



## **Bowls Victoria: navigating a return to play, COVID guidelines for Bowls Clubs**

### Key introductory points:

- Information is changing rapidly, be sure to check the BV website, Facebook page and DHHS for updates.
- Check with your local council for any rules they may have.
- There can be different rules where clubs are interstate but affiliated with BV, awareness of the local rules is a must.
- At all times, keep safe and use common-sense.
- If any member is unwell, tell them to get tested and not attend the club.
- Be patient with others, particularly those who are trying to construct/interpret rules and regulations.

The following pages are designed to complement the guidelines on the BV, DHHS and SRV websites.

**UPDATED: 29 March 2021 (V9)**

Topic of advice	ALL OF VICTORIA (Metropolitan and Regional) (‘COVIDSafe’ Settings)
<b>Masks</b>	<p>When playing or watching the sport of bowls, a mask is not required.</p> <p>In general, masks must be carried at all times. They are mandatory when travelling on public transport or when travelling in a commercial passenger vehicle (unless a lawful exemption applies) including indoors at airports. They are also required in a hospital or care facility.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended you wear a face mask when at a private gathering or when you cannot maintain 1.5 metres distance from other people.</p>
<b>Social distancing</b>	<p>All players should keep 1.5m apart at all times.</p> <p>Refrain from shaking hands, high-fives or any contact with others.</p>
<b>Number of players</b>	<p><b>Outdoors:</b> No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm for each space. Record keeping is required and venues with capacity of greater than 1000 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p><b>Indoors:</b> No patron caps with a density quotient of 1 per 2sqm for each space. Record keeping is required and venues with capacity of greater than 1000 patrons must publish a COVIDSafe Plan online.</p> <p>Covered greens that are not fully enclosed are considered outdoor.</p> <p>Clubs should consider how breaks will be managed given restrictions to clubhouse entry and may elect not to have a break. Additionally, staggered starting times can be considered to ease congestion of foot traffic.</p> <p>Clubs must set up their venue to ensure players can keep 1.5m apart at all times and can use the bank and surrounds to assist. Clubs and players should also consider options for inclement weather.</p> <p>The number of players doesn’t include the minimum number of employees or agents of the person necessary to safely operate the facility being present at the facility.</p>
<b>Access to the clubhouse</b>	<p>Clubhouses are open and subject to density quotients/patron caps and should be cleaned/sanitised regularly. Please refer to the hospitality guidelines on the DHHS website for up-to-date advice on clubs/restaurants:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/cafes-and-restaurants#covidsafe-summer-restrictions">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/cafes-and-restaurants#covidsafe-summer-restrictions</a></p>
<b>Sanitising and hygiene</b>	<p>Good hygiene is critical for slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Everyone should be taking the following hygiene actions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, using soap and water, or use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 70 percent alcohol.</li> <li>• Wash your hands when you get home, arrive at other people’s homes, at venues or at work.</li> <li>• Wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or using the toilet.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19">https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19</a></p> <p>All attendees shall sanitise their hands upon arrival and leaving the venue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leads shall also sanitise their hands regularly</li> <li>• All other players should sanitise their hands after every 6 ends.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Travel, Transport and Carpooling</b></p>	<p>The DHHS website states: (<a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/travel-victoria-last-step#can-i-have-passengers-in-my-car">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/travel-victoria-last-step#can-i-have-passengers-in-my-car</a>)</p> <p><b>Can I have passengers in my car?</b> Yes. Where possible: your passenger should sit in the back seat in order to maintain physical distancing. All passengers should wear a fitted face mask in the car unless you have a lawful exemption. Increase ventilation in the vehicle by opening windows wherever possible. Avoid having air-conditioning on recirculate. High touch surfaces in the vehicle should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.</p> <p><b>Can I carpool with people outside my home if we live near each other and travel to the same (or nearby) workplaces?</b> You should avoid carpooling to and from work with a person you don’t live with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can carpool if it is not practical for you to get to work without carpooling (e.g. you don’t have a licence or access to a car).</li> <li>• Where possible you should make other arrangements, such as getting driven to and from work by someone you live with.</li> <li>• If traveling in a car with someone who is not part of your household, one of you should sit in the back seat in order to maintain physical distancing and both wear a fitted face mask in the car unless you have a lawful exemption.</li> <li>• Increase ventilation in the vehicle by opening windows wherever possible. Avoid having the air conditioning on recirculate.</li> <li>• High touch surfaces in the vehicle should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.</li> </ul> <p>You are advised to avoid carpooling because the enclosed space of a car increases the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).</p>

