

ECBA Guidelines for Playing Carpet Bowls (Plan B)

Last Reviewed: 10th December 2021

Overview

As of 10th December 2021, Government restrictions on social distancing and social contact have changed once more.

Below is a link to the new Government Guidance on Face Coverings:

[Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-exemptions-and-how-to-make-your-own)

There is nothing in the new measures which prevents us from continuing to gather together to play carpet bowls, but from the above date, face coverings are mandatory for most indoor public venues.

With regard to the Government Guidance, such venues include community centres (including village halls, member clubs and social clubs), the requirement is to wear a face covering on entering the premises, and you must keep it on until you leave, unless you are exempt or have a reasonable excuse for removing it.

The Government Guidance does say that face coverings are not legally required in premises or a part of the premises where the main activity is exercising, because it is not recommended that face coverings are worn when undertaking strenuous activity, including exercising.

Whilst this new Government Guidance may be open to interpretation, our advice is that the playing of carpet bowls does not constitute exercise/strenuous activity. Therefore, it follows that our advice is face coverings **MUST** be worn.

Whilst we do not want to discourage anyone from playing carpet bowls, we continue to urge everyone not to be complacent about the situation, and to continue to take the proper precautions for the time being.

We will review the position and advise further when the Government review their "Plan B" guidance in the New Year.

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 continues to encourage everyone to return to Bowls only when they are comfortable doing so, and to respect the caution of those who may be reluctant to immediately mix with large groups of people. The following recommendations may help to encourage players back, as well as providing a layer of protection for all.

General Recommendations

Contact Tracing	<p>We recommend that some record of ALL those attending a particular bowls session is maintained.</p> <p>Ideally this would be in the form of a Contact Register to record the contact details (date, name, email address and/or telephone number) of ALL people involved and to enable contact tracing, should it be required. Such records should be retained for 4 weeks after the contact was logged, following which it should be securely destroyed.</p>
Cleaning and Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public and personal hygiene practices in accordance with public health guidelines - wash and dry your hands thoroughly before and after activities, cough into an elbow and don't touch your face ● Consider providing disposable personal protective gloves for anyone involved in the setting up/ packing away of any equipment at a carpet bowls venue
Sickness	<p>Feeling unwell? - STAY AT HOME!</p> <p>If you have flu-like symptoms, self-isolate at home and get tested immediately.</p>
Social Distancing	<p>Wherever possible, try to maintain a reasonable amount of social distancing. It is recognized that avoiding close contact is all but impossible, but this should be minimized as much as is reasonably possible.</p> <p>Face coverings must be considered mandatory under the current Government guidance.</p>

Venue Recommendations

Venue Availability	<p>CHECK FIRST!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Authority Owned - Local Authorities may have different dates for the re-opening of their public facilities ● Schools - Department for Education and/or School Boards at a local level may continue to 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 (or any local restrictions imposed by the Government) must be strictly adhered to, and must take priority over any recommendations contained in this document. Hand sanitizer should be provided at venue entrances and, if possible, other locations throughout the venue ● Whenever possible, keep the venue well ventilated by having windows and doors open during the session
Mats and Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wherever possible, allow sufficient space between carpets when setting up a venue to enable a degree of social distancing
Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider whether it is absolutely necessary to provide/sell food and/or drink and

	<p>if so, ensure adherence to a strict level of health and hygiene practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If possible, tables and chairs should be set up in such a way as to maintain a reasonable level of social distancing
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Suggestions for Play

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
During Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not lick your fingers or touch your face ● Maintain a reasonable level of social distancing 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