



## Play/Vaccination advice for clubs:

We are continuing to work with Government to help comply with the Government Directions and find more practical solutions for clubs to operate. While we have some clarity from the recently released Open Premise Directions, until we have full clarity, we have provided the Questions and Answers to the key issues below. We will advise when we have any further updates and we stress this information is changing rapidly. We understand the situation is difficult for all.

There are two key definitions now used by government which are crucial to understanding the new directions:

- **Community Sport** (Only events conducted by Bowls Victoria including Pennant, and Regions conducting Pennant on Bowls Victoria's behalf, and State Championships).
- **Physical Recreation** (Club bowls including social bowls, tournaments, practice, training, barefoot bowls, corporate bowls etc).

**Are bowlers required to be vaccinated for 'Physical Recreation', i.e. to practice, play social bowls, tournaments or competitions run by clubs?**

Yes, the Government considers these forms of the game to be 'Physical Recreation' and therefore players must be fully vaccinated.

**Are bowlers playing 'Community Sport', i.e. Pennant or State Championships (including Regional Rounds) required to be fully vaccinated?**

Possibly, there are a number of conditions as per the table below. The Government considers these competitions to fall into the category of 'Community Sport' and players are not required to be fully vaccinated. However, there are some limitations, see the next question.

**Where a clubs' bowling green(s) is/are within the confines of the licensed area of the club (often known as the 'red line' area), are persons who are not fully vaccinated allowed to play?**

No. No person who is not fully vaccinated is permitted to enter the confines of a licensed club including the red-line area as per Government Directions (unless to use the toilet). We estimate this to be approximately 75% of clubs in Victoria, and all NSW affiliated clubs.

**Can a club with greens within the confines of the licensed area refuse to allow not fully vaccinated players from visiting clubs to participate in pennant matches?**

Yes, the club must refuse entry to these players as per the Government Directions.

**Can a club with greens NOT within the confines of the licensed area refuse to allow not fully vaccinated players from visiting clubs to participate in pennant matches?**

No, however, players make their way directly to the green and not access the clubhouse (with the exception of toilets).

**How are clubs to know who is or is not vaccinated?**

All persons must QR code into the venue and show their vaccination proof if they enter the licensed area.

**Can a venue mandate that only fully vaccinated persons from an away team can play at their club?**

Yes, if the home club is not exclusively used for 'community sport' (pennant), i.e. there is also 'physical recreation' (practice, social bowls or barefoot bowls etc) being undertaken at the same time. If it is exclusively for 'community sport', home clubs must accept away players as per government guidelines or give the walkover and points to the away team if they are not willing to play.

**How should we keep track of our own members for social bowls and tournaments etc?**

For all forms of bowls and to ensure compliance with government guidelines, clubs should record their own players details in BowlsLink as per the three points below:

- Choose a suitable person at your Club (we recommend it being your BowlsLink administrator or Secretary) to sight all members' proof of vaccination;
- Record that the Club has seen the valid proof of vaccination in BowlsLink as a certification (**do not load the certificate into BowlsLink**);
- Ensure that all persons who are selected to represent the Club have their member profile up to date with their contact details (name, DOB, email, and phone contact information) and have their BV COVID vaccination status (Vic) recorded
- NB: Bowls Victoria have provided a short instructional video to assist, see <https://www.bowlsvic.org.au/clubassist/education-training/>

The table below provides a snapshot of who is permitted to play which events as per government directions.

	<b>Community Sport</b> Pennant and State Championships	<b>Physical Recreation</b> Tournaments, social bowls, practice and training	<b>Hospitality (Bar/Food)</b> Access to the clubhouse, typically for the purposes of socialising, food, drinks or refreshments
<b>Fully vaccinated persons</b> including exempted persons (with valid proof) and persons under 16 years of age			
<b>Not fully-vaccinated persons</b> including those who are partially vaccinated	<b>POSSIBLY*</b> (Refer to Vaccination Advice for Clubs document)		 (Can access toilets)

\*The following restrictions/conditions apply:

1. Where the licensed area (red line) includes the greens, not fully vaccinated persons may not enter or play (NB: this is the responsibility of each club to confirm with their opponents at least 48 hours prior to their match).
2. Where the match is in a NSW club prior to 1 December 2021, not fully vaccinated persons may not enter/play.
3. Where the venue is not solely for the use of 'community sport' (e.g. clubs that also have barefoot bowls or corporate bowls functions at the same time), not fully vaccinated persons may not enter/play.
4. Where a not fully vaccinated person satisfies all of the above conditions and any other government restrictions, the person may play 'community sport', but must leave the venue immediately after the match finishes, as at the conclusion of the match, the venue is classed as a 'physical recreation facility'.