



COVID-19 Guidance for Croquet - phased return to play

Phase 3 – Return to sport and physical activity

Effective from: 10 July 2020 – Revised 3 August 2020

The Scottish Croquet Association (SCA) supports and follows the Scottish Government guidelines relating to COVID-19, including ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all members of SCA. Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, **sportscotland** and our members, SCA has produced guidance for clubs in line with Scottish Government guidance on sport and physical activity.

People who are shielding are permitted to undertake activities providing strict physical distancing is adhered to.

People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days; household members for 14 days as per info on NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend an outdoor sports facility/activity.

At all times, participants and venue operators should adhere to the Scottish Government's physical distancing guidelines of staying at least 2m away from others.

As with previous Phases, this guidance is not a 'one size fits all' approach as we appreciate croquet facilities vary across Scotland and as such individual clubs should risk assess appropriately to ensure these procedures can be implemented. There is no pressure to return to the lawns, please continue to err on the side of caution; clubs should not open unless all the necessary measures to ensure the safety of players and volunteers can be implemented. Players should only play if they feel fit, well and can adhere to the guidance put in place by their own clubs.

Clubs and participants should be aware that the easing of restrictions does not mean that all facilities will open immediately. Site owners and operators will require time to consider the implications of opening and establishing plans to ensure personal safety. This is a difficult time for everyone, so please be patient.

These guidelines will be updated as we progress through the different phases of the Scottish Government Covid-19 route map. Current information is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others](#). The majority of Phase 1 & 2 restrictions remain in place. Scottish Government decisions, in line with the framework and route map out of the crisis with the virus in the controlled stage, allow small changes in Phase 3 for sport and leisure.

As previously, this guidance is split into three sections. It will be subject to review once the Scottish Government issues further advice. Variations for Phase 3.1 are shown in **RED**.

- A Guidance for Clubs
- B Guidance for Players
- C Guidance for Croquet play

A Guidance for Clubs.

- Croquet clubs are responsible for ensuring the club and members comply with Scottish Government legislation and follow the guidance outlined within this document.
- Clubs should carry out and document appropriate risk assessments for all relevant areas of their facility. Consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection/transmission. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are always protected.
- Club house facilities should remain closed until further notice. However, where the lawn or toilet can only be accessed through the clubhouse the club must ensure that players enter and exit one at a time, ensuring physical distancing guidance is adhered to at all times. Players should not cluster within the club facility.
- Clubs (and facility operators) may open toilets if they follow the guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website [Opening Public Toilets Guidelines](#). Opening should be accompanied by a risk assessment, monitoring of controls and provision of appropriate cleaning procedures.
- Clubs with relevant insurance should check with the company that the correct and full cover is in place before any play can take place.
- Informal local competitions are permitted within a club, where household, physical distancing and hygiene measures are in place. External fixtures are not allowed.
- All club volunteers should work from home (where possible) apart from those who can maintain the lawns as per local guidelines.
- Clubs should advise their members if and when their lawn is open and ready for play and what procedures must be followed for those planning to play.
- Clubs should check with their landlord that they have permission to re-open.
- **Coaching is permitted if physical distancing can be maintained. From 3 August there is no restriction on the number of households, within the maximum limit of 15 people.**
- Guidance for coaches, leaders, personal trainers, and instructors is available at [Getting your coaches ready for sport](#) .
- Coaches and instructors working with children should familiarise themselves with the additional considerations developed by Children 1st. [Child Wellbeing and Protection Considerations](#) .
- All other SCA policies and procedures must be adhered to.
- Spectators and visitors are discouraged. Where the attendance of one parent or guardian (non-participant) is required, physical distancing is essential.
- Clubs should ensure a clear plan is in place for the cleaning of equipment before, during, and after play and provision should be made for this. For example, disinfectant spray must be made available by the club and accessible for those playing and common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) should where possible be left open but if not possible, regular cleaning with disposable gloves should be undertaken. A checklist for health, hygiene and cleaning considerations and actions is available here: [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#). Further guidance is available at;
 - [Health Protection Scotland: General guidance for non-healthcare settings](#)

- [Health Protection Scotland: Cleaning in a non-healthcare setting](#)
 - [Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#)
 - [St. John's Ambulance: Covid-19 advice for first aiders](#)
- Ensure the first aid equipment is accessible and has been updated appropriately for the COVID pandemic and first aiders have undertaken appropriate additional training.
 - Where possible hand sanitiser or wipes should be available for use at entrance/exit to venue. Hand sanitisers should be at least 60% alcohol based and detergent wipes appropriate to the surface being cleaned. Cleaning products should conform to EN14476 standard.
 - Clubs should organise a system for booking and allocation of lawn times that ensures the safety of players to comply with the introduction of a track and protect system by the Scottish Government.
 - Clubs are not required to open their lawns and should decide on what best suits the club and its members.
 - It is more important than ever to consider inclusive guidance for people who need support to be active and clubs/venue operators should consider this as part of their work to encourage people to return.
 - **sportscotland** has produced the [Getting your Facilities Fit for Sport](#) guidance to help clubs and operators facilities prepare for sport/activity resuming. The guidance is applicable to all phases of the Scottish Government Covid-19 routemap and can be adapted by sports, clubs and community organisation.

