

Introduction

Welsh Government guidance released on 10/07/20 states: “Changes to the regulations to allow larger gatherings of up to 30 people outdoors only where these are organised and supervised by a responsible person for sports and other leisure activities and classes”

Further Welsh Government guidance released on 15/07/20 states: ‘The Welsh Government recognises the vital role sport and physical activity plays in ensuring physical and mental health. The return of outdoor organised activity, including team sport, is an exciting moment for the many people across Wales who use this activity as their exercise of choice and gain the multiple physical, mental and social benefits of playing’

This guidance is not a ‘one size fits all’ approach, and any guidance or recommendations made in this document will vary dependent on each club. However, the responsibility for the reopening of bowling facilities rests solely with each club and this advice and guidance seeks to guide and support clubs through this process. We appreciate bowling facilities vary across Wales and as such individual clubs should risk assess appropriately to ensure these procedures can be implemented. Key elements are needed to be considered and assessed to ensure the safety of the clubs and its members. We have provided an example template risk assessment on the following link <https://bowlswales.com/covid-19/>

It is the decision of each club to decide when and/if they want to reopen their facilities once considered the Welsh Government advice and risk assessment of their facilities.

This guidance document contains the following Sections which will vary depending on each code of the game:

1. Clubs – Summary of Recommended Action
2. Players – Summary of Recommended Action
3. Frequently Asked Questions
4. Additional Information

Bowls Wales is seeking to support those clubs that wish to reopen and members who would like to play, to do so safely and in accordance with the guidance as set out by the Welsh Government. Bowls Wales would also like to emphasise that this lifting of restriction by Welsh Government **does not** extend to any form of indoor bowls and applies only to outdoor lawn and crown green bowling clubs.

Clubs – Summary of Recommended Action

Bowls Wales recommends that all clubs follow the advisory guidance below (the guidance may be adapted if necessary, for your club, so long as it remains consistent with Welsh Government regulations and social distancing requirements):

- Off-site booking system for rink allocation (i.e. Google Calendar)
- Test, Trace & Protect – Clubs are advised to designate an officer to oversee that members are leaving contact details during the time they are at the club. This will allow the club to contact members should a member become ill with Coronavirus. Clubs can find COVID-19 officer role description and COVID-19 Club Checklist support here - <https://bowlswales.com/covid-19/>

- Clubs are advised to follow Welsh Government Test, Trace, protect guidance, link here - <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect>
- Minimum of 20 minutes between allocated time slots to enable players to arrive/depart safely
- 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
- Depending on Clubs safety and risk assessment measures, the number of players and rinks to be played at any one time is to follow the current Welsh Government guidance and social distancing measures
- Number of people allowed on each rink is governed by current Welsh Government guidance and restrictions on adhering to social distancing
- The number of rinks in use at any one time is governed by current Welsh Government guidance and restrictions on adhering to social distancing
- Spectators will be allowed as long as they are following current Welsh Government guidelines
- Capping the number of occasions, a player can book a rink each week to ensure that the available capacity is distributed fairly.

Playing Formats

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

Example below

- Depending on Clubs safety and risk assessment measures, the number of players playing at any one time is to follow the current Welsh Government regulations and social distancing measures.

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

Clubhouse and Facilities

- Clubhouse with Bar and restaurant facilities can reopen for outside use with the appropriate safety measures and risk assessments in place
- Sanitiser must be available for cleaning hands and equipment before and after playing
- Clubs should check with their Landlord that they have permission to re-open the clubhouse facilities
- Your Club must have written authority from the landlords of the green that you can gain access to the clubhouse under the strict guidelines laid out in this document and then follow all guidelines
- You can find our Clubhouse Guidelines here - <https://bowlswales.com/covid19/>

Equipment (This will vary according to the code of the game) To minimise the risk of infection, only essential items (as below) should be utilised during any session and where possible use your own equipment from home:

- Mat
- Bowls
- Jack
- Rink Markers
- Gloves (if preferred)
- Scorecards (these should be retained by one person only if required)
- Bowling arm/lifter (for use by one person only if required)
- Bowling aids (for players with a disability if required)

All equipment should be cleaned and sanitised before and after use.

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
- 2m distance sticks
- Chalk

Players – Summary of Recommended Actions

- Do not go to the club if you are experiencing any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or any cold or flu-like symptoms, 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
- All players, officials, volunteers and spectators must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. No-one should leave home to participate in sport if they, or someone they live with, is symptomatic - or suspects they may have been exposed to the virus. They should immediately self-isolate. See Welsh Government guidelines here - <https://gov.wales/self-isolation-stay-homeguidance-households-possible-coronavirus>

- 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.

Personal care

- 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 and take any rubbish home to be suitably disposed
- 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 gates, padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use

Playing the game

Dependent upon the code of the game you are playing: -

- You should only play: - By yourself or - with people from your own household or - A maximum of 30 people can take part in organised outdoor sport. Depending on Clubs safety and risk assessment measures, the number of players playing at any one time is to follow the current Welsh Government regulations and social distancing measures.
- Two jacks (one at each end) could be used and the length should be set by one player only throughout the session
- 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
- If scoring: - Social distancing rules must always be strictly adhered to at all times -
 - Do not touch your opponents' bowls with your hands
 - Avoid measuring

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)
- Members or participants are discouraged from congregating in the car park after their game