

BOWLS ACT FRAMEWORK FOR RETURN TO PLAY IN A COVID-SAFE ENVIRONMENT: STAGE 3

Date: 13 August 2020

Introduction

The ACT Government further eased COVID-19 restrictions on Monday 10 August. The key change for Bowls is that there is now an allowance of up to 100 spectators (excluding participants and staff) in any indoor and outdoor venue provided that the one person per 4 square metres is maintained and physical distancing is observed between spectators (unless from the same household).

The general approach of "get in, play, get out" continues to apply. Physical distancing and hygiene requirements have to be observed.

The ACT Government expects sports to have a clear "Return to Play in a COVID-safe Environment" framework that details how, in a sport-specific setting, activity will be delivered. This requirement applies to both sporting organisations, such as Bowls ACT, and the clubs which are members of those organisations.

Organisations and clubs must be able to produce a copy of their completed framework for compliance purposes if asked.

This document is the framework prepared by Bowls ACT for stage 3. Clubs in the ACT should continue to draw on the Bowls ACT Framework in relation to their own documents. Clubs which are located in New South Wales should follow the requirements laid down by the State Government.

Frameworks are to be consistent with the ACT Public Health Directions, ACT Government guidelines and take account of the AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment. The Public Health Directions are made under the Public Health Act. Failure to comply with the Directions may be penalised by a significant fine.

FRAMEWORK

The highest priority of Bowls ACT continues to be the full resumption of bowls under arrangements which protect the health of our bowling community. This can only be done within the framework of ACT Government restrictions to combat COVID-19.

Bowls ACT recognises that there are members of the bowling community who are at greater risk in relation to COVID-19 because of age or underlying medical conditions. Those most at risk are:

- people aged 70 years and over;
- people aged 65 years and over with chronic medical conditions;
- people with compromised immune systems; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 50 with one or more chronic medical conditions.

If you are at greater risk, please consider carefully whether you should be bowling at this time.

Roll-ups, social and championship bowls

- Clubs can hold roll-ups, social bowls and championships, subject to the following requirements.

"Get in, play, get out"

- Bowlers should be prepared for play before arriving at the club. When their session on the green is completed and after cleaning equipment, bowlers should leave the club. However, if the club's bar and other facilities are open, bowlers may wish to use those facilities. If so, they must be taken into account in the number of people allowed in the club.

Number of bowlers per green and spectators

- A maximum of 100 participants can train in an outdoor area. However, as the requirements of one person per 4 square metres and physical distancing must be observed, 4 remains the maximum number of bowlers on a rink at any time. If triples or fours are being played, the other members of teams are to remain off the green, **or on an adjacent rink if available**, until it is their turn to bowl.
- Clubs will need to manage spectators around a green to ensure that limits on numbers and distancing requirements are met.

Pay close attention to hygiene

- Do not play if you are unwell and leave the club if you begin to feel unwell.
- Hand hygiene is very important, including washing hands before and after bowling. Clubs must have hand sanitisers available to be used by bowlers on entry to, and exit from, the club, as well as pre, post and during play.
- Avoid physical contact.
- Bowls equipment cannot be shared between bowlers. Club bowls should not be used.
- Bowlers are to use separate mats and jacks (or ensure that the same bowler on each rink places the mat or places/rolls the jack). Mats and jacks are to be cleaned after use. Clubs should provide disinfectant spray and disposable wipes for cleaning, which should be done, if possible, by the bowlers who have used the mats and jacks.
- Water bubblers are not to be used.
- Do not share personal equipment such as cleaning cloths, towels and drink bottles. Please do not pick up any bowls but your own.
- Communal facilities such as changerooms may be used, subject to appropriate cleaning protocols being in place.

Keeping records

- Clubs should maintain arrangements to record the names and contact phone numbers of bowlers who are practicing or playing. This will assist with contact tracing in the event of a COVID-19 positive result within a club.

Communication

- Clubs should ensure that their frameworks are circulated to all members and displayed prominently at club premises. Frameworks should also be available on club websites. This Framework will be available on the Bowls ACT website.

Review

- Bowls ACT will keep its Framework under review to ensure that it complies with the current requirements laid down by the ACT Government. Clubs should keep their frameworks under review.