

ECBA Guidelines for Playing Carpet Bowls under Covid

Last Reviewed: 24th February 2022

Overview

On 24th February 2022, it was announced that all Covid restrictions had been lifted.

While there are no longer any legal restrictions or requirements placed on individuals or organisations, Covid remains prevalent in society, and still represents a threat to the health of the most vulnerable. We therefore ask everyone to continue to take reasonable and sensible precautions. In particular, the ECBA urges all carpet bowls players to get fully vaccinated, unless they cannot do so for medical reasons, to protect both themselves and their fellow bowlers.

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>While the wearing of face coverings is no longer mandatory, the health professionals continue to advise the use of face coverings in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet.</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 if so, ensure adherence to a strict level of health and hygiene practices If possible, tables and chairs should be set up in such a way as to maintain a reasonable level of social distancing

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