	<p><b>Can I use taxis and ride-shares?</b> Yes. You must wear a face mask and so must your driver. Where possible, maintain physical distancing by sitting in the back seat, and wash or sanitise your hands before and after getting in the vehicle.</p> <p><b>Can I use public transport?</b> Yes, you can use public transport.</p> <p>Where possible maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres from others while using public transport. Wash or sanitise your hands before and after using public transport. You must wear a face mask at all times, unless you have a lawful reason not to.</p>
<p><b>‘COVID Marshal’ or ‘COVID Officer’</b></p>	<p>BV recommends clubs have a designated COVID Marshal on duty at all times. We recommend having multiple COVID Marshals available to ensure there is always at least one COVID Marshal on duty during club opening hours. We stress that the role of a COVID marshal for sport is not onerous but provides some responsibility for ensuring participants use the sign in/out process to assist with contact tracing and to ensure the equipment is sanitised etc.</p> <p>A COVID Marshal must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be 18 years of age or over.</li> <li>• Take reasonable steps to visually identify as a COVID Marshal (whiteboard, rink marker, etc).</li> </ul> <p>A COVID Marshal is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and ensure infection control practices (e.g. frequent hand washing) are followed.</li> <li>• Promote and take practical steps to ensure people* participating in the operations are complying with density requirements as per guidelines.</li> <li>• Promote and take practical steps to ensure people are physical distancing, comply with 1.5 metre rule.</li> <li>• Ensure that all COVID Safe Plans and COVID Management Plans (where relevant) or specific policies/protocols in relation to the prevention of coronavirus are effectively implemented and monitored.</li> <li>• Ensure that the operation has sufficient seating, hand washing facilities and cleaning regimes.</li> </ul> <p>Other resources can be found here:  <a href="https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport# covid-19_safety_coordinator">https://www.sportaus.gov.au/return-to-sport# covid-19_safety_coordinator</a>  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covid-marshals">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covid-marshals</a></p>
<p><b>Spectators</b></p>	<p>Spectators are allowed, subject to venue density quotients and hospitality guidelines – see the heading “Number of Players”.</p>

<b>Members and non-members</b>	<p>Members are permitted to play.</p> <p>Non-members are permitted to play.</p>
<b>Breaks in play</b>	<p>The historical tea break is not recommended in the current circumstances with the mandatory distancing requirements needed and the limit on numbers currently allowed inside Club rooms.</p> <p>Should any Club consider they can have a workable alternative arrangement that would allow them to provide a tea break outside of the Club Rooms than it is their responsibility to mutually arrange such with the visiting Club/Clubs.</p> <p>BV's recommendation is that Clubs consider playing straight through over 21 ends and that such be allowed with the Playing areas/Divisions CoP. This must be arranged prior to play and agreed on by both Clubs.</p> <p>A short break of 10 minutes can be arranged during the play period but this would be at differing times for each rink so as to not create a crowding and distancing issue.</p> <p>Breaks for bad weather and potential rain periods could cause a major concern for some home Clubs. Players will need to be able to seek whatever cover is available during any rain delay being mindful of social distancing requirements. If the available covered area is limited then Managers and Umpires may need to make an early decision on cancellation of play.</p> <p>Players should be prepared for inclement weather with rain-coats, spray jackets and/or an umbrella.</p>
<b>Types of competitions</b>	<p>People must keep 1.5m apart at all times. Further information is in the heading "Number of Players"</p> <p><b>Pennant:</b> can occur in line with density quotients, see "Number of Players"</p> <p><b>Pennant Practice:</b> can occur in line with density quotients, see "Number of Players"</p> <p><b>Club Championships:</b> can occur in line with density quotients, see "Number of Players"</p> <p><b>Social play:</b> can occur in line with density quotients, see "Number of Players"</p> <p><b>Training/Practice/Roll-ups:</b> can occur in line with density quotients, see "Number of Players"</p> <p><b>Tournaments:</b> can occur in line with density quotients, see "Number of Players"</p> <p><b>Barefoot bowls:</b> can occur in line with density quotients, see "Number of Players"</p>

