

# WELSH BOWLS

Welsh Bowling Association



Welsh Women's Bowling Association



## **Covid - 19: Supplementary Guidance for Lawn Bowls – Phase 1 PLANNING DOCUMENT & TEMPLATES**

The physical and mental wellbeing of our bowls community is of paramount importance. Both National Governing Bodies want to support those clubs that wish to re-open and members who would like to play, to do so safely and in accordance with our Welsh Government's guidelines.

We are hoping that the Welsh Government will allow us to open clubs soon, and we are waiting confirmation of this from Bowls Wales as to when this will be. In the meantime, and in accordance with our holding statement sent a few weeks ago, please find attached guidance to help with your planning - putting safe systems in place may take some time, so we wanted to give you as much opportunity to plan if you are going to open.

The guidance we have developed below supplements the Government guidance by covering situations specific to the sport of lawn bowls. This guidance is not a 'one size fits all' approach as we appreciate bowling facilities vary across Wales and as such individual bowling clubs should risk assess appropriately to ensure these procedures can be implemented. 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. Players should only play if they feel fit, well, and sure they can adhere to the guidance put in place by their home clubs.

This guidance will be updated if advice changes and we will continue to actively seek the latest advice from the Welsh Government.

This guidance document contains the following sections:

- 1 Clubs - Summary of recommended action**
- 2 Players - Summary of Recommended Action**
- 3 Frequently Asked Questions**
- 4 Additional Information :- Risk Assessment Template & Rink Booking Template**

If you have any questions, please email: [terry472@sky.com](mailto:terry472@sky.com) or [hazel222@hotmail.com](mailto:hazel222@hotmail.com)

The Welsh Bowling Association and the Welsh Women's Bowling Association hope you all stay healthy and we all get through these challenging times.

Keep Safe Take Care and look after yourself and when you return to the green and enjoy your bowls.

*Thank you to Bowls England and Bowls Scotland for permission to use some of their information.*

## **W.B.A. & W.W.B.A. GUIDANCE FOR GETTING BACK ON THE GREEN**

### **1 Clubs – Summary of Recommended Actions**

The Welsh Bowling Association and the Welsh Women's Bowling Association recommends that all clubs follow the following guidance (the guidance may be adopted if necessary, for your club, so long as it remains consistent with the Welsh Government's advice and social distancing requirements)

#### **Play Arrangements:**

- Off-site booking system or rink allocation
- Minimum of 30 minutes between allocated time slots to enable players to arrive/depart safely, allowing time in between sessions for members to sanitise all equipment before and after use.
- Clubs to communicate in advance with players to advise on social distancing requirements that are being applied on arrival at the club – for example not leaving cars until a certain time before their allocated time slot.
- Only play on alternative rinks e.g. 1,3,5 OR 2,4,6 (keep an empty rink between rinks that are being played on).
- Maximum of six players on club premises at any one time (assuming average of two people per rink who ARE NOT from the same household). Clubs may wish to increase this number if more than two people from the SAME household are to participate on the same rink.
- No visitors/spectators to be admitted to the club.
- Capping the number of occasions, a player can book a rink each week to ensure that the available capacity is distributed fairly.
- Consider what support your members might need to play (for example those with mobility and disability challenges)

#### **Playing Formats:**

The following playing formats are in accordance with the Welsh Government guidelines:

- Individuals playing bowls on their own on a single rink
- Two individuals from TWO different households playing on a single rink (no marker)
- Members of the SAME household on a single rink (no marker unless from SAME household)

Social distancing rule must be STRICTLY ADHERED TO - you must remain at least TWO meters apart from other bowlers (who are NOT part of your household) at all times

### **Clubhouse and Facilities:**

- Until further notice, all club houses must be closed
- Limit essential access (for example to use toilets and hand washing facilities) may be allowed by the club
- Sanitisers must be available for cleaning hands and equipment before and after playing
- No rubbish bins - players must take their rubbish away with them

**Social distancing rules must be strictly adhered to you must remain at least 2 meters apart from other bowlers (who are not part of your household) at all times**

### **Equipment:**

To minimise the risk of infections, only essential items (such as below) should be utilised during any session.

- Mats
- Bowls
- Jacks
- Rink Markers
- Gloves
- Scorecards (these should be retained by one person only if required)
- Bowling Arm / lifter (for use by one person if required)
- To minimise the risk of infection, any other equipment is not deemed essential equipment at this time and should not be utilised: this includes
- Scoreboards
- Bowls Pushers
- Ditch Markers
- 2-meter distance sticks
- Chalk

### **Good Practice:**

A check list should be produced to ensure that all the procedures are in place every day

Clubs should organise a system for booking and allocation of rink times, that ensures the safety of the players

A register made up informing the club of the people who attended on a daily basis and the times they logged in and out, this could assist track and trace procedures if required.

