

ECBA Guidelines for Playing Carpet Bowls Under Coronavirus

Last Reviewed: 18th July 2020

Social Distancing

As of 17th July 2020, government guidelines continue to state that if you have a health condition that places you in the clinically vulnerable category, you could be at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Although you can meet people outdoors and indoors, you should be especially careful and be diligent about social distancing and hand hygiene.

This includes those who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions.

The current, full guidelines can be found here:

[gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july)

General Comments

- The ECBA understands that the demographics of our sport and sharing of equipment may be of concern. This document is intended to be a starting point from which counties and clubs can work, ultimately it is up to YOU to decide how and when to start playing again and any decision to re-commence playing carpet bowls is at the sole discretion of the respective counties or clubs
- **DO NOT RUSH!** The ECBA encourages counties and clubs to adopt a cautious approach - moving too early to restart playing carpet bowls may convey the mistaken message that 'normal' service has resumed. IT HAS NOT!
- The EBCA strongly recommends that despite restrictions being lifted, you should think carefully before travelling to play bowls outside of your own club at this time

Mandatory Conditions

Contact Tracing	A Contact Register (a system to record and retain the contact details of ALL people involved in, or attending a bowls session), should be in place to enable contact tracing, should it be required. Records should be retained for 4 weeks after the contact was logged, following which it should be securely destroyed. Records to include - full name, address, date and time of attendance, email address and telephone number.
Cleaning and Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stringent public and personal hygiene practices in accordance with public health guidelines must be adopted - wash and dry your hands thoroughly before and after activities, cough into an elbow and don't touch your face• Common touch points (e.g. doors) should be disinfected regularly• Consider providing disposable personal protective gloves for anyone involved in the setting up/ packing away of any equipment at a carpet bowls venue
Sickness	Feeling unwell? - STAY AT HOME! If you have flu-like symptoms, self-isolate at home and get tested immediately.
Social Distancing	Social distancing of at least 1 metre should be maintained, wherever possible. It is recognised that limited contact may occur but this should be minimised as much as possible. Please note that government guidelines strongly encourage the wearing of face coverings in enclosed public spaces where social distancing is difficult and where there are people you do not normally meet. Again, it is down to the counties and clubs to decide how they wish to proceed.

Mass Gatherings	Ensure strict adherence to guidelines stipulated by the UK Government and/or the venue on the maximum number of people allowed at indoor gatherings. Avoid gatherings at venue communal points such as entrances and car parks.
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Recommendations

Venue Availability	<p>CHECK FIRST!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Authority Owned - Local Authorities may have different dates when their public facilities will re-open ● Schools - Department for Education and/or School Boards at a local level may restrict access to those other than students and staff ● Village Halls and Community Centres - Committees at a local level may use their discretion as to when they re-open their facilities and the extent of access they grant ● Church Halls - access may be restricted to church patrons
Venue Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any guidelines put in place by the venue must be strictly adhered to and must take priority over any recommendations contained in this document ● ALL surfaces that are likely to be touched by bowlers e.g. doors, windows, tables and chairs, bar and kitchen hatches, handrails, etc. must be sanitised before and after a bowls session ● Hand sanitiser should be provided at venue entrances and if possible, other locations throughout the venue ● Where possible keep the venue well ventilated by having windows and doors open during the session, where possible
Mats and Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wherever possible, allow sufficient space between carpets when setting up a venue to enable the appropriate social distancing ● Sanitise all bowls, jacks and measuring equipment to be used, before a session ● Where possible allocate bowls to players/teams ● Where possible have a designated person to carry out any measuring, placement of the jack, removal of delivery blocks and changing of the scoreboard
Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider whether it is absolutely necessary to provide/sell food and/or drink and if so, ensure adherence to a strict level of health and hygiene practices ● Look to the Hospitality Industry authority for 'best practice'

Suggestions for Play

Social Bubbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the number of people allowed to attend your venue at any one time is limited, consider separating your club into "Bowls Bubbles", meeting on different days bowling alternate weeks
On Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Register your name and contact details in the Contact Register ● Disinfect hands at the venue entrance and/or wash and dry your hands thoroughly
Before Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disinfect all bowls, jacks and measuring equipment (keep to a minimum) before each session ● DO NOT shake hands

The Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Singles and Pairs - no restrictions ● Triples and Fours - if there is adequate space to maintain social distancing of at least 1 metre
During Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DO NOT touch bowls other than your own, wherever possible ● DO NOT lick your fingers or touch your face ● Where possible, after declaring the result of each end, remove your own bowls from the mat, or designate one person to do so ● Maintain social distancing of at least 1 metre wherever possible
After Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DO NOT shake hands with your opposition or members of your own team ● Wash and dry your hands regularly and disinfect hands when exiting the venue

Disclaimer: The English Carpet Bowls Association are not experts on pandemics and therefore all UK Government, Department of Health and Sport England information and directives supersede these guidelines. These guidelines have been developed to inform our carpet bowls community how the EBCA is responding to Covid-19 and provide recommendations on what we believe should be best practice for counties and clubs.

KEEP SAFE, BE KIND, STAY CONNECTED — WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER