adult may require to attend to the injured participant. The 'COVID Officer' should consider processes for managing this as part of their risk assessment. This could include but not be limited to:
- Provision of suitable PPE
 - Training of coaches/supervising adults
 - A parent or carer being present with children or vulnerable adults.
32. Cleaning of equipment, hand and respiratory hygiene are core measures to be implemented and provision should be made for these.
33. Clear guidance and plans are needed for cleaning of facilities and equipment, and waste disposal. For instance, common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles etc) should where possible be left open but if not possible, regular cleaning with disposable gloves should be undertaken.
34. Make hand sanitizers or wipes available for use in all relevant areas. 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.
35. Be aware that some people may face greater challenges implementing regular handwashing because of additional support needs. Some people may need to use touch to help them get information from their environment and physical support. It is important they are not prevented from doing this, but operators should be aware that this increases the likelihood of virus transmission.
36. [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) provides a checklist for health, hygiene and cleaning considerations and actions.

FACE COVERINGS

37. Clubs should ensure players and visitors wear face coverings when entering, exiting and moving around inside the club house facility. This is **mandatory** except where an exemption applies e.g., if you have a health condition or are disabled, including hidden disabilities such as autism, dementia, or a learning disability. The [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): public use of face coverings](#) provides guidance on general use and exemptions.
38. Be aware that face coverings discriminate against some deaf people who need to look at lips to help communicate. Clubs should make coaches and volunteers aware that it is okay to remove their face coverings to communicate with someone who relies on lip reading and facial expressions. Physical distancing must always be maintained.
39. Face coverings may not be required when using hospitality services, for example when sitting for a meal or bar service. However, face coverings must be worn when moving

around the club house. For further information refer to Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance](#).

40. Face coverings must be worn by coaches when delivering any indoor coaching activity.

TEST AND PROTECT

41. [Test and Protect](#) is Scotland's way of putting into practice NHS Scotland's test, trace, isolate and support strategy. Containing outbreaks early is crucial to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect the NHS and save lives, and avoid the reintroduction of social and economic lockdown. This will support the country to return to, and maintain, a more normal way of life.
42. Changes come into force in Scotland from 9 August 2021 for close contacts of those testing positive for Covid-19. Those with symptoms or testing positive will still be required to self-isolate. Close contacts aged 18 years or older who have been double vaccinated more than 14 days prior and with no symptoms will be able to get a PCR test and end self-isolation if the result is negative.
- Those aged 5-17 years of age will also be able to take a PCR test and end self-isolation (without being double vaccinated) if the test result is negative.
 - This approach will be encouraged but not required for children under 5 years.
43. Maintaining customer records:
- Clubs should collect the name, contact number, date of visit, time of arrival, and the departure time of all those attending club facilities or activities. See [Test & Protect Collection of Customer & Visitor contact details: guidance – April 2021 Update](#).
 - Clubs should store information for 21 days and share it when requested to do so by public health officers.
 - The [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Test and Protect information leaflet provides information on the Test and Protect service from NHS Scotland](#).
44. Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office
- To gather and store customer information securely, clubs may need to be registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This will be the case if you are using an electronic system to gather and store data.
 - If you are unsure whether you need to register, please contact the ICO via their helpline on 0303 123 1113 or visit www.ico.org.uk.
45. Protect Scotland App
- NHS Scotland has launched a free mobile app designed to help with contact tracing efforts and slow the spread of COVID-19. The app will alert users if they have been in close contact with another app user who tests positive for coronavirus.
 - Supported by a dedicated Protect Scotland website, the app is an extra tool complementing existing person-to-person contact tracing which remains the main component of NHS Scotland's Test and Protect system.
 - Further information on the Protect Scotland app is available at www.protect.scot.
46. What should someone do if they have coronavirus symptoms?
- If a person has a continuous cough, high temperature, or loss or change in taste or smell, they should self-isolate and request a coronavirus test right

away. Further information is available at www.NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect or by calling **0800 028 2816** if they cannot get online.