B Guidance for Players:

- Players who have COVID-19 symptoms or if anyone in their household that displays symptoms, those players should stay at home and follow NHS guidance. No one who is self-isolating should attend the club.
- Players in the shielding group can participate in croquet, but with caution and accordance with Scottish Government guidelines on physical distancing and hygiene Further information is available at [Scottish Government: Staying safe outdoors](#).
- Players should check if the club is open for play. Please be patient and understanding if the club cannot open the lawn.
- Players are required to go through the club's booking system and not just turn up to the lawn to play.
- Players can practice individually or with members of their own household. Play is possible with up to four other households per day where physical distancing can be maintained. The guideline limit allows for a doubles game or two double banked singles games – to a maximum of four players per lawn.
- Travel guidance outlined by the Scottish Government should always be adhered to. Guidance is available at: [Staying Safe and Protecting Others: Travel](#).
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home. Information on hand hygiene is available at: [Health Protection Scotland: Hand hygiene techniques](#).
- Players should not attempt to enter the club house as these facilities will remain closed. However, where the lawn or toilet can only be accessed through the club house players should enter and exit one at a time, adhering to physical distancing guidance at all times and as guided by the club. Players should not cluster within the club grounds.

- Players should follow the ‘Guidance for Croquet play’ section set out below.

C Guidance for Croquet Play:

1. Set Up prior to play

- Ensure lawn is fit for play. All extra equipment to be removed; only sufficient equipment for basic play being available.
- Benches may be used by players, but only if good hygiene and physical distancing can be maintained. Bins must be regularly checked, cleaned/sanitised, emptied and contents disposed of using appropriate protective equipment.
- Consider what support members might need to play.
- Players must bring their own hand sanitiser (60% alcohol based recommended) and use this throughout play.
- Clubs with more than one lawn need to ensure that compliance with distancing is achieved across all lawns.
- When setting out and taking in a court, only one person should handle any particular hoop or peg, cleaning the equipment before and after use.

2. Before Play

- **Bookings:** Clubs should organise a system for booking and allocation of lawn times that ensures the safety of players and minimise the number of players arriving and leaving at any one time and allow for any shared equipment to be sanitised.
- It is recommended clubs restrict play to 4 people per lawn at any time and act in accordance with Scottish Government requirements for distancing.
- For each session clubs should collect essential information for all players including emergency contact details. A register of all participants should be kept in case trace and tracking is required.
- **Arrival and Waiting to Play:** Clubhouse and locker room facilities will remain closed. Limited essential one-off access, for example to remove mallets and personal belongings may be allowed by the club and should be coordinated appropriately with physical distancing and personal safety the priority. The key holder looking after the facility should if possible, place items outside for collection at set times, but clubs should risk assess and ensure appropriate measures are in place.
- Clubs should communicate in advance with players to advise on physical distancing requirements that are being applied on arrival at the club. It is advised that players do not arrive until 5 minutes before play and must stay outside the parameters of the club until it is safe to enter, and the previous players have left.
- Dress appropriately prior to travelling to the club, rather than changing there.
- Bring any food or drink you might need.
- Wash your hands and clean any equipment you use, such as hoops, balls and mallets, before and after you play.
- Clean padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use.

3. During Play

- The physical distancing rule of 2 metres must always be observed on and off the lawn. The usual custom of handshakes is not permitted. Further information on physical distancing guidance is available at [Staying Safe and Protecting Others](#)
- Children aged 11 years and younger are not required to physically distance. Children aged 12-17 can create a 'field of play bubble' that allows contact whilst play takes place. Normal physical distancing guidelines will however apply before and after the activity takes place.
- Do not use corner flags or offside markers.
- Do not move stop-boards/check fences but move ball to playable position.
- Use your feet, rather than hands, to position balls where you can do so with sufficient precision. After a turn it is advisable to wash or sanitise your hands.
- Other equipment cannot be shared between players.
- Players should not pick up any other player's equipment.
- Players should agree the score at the end of each scoring turn. Personal counters should be used to keep count of bisques/extra turns and hoop status.
- Players should be their own Referees and acknowledge faults and errors.
- Avoid using movable chairs, otherwise clean them before and after use.
- Cleaning products must be made available by the club. Players must use those products after each game to cleanse all equipment.
- If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into a tissue or upper sleeve. Dispose of your tissue into an appropriate bin supplied at the venue or place in a plastic bag and take home. Wash your hands afterwards for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face and ensure to clean your hands with at least 60% alcohol gel when you finish participating.

4. After Play

- Players must leave the premises immediately after conclusion of play, making sure they have sanitised the equipment and their hands.

The above guidance has been produced to continue the phased return to the outdoor croquet lawns in Scotland. All players and clubs have a responsibility to take care of themselves and their members.

Please be aware guidance can change and restrictions may be reintroduced - ensure you have checked the latest version of the SCA Covid-19 guidance on the SCA website and social media for further updates and enjoy getting back on the lawn safely and with consideration to others around you.