



COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions:

Latest Update 2nd July 2020

UPDATES IN YELLOW

FURTHER UPDATES (WED 24TH JUNE) IN GREEN

FURTHER UPDATES (THURS 2ND JULY) 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. Am I allowed to play against someone from outside my household?

Yes. Bowling activity can resume but should **ONLY** include:

- Practice individually
- Games / informal competitions with members of your own household
- Games / informal competitions with two other households where physical distancing can be maintained and up to a maximum of 8 people on a rink (Only play with two other households per day)

3. 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>

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

Yes, with caution. People who are shielding are permitted to undertake activities providing strict physical distancing is adhered to.

5. 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

6. 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>

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

There are no restrictions on travel to your bowling club except from specific post code areas determined by the Scottish Government:

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

8. 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

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

Parents or guardians must accompany those aged 16 and under wishing to play at the club. They can either be on the green practicing with them or be allowed to wait at the side of the green.

10. Can I receive coaching?

Coaching is permitted if physical distancing can be maintained, and it is with members of your household and/or members of 2 other households.

A coach should not deliver coaching to more than 2 households at any one time or provide training to more than 2 households per day.

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

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

11. Can we run competitions and our club champs if we follow physical distancing?

Informal competitions within the club may resume in line with bowling activity guidance but no external club friendlies or club ties should take place at this time

Informal competitions must follow household, physical distancing and hygiene guidelines

*Informal competitions where groups of more than three households (or extended households) (maximum of 8 people) congregate at any one time are **NOT** permitted*

We use the word informal to demonstrate that this is not normal competitive play as this is not normal bowling activity. It is a phased return to the green, bowling is part of the extension to exercise and is not 'normal' bowls and there are still a number of restrictions in place that will have an impact on running competitions.

If clubs would like to run informal competitions in a structured way they must risk assess and follow current guidance from Bowls Scotland and the Scottish Government on physical distancing and maintaining good hygiene.

Some examples of limiting risk include (Singles and Pairs)

- Jack not delivered by each player, jack pre-set each end.
- Only one player responsible for placing the mat.
- Players / Teams should complete own scorecard.
- Tape Measures should not be shared.
- Only spray chalk should be used.
- Play against a maximum of 2 households per day

Preparing for Play & Facility Considerations:

12. 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](#)

13. 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 12 FAQ** and here:

14. Can we use the changing rooms?

No – all other indoor facilities should be kept closed apart from those identified in the guidance and FAQs.

15. Can we open our bar?

Yes, but **ONLY** to offer an outdoor service. All drinks must be consumed outside of the club house building and people should not be accessing the bar area.

Club must risk assess to determine if operating the bar and providing outdoor drinking spaces can be done safely and in line with good hygiene and social distancing.

Clubs must check their operating plan and licensing agreement

Clubs need to consider:

- No standing – all customers seated
- Face coverings by staff
- 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 12 FAQ** and here:

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

16. 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>

17. Why do we need to book members into the green, spectating and outdoor beer garden?

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/>

18. 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

19. 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

20. Are there 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).

21. 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

22. 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.

23. 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

24. 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.

25. 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

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

Clubs should continue to host meetings online, by phone or email and not meet face to face. Bowls Scotland has advice on online platforms, please contact your National Development Officer for more information.

Clubs should not be holding committee meetings in the club house or hosting meetings against physical distancing and household guidance.

27. 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

28. 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

29. 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.

30. How do players clean hands prior to play if access to clubhouse is not permitted?

Players should bring their own hand sanitiser and use this throughout play

31. 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>

32. How do members get their bowls if they are in the locker?

The clubhouse and locker room facilities will remain closed and should not be accessed/used by players. Limited essential access for example to remove bowls and shoes etc may be allowed by the club and should be coordinated appropriately e.g. if the key holder looking after the facility placed the items outside for collection, but clubs should risk assess and ensure appropriate measures in place

33. 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

34. 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

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

At this moment Bowls Scotland are unable to send or receive PVG forms we have put a hold on PVG processing until further notice. We are seeking clarification from our processing body Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services (VSDS) as to when they will start to process PVGs for volunteers within a sporting context.

A further update will be provided in July with a view to re-start the PVG processing as soon as we can.

If there are any urgent safeguarding issues or concerns, these should be reported to: safeguarding@bowlsscotland.com

36. 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*



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