- The [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Test and Protect information leaflet](#) provides information on the Test and Protect service from NHS Scotland.
- Bowls Scotland has created a flow chart for clubs if someone test positive at the club: <https://www.bowlsscotland.com/media/2269/2020-10-19-positive-test-process.pdf>.

LOCAL OUTBREAKS OR CLUSTERS OF COVID CASES

47. Where a local outbreak has been reported, bowling clubs within the locality should review Scottish Government local protection measures guidance, as well as their risk assessment and consider if additional mitigating actions should be put in place to reduce risk. This may, for example, include suspending activity, enhancing hygiene and physical distancing measures, or introducing additional activity restrictions.

RETURN TO THE GREEN GUIDANCE SECTION 2: BOWLING ACTIVITY

TRAVEL GUIDANCE

1. Travel guidance outlined by the Scottish Government should always be followed. Further information on what travel is permitted is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on travel and transport](#).
2. Information for each local government area, including their level is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local protection levels](#) including a post code checker.
3. Specific information on car sharing is available from [Transport Scotland: advice on how to travel safely](#).
4. A travel summary is provided in the accompanying [Bowls Scotland Overview Summary Document](#)

Children & Young People (17 years or under)

5. Participants aged 17 years or under can travel to and from ALL areas to take part in organised bowling activity, training, and competition. However, they should travel no further than they need to.

Adults (18 years or over)

6. Players aged 18 years or over can travel to and from Level 0, 1 and 2 area to take part in organised bowling activity, training, and competition. They should not travel to a Level 3 or 4 area.
7. Adults living in a Level 3 or 4 area should only travel locally (within their local government area) to take part in organised bowling activity and training.
8. Adults living in a Level 4 area should only travel locally (within their own local authority area) to take part in organised bowling activity.

ON THE GREEN PLAY

9. It is the responsibility of each club to appoint a responsible person/s, referred to as the COVID Officer, to act as the point of contact on all things related to COVID-19 and have documented risk assessments in place and appropriate measures to ensure the safety of players, coaches, and volunteers and where activity is undertaken in line with guidance for the appropriate protection level. Please also refer to guidance produced by **sportscotland** at: [Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport](#).
10. Information on bowling activity permitted by protection level and age group is available in the [Bowls Scotland Activity Overview Summary Document](#).
11. Information outlining bowling activity in Level 4 is available in [Appendix 1](#).
12. Outlined below is the maximum number of people permitted (inclusive of players/coaches/officials and other support staff at protection levels 3 and 4) in a 'Bowling Bubble' for bowling activity.
 - Beyond Level 0: No bowling bubble restrictions
 - Level 0: Bowling bubble can consist of a maximum of 500 people.
 - Level 1: Bowling bubble can consist of a maximum of 100 people
 - Level 2: Bowling bubble can consist of a maximum of 50 people.
 - Level 3: Bowling bubble can consist of a maximum of 30 people.
 - Level 4: Bowling bubble can consist of a maximum of 15 people.
13. Level 0-3: An additional bowling bubble is permitted per club only if a comprehensive risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure that these bubbles do not mix at any time including before, during or after an activity. Once an individual has completed their activity, they should immediately vacate the 'field of play' and are then subject to household rules.
14. Where a player requires the support of a carer to undertake bowling activity safely, the carer will not be counted in the bubble total. In such circumstances the COVID Officer should risk assess and where required take additional precautions to minimise risk. For instance, the carers may wear, if appropriate, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks during the activity
15. Clubs should risk assess all bowling activity alongside clubhouse capacity numbers in line with hospitality guidance.
16. Clubs should note that the situation around COVID-19 is fluid and activities may need to be cancelled at short notice should there be a change in local or national restrictions. In such circumstance's plans should be in place to notify participants of event cancellation to ensure they do not attend the venue.

COMPETITIONS

General (For all Competition):

17. Clubs must risk assess each individual competition to determine whether they can host an internal/open/friendly competition in line with bowling activity guidance for each level.
18. The appointed COVID Officer should ensure that all appropriate measures have been taken to allow the competition to take place.

