

Croquet Association Guidance

2021 Covid-19 Precautions for Playing Croquet



Version 1- 3rd March, 2021

The Croquet Association offers the following advice to clubs and players, to minimise the risk of infection by Covid-19 when clubs decide to open for play. This version applies to clubs in England until further notice, though revised guidelines are expected to be issued as lockdown eases in Steps 3 & 4.

Both clubs and players should follow Government guidance, particularly those in vulnerable groups; this advice supplements that general guidance by covering situations specific to croquet. The advice has been updated as shown in the change log at the end of the document. It may be further updated if government advice changes. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with that advice.



Clubs may reopen for play from 29th March 2021; they should only reopen or restart activities as soon as they feel able to do so safely,

We want our community to stay physically and mentally healthy and as long as it is safe to do, and provided that it is consistent with Government guidance, we want to keep the croquet lawns open and available for members to use. We hope you all stay healthy and that we all get through these challenging times by looking to help each other where we can.

No changes are expected to be made to this guidance when we enter Step 2:



Meanwhile, keep safe, take care, look after yourself and, if possible, enjoy your croquet.

Advice to Clubs

The CA recommends that clubs adopt this advice and adapt it to their circumstances. The advice below recognises that there are measures that must be followed if our sport is to be managed in a safe way.

1. Clubhouses must only be open to the extent required to access equipment, toilet and hand washing facilities. Bars and catering facilities must remain closed.
2. Carry out a risk assessment if there isn't already a relevant one in place.

3. Ensure that the necessary facilities and cleaning products are available to maintain a clean environment.
4. Provide hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser for players.
5. To facilitate the NHS Test and Trace service, contact details for all people entering the club should be recorded and kept for 21 days. Many businesses are required to generate and display an NHS QR Code poster specific to their premises.
6. Consider providing a lawn-booking system, both to avoid congestion and to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
7. Except for organised events as described below, no more than six people (or people from no more than two households, if greater) may occupy a full-sized court. Half-size or Short lawns are permitted, with up to four people on them. The players on one court should not interact with those on adjacent ones.
8. Gathering limits do not apply to formally organised tournaments or coaching. An event is regarded as formally organised activity if it has been publicised in advance and is run under the direction of a manager/organiser, who must be present and responsible for ensuring that the event is conducted in a COVID-19 secure manner.
9. For formally organised tournaments, up to eight people are permitted on a full-size court, or four on half-size or Short courts. For coaching, up to five players in addition to the coach are permitted; the coach is responsible for ensuring that social distancing is maintained at all times.
10. It is a matter for clubs to decide whether they can accommodate guests, visitors or spectators, but if they do it is recommended that a record should be kept to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
11. Whether or not in play, no more than six players, guests, visitors or spectators should be permitted in any group and 2m social distancing should be observed within it.
12. Where equipment can be left out, then it is preferable to do so.
13. If possible, avoid the need to share club mallets. Consider allowing members to borrow one for a while.
14. Providing these guidelines are followed, outdoor coaching and local tournaments can take place. Clubs need to consider how they will manage attendees in a COVID secure way during inclement weather as gatherings indoors are not allowed.

Advice to Players

1. **Do not go to the club** if you are experiencing any symptoms of a cold or flu, in particular a cough or high temperature. Use the NHS helpline and

seek advice. For your own protection, follow the advice about self-isolation if you are, or are living with, someone in one of the vulnerable groups.

2. Familiarise yourself with your club's rules and respect its risk assessment.
3. All players must observe social distancing at all times unless they are in the same household or support bubble. Particular care should be taken in all doubles, including alternate stroke Association Croquet and in Golf Croquet games.
4. Any activity should be in line with the Government's social distancing measures at all times, including when going to and departing from a lawn. Consequently, do not shake hands before or after a game, nor congregate in groups of more than six.
5. Wash your hands before and after you play.
6. When setting out and taking in a court, only one person should handle any particular hoop or the peg.
7. Clean padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use.
8. Avoid using toilets wherever possible and clean after use.
9. Use the court booking system if your club provides one, rather than turning up in the hope of being able to play or practise.
10. If possible, dress appropriately prior to travelling to the club, rather than changing there.
11. Bring any food or drink you might need.
12. For golf croquet, players should agree the score at the end of each scoring turn. Personal counters should be used to keep count of bisques/extra strokes.
13. Avoid using movable chairs as far as possible, otherwise clean them before and after use.

Reviewed by the COVID-19 Task Force and updated March 2021.

Changes Log

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