



**LAWN BOWLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND
&
COVID-19 GUIDELINES**



(From 23rd April 2021)



Irish Bowls Federation

Social Distancing and Guidelines for Safe Play

1. Club Responsibilities

- 1.1 Clubs should be fully aware and compliant with NI Government legislation and they should ensure that these guidelines are adhered to.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guide-restrictions-0>

It should be noted if the club is at a Council green their may be local rules and regulations to follow.

- 1.2 Appointed club member(s) will prepare the green for play, delivering equipment to the playing rinks with hygiene in mind and disinfected for safe use by bowlers. After the game this equipment should be disinfected again before it is returned to storage.
- 1.3 Rink time should be booked with the club before attending to play. Individuals must leave the premises immediately after the conclusion of play and cleaning of equipment.
- 1.4 Sanitiser and disinfectant to be made available to all bowlers.
- 1.5 Clubhouses should remain closed. Safe access to toilet facilities is permitted.**

2. Player Responsibilities

2.1 Player Health

- 2.1.1 All players who have tested positive or in isolation for Covid-19 or are living in the same household with a Covid-19 positive person should adhere to the following:
- i) If you are unwell or have symptoms stay at home
 - ii) If you have tested positive and are in self isolation you may not return to bowling for a minimum of 10 days, as per NI Government guidelines;
 - iii) or until you have returned a negative test and are symptom free, as per NI Government guidelines
 - iv) If you are living in the same household with a Covid-19 positive person, you must also follow (ii), as per NI Government guidelines.
 - v) Players who have symptoms should notify their club, if they were due to play, and start self-isolation for 10 days or until a negative test is returned and they are symptom free, whichever is the least amount of time.
 - vi) Players who travel to and from the bowling club must be independent from other non-household participants unless social distancing can be maintained.

- 2.1.2 All players should practice safe hygiene at all times, including washing hands for at least 20 seconds before and after bowls.
- 2.1.3 Pre-game and post-game handshakes and other gestures that involve contact with other bowlers are not allowed.

2.2 Attire and Equipment

- 2.2.1 Club attire for matches to be optional, bowling shoes will remain mandatory.
- 2.2.2 All bowlers must arrive to the bowling green in attire suitable for bowling, changing on the premises is not allowed.
- 2.2.3 Bowlers are allowed only one bag and an umbrella at the green attended.
- 2.2.4 All equipment to be used i.e. measures etc. should be disinfected before being used
- 2.2.5 Disinfectant spray must be available beside mat/jack boxes and between each game, all mats and jacks must be thoroughly cleaned by players before and after use.

3. On the Green

3.1 Mat, Jack, Bowls and Scoreboard

- 3.1.1 Under no circumstances should players arrive at the club to play without booking. Best practice is that a register of attendees is kept, just in case a communicable illness was to occur.
- 3.1.2 Players should not arrive more than 15 minutes before booked time
- 3.1.3 Players must leave immediately at the conclusion of playing time
- 3.1.4 Minimum mat placement to be three metres from the ditch.
- 3.1.5 Spray chalk to be the only way to mark bowls that have made contact with the jack.
- 3.1.6 A player will not have control of the mat until the previous player is at least 2 metres from the mat.
- 3.1.7 Each lead will have a jack and mat supplied to them by the club which should only be used by that lead. Mat should be carried up and down green by that lead.
For casual roll ups consider placing the jack rather than delivering it.
- 3.1.8 In the event of a foul jack or bowl that has left the rink or fallen into the ditch, the jack/bowl is to be removed by one designated player and placed on the bank using a cloth.
- 3.1.9 Centring of the jack should be done by foot.
- 3.1.10 Players must only use and touch their own bowls.
- 3.1.11 When a count has been decided, bowls to be removed either by the owner of the bowls or by removing them by foot.
- 3.1.12 All bowlers must have a cloth with disinfectant/sanitiser to apply to each bowl and jack before and after each game.
- 3.1.13 Measuring will be done by one player on each rink predetermined by team captains.
- 3.1.14 One designated player to keep the scoreboard updated. Ideally use scorecards rather than scoreboards.

3.1.15 From 23rd April – Current guidelines allow a maximum of 100 for training and competitive outdoor sports. We therefore recommend a maximum of 48 on a bowling green. Clubs can decide themselves on any number up to 48 based on their own COVID assessments and associated mitigations.

Car sharing Guidance. Guidance from NI Executive below should be followed:-

Much of the advice for anyone using public transport also applies to anyone who must continue car sharing at this time:

- wear a face covering to protect others, unless exempt from the law and/ or have a reasonable excuse
- avoid physical contact
- try to face away from other people
- keep the time spent near others as short as possible

If car sharing, as well as wearing a face covering, good ventilation in the car will be useful - particularly by keeping a window open.

It is recommended that:

- any sharing is with the same people each time

and

- people in the vehicle keep as much social distance as possible

For instance, if only two people are in the vehicle, the passenger should sit in the rear left-hand seat.

Contact areas such as door handles (inside and out), seat belts and so on should be cleaned or sanitised after each journey.

It may also be useful to rethink journeys to allow for more walking or cycling as part of the trip, reducing the time near to one another.

Anyone who experience any symptoms of the virus, or who come into contact with the virus, should make sure that the other passengers are made aware of the circumstances and all should follow up-to-date health advice.

3.2 General Social Distancing Guidelines

3.2.1 Each bowler will remain at all times at least two metres from all other bowlers, with outer rinks and bank space to be utilised in doing so.

3.2.2 Bowlers will travel up the green in the middle and utilise vacant rinks available for standing and walking up and down to the head. Should an adjacent rink be in use and

players are walking to and back from the head, you must wait for them to stop before walking to the other end of the green.

4. Spectators

4.1 Spectators are not allowed.