19. Clubs must maintain a register/booking system for everyone attending the club to comply with Test and Protect.
20. Competition organisers may consider where appropriate different formats of competition or staggered starts to safely allow the competition to take place.
21. Clubs should have the appropriate risk assessments in place for any presentation ceremonies.
22. Competitions should involve as few participants as possible, for the minimum amount of time, whilst still allowing the competition to run effectively.
23. Scottish Government household rules apply to all participants off the green.
24. Competitions may need to be cancelled at short notice should there be a change in local or national restrictions. In such circumstance's plans should be in place to notify participants of event cancellation and to ensure they do not attend the venue.
25. All open competitions must have a Tournament License approved prior to the competition taking place. To complete a Tournament License Application, please visit: <https://www.bowlsscotland.com/competitions/tournament-licenses>
26. Further information is available on the **sportscotland** website here: [Return to Competition & Events: sport events.](#)

SPECTATING

27. Clubs should ensure the appropriate risk assessments are in place for spectating.
28. Spectators **MUST** adhere to all other guidance set out by Bowls Scotland and the club.
29. Spectators under the age of 16 should always be accompanied by a parent/carer.
30. Clubs should organise a system for spectating to comply with Test and Protect.

COACHING

31. Coaching sessions can take place **ONLY** if the club has a COVID Officer in place, responsible for the following:
 - a. Planning and preparing coaching sessions to ensure compliance of Scottish Government and Bowls Scotland Guidance.
 - b. Carry out risk assessments in partnership with the coach/coaches.
 - c. Arranging for coaching equipment to be available prior to the coaching session (with support from the coach/coaches).
 - d. Working with the coach/coaches to ensure participants adhere to player guidance both on and off the green.
 - e. Ensuring an accurate register of attendance is taken.
32. All coaches must be PVG checked to deliver coaching sessions.
33. All coaching sessions must follow the bowling bubble numbers at each protection level.

34. Coach to Player ratio of 1:8 should be always adhered to.
35. Coaches should attempt to keep physically distanced where possible. However, where close contact with a player is required, then face coverings should be worn by both player and coach.
36. Coaches to ensure players maintain good hygiene before, during and after the coaching session.
37. Coaches and players to ensure any equipment is cleaned/wiped down before and after coaching sessions.
38. Players should avoid sharing equipment wherever possible e.g., Bowls, measures, cloths etc.
39. Under 17s are not required to physically distance while participating, however prior to and directly after bowling activity, physical distancing should be adhered to.
40. Coaches working with children should familiarise themselves with the additional considerations developed by **Children 1st**: [Child Wellbeing and Protection Considerations](#).
41. Coaching sessions should ensure they adhere to local tiered restriction levels.
42. Further support and resources are available here: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-coaches-ready-for-sport/>
43. Guidance for Players & Parents/Carers:
 - a. Parents/carers should be encouraged to spectate during sessions and must maintain physical distancing. This applies before, during and after the session.
 - b. Parents/Carers who are accompanying their children must abide by Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance.
 - c. Parents/Carers to talk to their child about returning to coaching sessions to help them understand the measures that have been taken to keep them safe.
 - d. Parents/Carers to remind their child it is important they focus on having fun and being back on the green with their friends.
 - e. Parents/Carers to encourage their child to wash their hands thoroughly before and after coaching sessions.
 - f. Parents/Carers to ensure their child brings their own water bottle and does not share with anyone else.
 - g. Parents/Carers to be available to support their child if this is required during a coaching session.
 - h. Immediately after the coaching session, parents/carers, and children to leave as promptly as possible and not congregate, while following physical distancing guidelines.
 - i. It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure both parent and child adhere to club rules as well as Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance.

INDOOR CLUB HOUSE ACTIVITIES

44. Bowling clubs may want to offer club house activities. Clubs should refer to the [Bowls Scotland Activity Overview Summary Document](#) for more information.

