

12 January 2022



Play/Vaccination advice for Clubs:

We are continuing to work with Government to provide a safe environment for the sport of bowls and as such 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. Amendments are highlighted in green.

Please note in this document, “fully vaccinated”, unless expressly stated, means fully vaccinated or exempted.

There are two key definitions now used by Government which are crucial to understanding the new Directions:

1. **Physical Recreation Facility** (A Bowls Club)
 - a. The physical recreation facility requires that only fully vaccinated persons can enter
 - b. Therefore, all bowls including roll-ups, social bowls, bankers, tournaments, practice, barefoot bowls, corporate bowls etc
 - c. It’s only the community sport activity that includes the exemption for those not fully vaccinated, see below
2. **Community Sport Activity** (Only events conducted by Bowls Victoria including Pennant, designated Pennant Team Training, and Regions conducting Pennant on Bowls Victoria’s behalf, and/or Club Championships that lead to State Championships)
 - a. Importantly, community sport must be the sole activity within the venue for the exemption to apply

Are Bowlers required to be vaccinated to enter a Club, i.e. for roll-ups, practice, bankers, play social bowls, tournaments or competitions run by Clubs?

Yes, the Government has mandated all Bowls Clubs to be ‘Physical Recreation Facilities’ and therefore players must be fully vaccinated.

Are Bowlers playing ‘Community Sport’, i.e. Pennant, designated Pennant Team Training or Club Championships leading to State Championships (including Regional Rounds), required to be fully vaccinated?

No due to the exemption for community sport, although if the physical recreation facility playing area is not used exclusively for ‘community sport’ players are required to be fully vaccinated, i.e. if the Club (‘physical recreation facility’) is also used for practice, bankers, social bowls or barefoot bowls, etc at the same time.

Does the licensed area (red-line) change the requirements:

No. There is some conjecture over the licensed area (red-line area) but at this stage the government has not offered guidance other than the 'community sport exemption' applies.

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

Yes, BUT ONLY IF the home Club is not exclusively used for 'community sport' (Pennant), i.e. if the Club ('physical recreation facility') is also used for practice, bankers, social bowls or barefoot bowls, etc 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 are Clubs to know who is or is not vaccinated?

Clubs are only required to sight the vaccination status for persons entering the Clubhouse or the physical recreation facility if it is not solely for the use of community sport. However, all persons must QR code into the physical recreation facility.

What do clubs do if their facility will not be solely used for community sport during pennant matches?

UPDATED FOR CLARITY: It is the responsibility of both the home and away club to confirm (strongly recommended 48 hours prior to their match) the status of their physical recreation facility for the upcoming match. That timeframe will enable both teams to select their team accordingly.

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.

	Community Sport Pennant, designated Pennant Team training and Region/Club Championships leading to State Championships	Physical Recreation Roll-ups, Bankers, Tournaments, social bowls, practice	Hospitality (Bar/Food) Access to the Clubhouse, typically for the purposes of socialising, food, drinks or refreshments (the licensed area)
Fully vaccinated persons including exempted persons (with valid proof) and persons under 16 years of age	YES	YES	YES
Not fully-vaccinated persons including those who are partially vaccinated	POSSIBLY*	NO	NO (Can access toilets)

*The following restrictions/conditions apply:

- UPDATED FOR CLARITY:** this is the responsibility of each Club to confirm with their opponents, strongly recommended to occur 48 hours prior to their match
- 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), only fully vaccinated persons may enter/play
- Where Councils/land-owners have made a decision within their rights that the venue is for the exclusive use of fully vaccinated persons.
- Where a not fully vaccinated person satisfies all of the above conditions and any other government restrictions, the person may enter the playing area to play 'community sport', but must leave immediately after the match finishes, as at the conclusion of the match, the venue is classed as a 'physical recreation facility'.