## 2 Players – Summary of Recommended Action

The Welsh Bowling Association and the Welsh Women's Bowling Association recommends that all players follow the guidance below (the guidance may be adapted if necessary, to meet individual needs, so long as they remain consistent with Government advice and social distancing requirements):

### In Advance:

- Do not go to the club if you are experiencing any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or any cold or flu-like symptoms, in particular a cough or a high temperature. Use the NHS 111 website or helpline and seek advice. For your own protection, follow the advice about self-isolation if you are, or are living with, someone in one of the vulnerable groups
- Dress appropriately before you get to the club to avoid the need to change clothes – change shoes immediately before and after your game
- Travel to the green on your own or with members of your own household only – do not offer a lift to, or accept a lift from, anyone outside your household. Do not arrive more than 10 minutes before your allocated booking time
- Players should go through the clubs booking system. Players should check if the club is open for play. Please be patient and understanding if the club cannot open the green
- system and not just turn up to the green to play

### Personal Care:

- Players must bring their own hand sanitiser and use this throughout play
- Avoid using toilets at the club wherever possible and clean anything you have touched after use
- Take any food or drink you might need with you
- Wash or sanitise your hands and sanitise any equipment (including bowls, jacks, and mats) you use before and after you play – do not assume that the person before you have sanitised the equipment thoroughly
- Sanitise padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use

### Playing the Game:

- You should only play with people from your own household or by yourself or, as long as you stay two metres apart, with one other person from outside your household. Groups of more than two people must all be from the same household. This means you cannot have two or three people from one household plus one person from outside the household playing together
- Do not shake hands before, during or after a game
- Do not 'high-five' OR 'hug' other players to celebrate shots or a win
- Only one player should handle the mat during the session
- Two jacks (one at each end) should be used and this should be set by one player only throughout the session
- If scoring, social distancing rules must be strictly adhered to at all times
- Do not touch your opponents' bowls with your hands
- Avoid measuring for shot/s

### When you Leave:

- When you finish playing, change your shoes and leave the club immediately – ensuring that you have sanitised all equipment used and that the club is secure (as applicable)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When can we reopen?**

Once the Welsh Assembly Government have given us permission each club, including council-owned sports facilities, will make their own decision about when their facilities are ready to open and can be operated safely. You should only reopen or restart activities as soon as you feel able to do so safely. Until you feel it is safe and responsible to reopen you should remain closed.

### **What games can we play?**

All activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, social distancing, and hygiene. That means that participants and others can maintain a safe two metre distance, that good hygiene practices are in place, that equipment is disinfected regularly, and that it is clear that anyone who is symptomatic or suspects they have been exposed to the virus does not take part and remains at home.

### **What about competitions within our club?**

Any measures clubs can put in place to enable an activity to return needs to be capable of being adapted to follow government guidelines on social distancing e.g. strengthening or relaxing measures at short notice. Organisations are encouraged to think creatively about how best to make their sport or activity possible within the guidelines. The limit on gatherings - no more than two, unless members of the same household - means that it is unlikely to be possible to organise amateur events or competitions at this time. The primary purpose of bowling activity at this time is for physical and mental well-being.

### **How often should mats and jacks be cleaned?**

Disinfectant spray must be made available by the club. Players must use the disinfectant spray 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 at the end of the day and before the start of sessions the following morning.

### **What is the implication if we open, will our insurance cover us, even though we know the virus is still in society?**

Clubs should check with their insurance company that the correct and full cover is in place before any play can take place

### **Are the WBA and WWBA recommending people go back to Bowls?**

The WBA and WWBA are not forcing any of our 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.

### **Can we open our bar if we deliver drinks to the green?**

No. All clubhouses should remain closed, and as a result clubs cannot provide any drinks. Players should not bring or consume alcohol before, during or after play at the club.

### **How do we monitor player compliance at the green?**

Clubs should consider providing a club member to oversee sessions. This could be one member per time slot, or clubs could have a member covering several slots. (One person per time slot)

### **What is the recommended gap between sessions to allow a safe change over?**

Clubs should allocate a minimum of 30 minutes between booking rink times to minimise the number of players arriving and leaving at any one time and this will allow for any shared equipment to be sanitised.

### **Are there any age or health restrictions for getting on the green?**

If a player/s are at a higher risk and have health issues (Those aged over 70 and/or those with chronic medical conditions or compromised immune systems) they should remain at home until the Welsh Government guidelines change.

Full Details:- <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-reglations-guidence>

<https://gov.wales/shielding-extremely-vulnerable-people>

**How do we hold a committee meeting to discuss problems?**

Club meetings should be held through video conferencing and not to be held face to face.

**Should benches and bins still be used around the green?**

Benches, ashtrays, and bins should be removed, covered or sign-posted in such a way that members do not touch or use them.

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

Players must bring their own sanitiser and use this throughout play

**How do we ensure there is first aid cover at the club?**

Cubs will require to conduct a risk assessment and inform all those who wish to play that there will be limited or no first aid available.

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

Health and Safety is top priority and there is no urgency to return to the green. However, all clubs will require funds to continue to stay open, therefore we would ask that you speak with your club directly about this.

**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.

**Can I receive coaching?**

One on one coaching is permitted if outside and remaining a minimum of 2 metres apart.

**Can we open the club bar and kitchen?**

No – Bars and restaurants, including any food or drink facilities inside a clubhouse must remain closed until further notice. Take-away services can be offered, but any hot or cold food must be consumed off the premises, outside of the building.

**Can we use the club toilets?**

Yes – toilets and throughways may be kept open, but guidance on hygiene should be followed.

**Can we use the changing rooms?**

No – all indoor facilities, apart from toilets and through-ways should be kept closed.

**Can we share equipment?**

Where possible we recommend that you limit sharing of equipment, for example you should use your own bowls. If you are sharing equipment (mats/jacks) you should wash your hands thoroughly before and after use. It is a decision for clubs/facility managers whether or not they loan/hire out bowls. If you do, we expect you to follow sensible precautions and clean in between users, as well as the safely working guidance.

**The above guidance has been produced to allow practice play, either individually or with people within your household, to commence on the outdoors lawn bowling greens of Wales.**

**All players and clubs have a responsibility to take care of themselves and their members.**

**Additional Information can be found at, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>**