<p><b>Equipment (mats and jacks etc)</b></p>	<p>All equipment must be sanitised when placed out by the home side and also by the lead bowlers prior to them commencing the end.</p> <p>Spray chalk and liquid chalk must be the only markers used.</p> <p>Players are not to touch other players bowls unless of absolute necessity. If such does occur further hand sanitising is required immediately.</p> <p>The handling of the mat and kitty is to be limited as much as possible to the leads.</p> <p>Leads' should use hand sanitiser prior to picking up the jack and the mat to commence the next end. Once the jack is rolled the Skip at the other end is to straighten it with his or her foot. Should the jack go into the ditch or out of bounds such should be collected with a lifter and returned as necessary. Skips picking up the mat should use a lifter, or if none available sanitise their hands regularly. Prior to further delivery the lead bowler will need to sanitise their hands.</p> <p>Under no circumstances can bowls be shared.</p> <p>The home team should supply one player per rink responsible for updating the scoreboard. Away teams should not touch the scoreboard.</p> <p>Pens to keep score should not be shared. For Regional areas not yet using BowlsLink and therefore still completing the yellow pennant-check forms, they are to be completed by the Home team only.</p>
<p><b>Contact tracing register</b></p>	<p>To support contact tracing, Clubs must request that each person who attends the premise for more than 15 minutes (including staff) provide (clubs can elect to record all persons regardless of the duration they spend in the club):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First name and Last name</li> <li>• Phone number</li> </ul> <p>BowlsLink can be used for players. Entering player data accurately in BowlsLink will greatly assist with contact tracing.</p> <p>We also remind you that the Victorian Government launched a free <a href="#">QR Code Service</a> which will help venues and businesses to keep records of visitors. To use the service, you only need to register the venue or business, download and print a poster containing a Victorian Government QR Code, and display it prominently.</p>

	<p>Where the club doesn't use a QR code, records can be kept electronically or in hard copy. Records must be kept for 28 days.</p> <p>Pens used to record details should be wiped with an alcohol wipe between users.</p>
<b>Green and surrounds Maintenance</b>	<p>Greenkeeping and surrounds work is permitted, however, workers should be aware of the current rules in their area and ensure they practice recommended social distancing and sanitising.</p>
<b>Shared facilities – water fountains</b>	<p>Water fountains are considered a high risk that need to be managed carefully. The advice from Government is to reduce touch points where possible and if used, sanitise/clean regularly.</p> <p>It is recommended that clubs and players BYO and/or provide individual bottles, but note that water fountains are not banned.</p>
<b>Bins</b>	<p>Ensure there are plenty of bins situated around the facilities and cleaned regularly.</p>
<b>Shared facilities – toilets</b>	<p>All persons should minimise use of communal facilities where possible. Clubs should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean bathrooms more frequently than lower traffic areas, especially taps, door handles and other frequently touched points.</li> <li>• Take all reasonable steps to ensure that frequently touched surfaces accessible to members of the public, including tables, bars, chairs, toilets and handrails, are cleaned regularly including when visibly soiled and post events or between groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of club cutlery, crockery etc</b>	<p>Venues may continue to use their cutlery, crockery and beverage containers with appropriate hygiene, cleaning and sanitation processes in place</p> <p><a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</a></p>