45. Bowling clubs should refer to the Bowls Scotland Carpet Bowls and Short Mat Recommendations for Play.

46. For Bingo, clubs should continue to follow Scottish Government hospitality guidance.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND TEMPLATES

Additional resources can be found here: <https://www.bowlsscotland.com/clubs/club-support-covid-19>

- Bowls Scotland Activity Overview Summary Document
- Players and Coaches Safety Guidance Poster
- COVID Safety Poster Pack
- Bowls Scotland Carpet Bowls and Short Mat Recommendations for Play
- COVID Officer Role Descriptor
- Sport Turf Services Information
- Green Maintenance Update
- Template Rink Layout
- Template Booking Schedule
- Eurostick Products (PPE / Sanitising)
- What do to if a member gets COVID-19 Flow Chart
- Hosting AGMs and Committee Meetings

Our National Development Officers are here to help:

Districts 1-10: Stuart Bell 07525 134385 / stuartbell@bowlsscotland.com

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APPENDIX 1: LEVEL 4 GUIDANCE

Introduction

1. The guidance within this appendix is applicable to bowling club facilities where Scottish Government have identified the requirement for **Level 4** restrictions to be applied.
2. This guidance is not applicable to professional or performance sports activity which is approved through the 'Resumption of Performance Sport' process by Scottish Government or **sportscotland**.
3. The information outlined below should be used in conjunction with, and where appropriate supersede, the Bowls Scotland Return to the Green COVID-19 Guidance.
4. It is the responsibility of the clubs COVID officer to ensure that full risk assessments, processes and mitigating actions are in place before any bowling activity takes place and to check if the activity is in an area which is subject to additional Scottish Government localised measures and restrictions.
5. Where a local outbreak has been reported, clubs should review their risk assessment and consider if additional mitigating actions should be put in place to reduce risk. This may, for example, include suspending activity, enhancing hygiene and physical distancing measures, or introducing additional activity restrictions.
6. Be aware that the Scottish Government may update or change Levels and restrictions at any time, including the local areas subject to them. Therefore, COVID officers should regularly check Scottish Government advice and guidance relating to local outbreaks and measures at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Local Protection Levels](#).

Travel Restrictions in Level 4 areas

7. Children and young people may travel to and from a Level 4 area, if for example, they belong to a club which is outside their own local government area.
 - 7.1 This flexibility is to allow children and young people to take part in sport or organised activity, but they should travel no further than they need to.
 - 7.2 If attending a sport/activity in a Level 3 area or below, Level 4 guidance will apply to the whole activity e.g. 12 to 17-year-old outdoor activity should be restricted to non-contact and include a maximum of 15 participants.
8. Adults living in a level 4 local authority area may travel to and from a Level 4 area if for example they belong to a bowling club which is just outside their own local authority area. They should however travel no further than necessary.
9. When taking part in sport, exercise or recreation participants should at all times follow [Scottish Government guidance](#)

Bowling Activity

10. Clubs in Level 4 areas may continue to open their greens and facilities if documented risk assessments are undertaken and all appropriate mitigating actions including the

guidance herein is put in place to ensure the safety of participants, staff, and volunteers. Please also refer to additional guidance produced by **sportscotland** at: [Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport](#).

11. An outdoor 'bowling bubble' for can consist of up to 15 people, including coaches, at any one time. This applies to both adult and youth bowling activity. Physical distancing should always be maintained.

Club House Facilities

12. Indoor sport and leisure facilities including club houses, changing rooms and activity areas should remain closed at Level 4. Exemptions are available as noted below.

13. Public Toilets

- 13.1 Clubs may open indoor toilets for public use if they follow Scottish Government [Opening Public Toilets Guidelines](#).

- 13.2 Public toilets are defined as any toilets accessible to the public. The opening of toilets should be accompanied by local risk assessment, and control measures should be proactively monitored by operators.

- 13.3 All appropriate cleaning procedures and equipment/disinfectant should be provided as per Health Protection Scotland guidance.

14. Storage Areas & Lockers

- 14.1 One off access to storage areas and locker rooms is permitted to retrieve personal equipment which is essential for an activity to be undertaken. Personal equipment should not be returned to these areas.

- 14.2 Where equipment cannot reasonably be taken home and is stored on site, access to retrieve and return such equipment to storage areas is allowed if appropriate risk assessments are undertaken.

