

Irish Indoor Bowling Association: Protocols for clubs under Sport Ireland jurisdiction

Resumption of Bowling under COVID19 Government Procedures

1. Club Responsibilities

1.1 Clubs should be fully aware and compliant with Government legislation as well as H.S.E. and Sport Ireland/Sport NI directives, and they should ensure that these guidelines are adhered to. The most up to date advice **COVID-19: Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting** can be found at the link below [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Reframing the challenge, continuing our recovery and reconnecting \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

The latest Return to Sport Guidance Note was issued in October 2021.
<https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-10/return-to-sport-guidance-october-2021.pdf>

1.2 Two club members will prepare the mats and playing equipment with hygiene in mind and disinfected for safe use by bowlers. This includes sanitising fenders, foot mats, block and jack on each mat. Mats should be laid at least one metre apart. After the game this equipment should be disinfected again before it is returned to storage.

1.3 Sanitisers are to be made available to all bowlers.

1.4 Toilets and hand washing facilities to remain open on club premises with all doors leading to them to remain open where possible. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure toilets are disinfected etc. as required. Tightly bag used tissues and put them rubbish bins provided. These bags should be put in another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste.

1.5 Ensure that the hall is always well ventilated.

1.6 Clubs should appoint a designated COVID-19 Officer (**see Appendix 1: Roles and Responsibility of a COVID-19 Officer and Appendix 2: Risk Assessment & Guidelines**) who should maintain an electronic record of all persons in attendance for all sessions, with contact details. This will help to facilitate contact tracing in the event that a participant becomes ill with COVID-19. Attendance sheets should be completed by all individuals in attendance and stored in an appropriate manner in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation.

1.7 A designated should ensure that the information recorded in advance on the attendance sheet is accurate each session/activity

1.8 An electronic record/attendance sheet should include the below information:

Overall organisation details:

- Club/organisation/facility name
- Activities planned for session
- Location of activity
- Date of activity

Individual details:

- Arrival time
- Departure time
- Full name
- Phone Number
- Email address
- Club/Organisation
- Role/position within organisation (Attendee, parent/guardian, coach etc.)

2. Player Responsibilities

2.1 Player Health

2.1.1 In line with a move towards personal judgement and responsibility it is recommended that symptomatic individuals do not attend sporting activities or events. Self-Isolation / Quarantine measures will differ depending on the situation. There is differing guidance depending on the setting, vaccination status, the international country (if travel is a factor) etc. The following links will be helpful

[Self-isolation and restricted movements - HSE.ie](#)

[If you are a close contact of COVID-19 - HSE.ie](#)

[gov.ie - Government advice on international travel \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

2.1.2 Ensure attendees enter via designated entry route. Ensure that this route is accessible for all attendees.

2.1.3 The IIBA recommend that players wear a suitable face covering, either a mask or shield, on entering the premises unless they are exempt.

2.1.4 All players must sanitise hands upon arrival to a bowling premises.

2.1.5 Pregame and postgame 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. This is the only item that bowlers should change on the premises.

2.2.2 Bowlers are allowed only one bag at the club attended.

2.2.3 Wash or sanitise your hands and sanitise any equipment (including bowls, jacks and mats) you use before and after you play – do not assume that the person before you has sanitised the equipment thoroughly.

2.2.4 Sanitise padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use.

3. On the Mat

Recommended numbers

From 22 October 2021, organised indoor and outdoor group activities (sports, arts, culture, dance classes etc) can take place without fixed capacity limits depending on the venue and vaccinated status of patrons, in line with sectoral guidance and are as follows

From 22 October indoor group activities (sports, arts, culture, dance classes etc)		
Patrons with proof of immunity (vaccinated or recovered)		Mixed Patrons (with and without proof of immunity)
INDOOR	Fixed capacity limits will not apply (organisers of indoor group activities should ensure that appropriate protective measures are in place).	Where indoor groups have a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people indoors, pods of 6 should apply. Multiple pods will be permissible and should take into account the overall size of the venue. Substantial social distancing between individual pods should be implemented.

This means that fixed capacity limits will not apply and players would be allowed to change mats if all were vaccinated.

If people are non-vaccinated / mixed then it is pods of 6 indoors. Players would have to maintain their pods and limit sharing of equipment / space etc. Separate pods should not mix.

Please note that the numbers may change at any time in accordance with Government guidance.

3.1 Mat, Jack, Bowls and Scoreboard

3.1.1 Spray chalk to be the only way to mark bowls that have made contact with the jack.

3.1.2 A player will not have control of the mat until the previous player is at least 2 metres from the mat.

3.1.3 In the event of a bowl that has left the rink or gone into the ditch, the bowl is to be removed by one designated player and placed behind the fender using a cloth.

3.1.4 In the event of a no head, the jack is to be replaced by one designated player using a cloth.

3.1.5 Placing of the jack should be done by foot.

3.1.6 When a count has been decided, bowls to be removed either by the owner of the bowls or by removing them by foot.

3.1.7 All bowlers must have a cloth with disinfectant/sanitiser to apply to each bowl and jack before use. Where a person requests assistance with lifting their bowls, the person assisting will wipe their bowl, hand it to the player and return to their seat.

3.1.8 Measuring will be done by one player on each rink predetermined by skips.

3.1.9 One designated player to keep the scoreboard updated.

3.1.10 Scorecards to be updated and kept in the skips' possession at all times.

3.2 General Social Distancing Guidelines

3.2.1 It is recommended that each player where possible maintain at least one metre distance from all other participants.

4. Spectators

4.1 The number of spectators will adhere to Government guidelines.

4.2 For indoor sporting events spectators should be fully seated.

From 22 October indoor group activities (sports, arts, culture, dance classes etc)		
Patrons with proof of immunity (vaccinated or recovered)		Mixed Patrons (with and without proof of immunity)
INDOOR	Vaccinated spectators attending indoor sporting events should be fully seated.	N/A

To note: Nothing in these protocols obliges any member to play bowls. Indeed, owners of halls can set their own criteria which may be in addition to the above protocols. It is therefore a matter for each person to assess their own risk.