	<p><b>How often should surfaces be cleaned?</b></p> <p>This should be done regularly (at least twice a day) for high-touch surfaces, between users, and immediately after spills. Surfaces and fittings should also be cleaned immediately when visibly soiled. See Cleaning and disinfecting to reduce coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission - tips for business and construction sites.</p> <p>Workplace amenities, including kitchens, lunchrooms, communal areas, change rooms, toilets, drink fountains and vending machines, should also be regularly cleaned. <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</a></p> <p>Are smoking areas allowed?</p> <p>Yes. However, no food or drink is permitted in these areas. These areas count towards density quotients/patron caps.</p> <p>You must also take into account the requirements of the Tobacco Act, which are set out on the BetterHealth website and COVIDSafe measures such as social distancing must be adhered to in these areas. <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-sector-guidance-accommodation-and-food-services</a></p>
<p><b>Bringing meals from home</b></p>	<p>Canteens, kiosks or at-venue dining facilities may be opened in line with hospitality guidelines.</p> <p>Cash can still be accepted as payment, but it is strongly recommended that all clubs use contactless payments.</p>
<p><b>Temperature checks</b></p>	<p>Temperature checks of members and visitors may be useful as an added precaution in high-risk places such as hospitals and aged care facilities. This helps protect the vulnerable people in those settings.</p> <p>If the scanner's reading result is within the normal range of body temperature (equal to or less than 37.3°C) then it is considered safe to allow access to the location.</p> <p>If a person's temperature is equal to or in excess of 37.4°C, the designated screener must follow the procedure to manage a person with symptoms and the person will not be allowed to enter the location to commence work. The person shall be placed in an approved location until reassessment occurs.</p> <p>But temperature checks aren't always an accurate way of knowing whether someone has COVID-19. This is because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people with COVID-19 don't always have a fever</li> <li>• various other medical conditions or infection can cause a fever, not just COVID-19</li> <li>• fever can go up and down during an infection or after taking medication—it might be down at the time of the check.</li> <li>• Temperature gauge calibration might not be 100% accurate.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Signage requirements</b></p>	<p>Clubs should display all signage as per DHHS guidelines.</p> <p>Copies of a selection of posters are available for download from the BV website.</p>
<p><b>AGMs</b></p>	<p>Indoor and Outdoor AGMs can occur for the number of persons which comply with the density quotient and venue/group caps is an opportunity to conduct an AGM in person (subject to physical distancing of 1.5m).</p> <p>Online meetings can also occur which your RBM can assist you to set up.</p>
<p><b>Gaming</b></p>	<p>Clubs with Gaming should consult the guidelines (<a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/last-step-coronavirus-roadmap-reopening">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/last-step-coronavirus-roadmap-reopening</a>)</p>
<p><b>What to do if someone contracts COVID</b></p>	<p>Anyone who is unwell should not be at a club/workplace. If anyone develops symptoms at the club/work such as fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, you should ask them to seek medical advice.</p> <p>It is important to remember that if a person becomes sick with these symptoms at work they may be suffering from a cold, the flu or other respiratory illness and not COVID-19.</p> <p>For the full list of steps to take, visit: <a href="https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/office/covid-19-your-workplace">https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/office/covid-19-your-workplace</a></p>
<p><b>Should the club provide sanitiser?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p><b>HAND SANITISER (ALCOHOL-BASED ANTIBACTERIAL WITH MINIMUM 70% ALCOHOL (ETHANOL))</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol-based hand sanitisers - min. 70% alcohol (ethanol) content must be readily available at facilities for all training/games.</li> <li>• Soap/Handwash must be readily available in all bathrooms/toilets.</li> <li>• Clubs must ensure that frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g. tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) are cleaned regularly when in use.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure signs that can't be secured, and club-based sanitiser are safely stored. If the club stores large quantities of sanitiser check with the manufacturer for storage instructions as the Dangerous Goods Act 1985 (Vic) has required protocols for the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids with respect to hand sanitiser. To reduce the likelihood of excess storage at the club consider each team storing some sanitiser for match day offsite.</p>