- 14.3 Risk assessments should include mitigating actions to reduce the risk of virus transmission such as individual access, booking slots and cleaning/hygiene protocols.

15. Access to the Green

Where external access to outdoor sports facilities is not possible, access through the club house can be provided if suitable risk assessments and safety measures are put in place. These should include restricting access to one person at a time, ideally with a one-way system in operation, and no contact with hard surfaces such as door handles. Persons moving through the area should not stop or congregate at any time.

Hospitality

Additional restrictions are in place for hospitality businesses with Level 4 areas subject to bar and café closures. Clubs providing catering or bar services should refer to Scottish Government guidance for applicable guidance including takeaway services. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance](#).

APPENDIX 2: BEYOND LEVEL 0 GUIDANCE

Introduction

1. To ensure that it is safe to progress 'Beyond Level 0', guidance is being linked to the 'Gateway condition'. This relates the amount of vaccine coverage to the Scottish Government's new strategic intent to 'suppress the virus at a level consistent with alleviating its harms'.
2. Most legal restrictions relating to Covid-19 will be lifted on the 9th of August 2021 when Scotland moves to 'Beyond Level 0'. This includes restrictions on physical distancing and the size of social gatherings. Additionally, no businesses will have to legally remain closed.
3. Whilst these changes will signal the end of most restrictions for bowling activity it will not however signal the end of the epidemic. Covid-19 is a disease that will need to be managed for the foreseeable future and to maintain progress in returning to more normality, it is important that people continue to abide by a set of baseline measures covered by Scottish Government guidance and where relevant legislation. This includes:
 - Good hand hygiene and surface cleaning.
 - Continued promotion of good ventilation.
 - Requirement for face coverings in certain settings (e.g., public transport, retail).
 - Continued compliance with Test and Protect, including self-isolation when necessary.
 - Ongoing need for outbreak management capability, including active surveillance.
 - Continue to encourage a greater degree of working from home than pre-COVID-19. Where this is possible and appropriate, it will not only assist with controlling transmission of the virus, but also promote wellbeing more generally.
4. The information outlined below summarises the key areas which will change as we move 'Beyond Level 0'.
5. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that full risk assessments, processes and mitigating actions continue to be applied before any bowling activity takes place and to check if the activity is in an area which is subject to additional Scottish Government localised measures and restrictions.
6. Where a local outbreak has been reported, bowling clubs should review their risk assessment and consider if additional mitigating actions should be put in place to reduce risk. This may, for example, include suspending activity, enhancing hygiene and physical distancing measures, or introducing additional activity restrictions.
7. Scottish Government may update or change Levels and restrictions at any time, including local areas subject to them. Therefore, COVID officers should regularly check [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Local Protection Levels](#).

Bowling Activity

8. No bowling bubble restrictions apply beyond Level 0.

Travel Restrictions

9. 'Beyond Level 0' no travel restrictions will be applicable, within or between areas in Scotland, which are not categorised under the protection level system. Please refer to the [Travel Guidance](#) section within this document and the Bowls Scotland Summary Overview

for further information on where restrictions will apply should a local area move into protection levels.

Health, Safety & Hygiene

10. High levels of personal hygiene and respiratory etiquette will remain essential as we move Beyond Level 0.
11. Bowling clubs should continue to follow Scottish Government guidance on health, safety and hygiene measures including face covering advice. Please refer to the [Health, Safety and Hygiene](#) section within this document for further information including relevant links.

Test & Protect

12. Contact tracing and testing of close contacts will continue as we move forward through the pandemic, including 'Beyond Level 0'. Test & Protect will change as the population becomes more protected by vaccination but will still play a role in mitigating clusters and outbreaks where they arise.
13. Bowling clubs should continue to maintain customer records and follow applicable guidance available in the [Test and Protect](#) section within this document.

Competition & Events

14. There are no restrictions on competitions and events formats. Organised competitions and events can take place 'Beyond Level 0' but should continue to follow guidance outlined in the [Competition](#) section within this document.

Hospitality

15. Bowling clubs providing catering or bar services should refer to Scottish Government guidance for applicable guidance including takeaway services. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance.](#)