



# Recommended Return to Play Framework for Lawn Bowling in Canada PHASE 2



## Introduction

During this time of return to play from complete shutdown, Bowls Canada recommends a phased in approach to Return to Play. This approach ensures that clubs can assess their readiness to fully implement local health authority requirements.

Based on the stage of reopening within their province and region, clubs will need to identify which Return to Play Phase best meets their situation.

### *Lawn Bowl Return to Play Phases*

Phase 1 – training and practice only

**Phase 2 – modified local games**

Phase 3 – intra club games

Phase 4 -- regional/provincial competition

### *Disclaimer*

**Bowls Canada are not experts on pandemics and therefore all Federal, Provincial and local Government and Public Health Authority information, guidelines and directives supersede this information. We have created this set of guidelines to inform the bowls community as to how Bowls Canada is responding to Covid-19 and to provide recommendations as to what we believe is the best course of action for local bowls clubs.**

## *Phase 2 Readiness*

This document contains a series of recommendations for how we might imagine ‘rebooting’ lawn bowling activity during the second phase of returning to play. It is essential that any and all decisions regarding the timing and protocol for a resumption of Bowls activity *must* adhere to Federal, Provincial and Local Public Health Authorities. To determine readiness for Phase 2 return to play implementation, the following steps are recommended.

1. Clubs **MUST** first contact their Provincial Bowls Associations before implementing Phase 2 of the Return to Play protocols or before moving on to the next phase of Return to Play. Failure to do so may result in clubs unknowingly implementing protocols that are in breach of provincial government directives. Provincial Associations are working closely with their Government representatives on what standards are required for sport and recreation facilities.
2. Clubs must also confirm with their insurance providers that they are covered for this phase of Return to Play protocols.
3. Identify the stage of physical distancing relaxation approved by local public health authorities and confirm that the club is able to implement the required standards.


Only once a club has confirmed their readiness to implement Phase 2, should they proceed with development of a Return to Play protocol for their club. The following are recommendations on how bowls clubs may consider operations once their local authorities have given them permission to access their facilities. This is not definitive and it cannot be emphasized enough that clubs must work with the Provincial Associations and their local Public Health Authorities to create a tailored Return to Play protocol.

## *This Framework*

This Return to Play Framework recommends that the following six areas be considered for any return to play implementation plans.

1. Pre-Screening
2. Recommended Operations Protocols
  - a. Clubhouse
  - b. Common Storage and Equipment Use
  - c. Phase Appropriate Bowls Activity
3. Bowler Expectations
4. Turf Maintenance
5. General Safety Protocols
6. Tracing Protocols

## Pre-Screening

- Clubs should ensure that all participants are aware of signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Consider encouraging participants to use the Government of Canada [tracking application](#) to monitor and track symptoms before coming out to play. Use of this application would also help with the implementation of a tracing protocol. 
- It is recommended that clubs consider appointing a safety officer or safety committee that will be responsible for overseeing and monitoring the return to play protocol.

## Recommended Protocols for Operations

### *Clubhouse*

Phase 2 readiness means that their Provincial physical distancing protocol plan has moved to the next stage of readiness and is allowing for small gatherings while still maintaining physical distancing requirements. Clubs will need to consider if they are able to implement the cleaning and sanitization protocols required by local public health authorities for common spaces and equipment.

If the following safety measures cannot be implemented, then the club should consider whether or not the clubhouse can be safely opened. At all times, the guidelines and legislations of Provincial and Local Health Authorities must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations.

Many clubs may choose to keep their clubhouses closed through Phase 2.

- Place signage by all entrances and storage facilities outlining the physical distancing guidelines in place, as well as hand-washing recommendations/protocols.
- Dedicate resources to clean and sanitize the club house on a daily basis. Create a cleaning log to identify when items are cleaned/sanitized throughout the day. Follow [Government of Canada disinfecting guidelines](#) for cleaning common areas.
- Disinfect all surfaces and materials before and after use.
- Water fountains should be closed. Bowlers should bring their own water.
- Keep the kitchen closed and do not allow food or beverages in the club house.
- Washrooms should only be used if local authorities allow. If your club washroom is able to open, consider limiting usage to one person at a time. Post a cleaning and disinfectant protocol for each occupant to follow before exiting. Establish a clear recognition tool so others are aware of when a washroom is “in use” and do not enter.
- If the clubhouse is opened, everyone inside must still maintain physical distancing. Do not congregate inside.
- Provide hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant wipes in common places

- Work with local health authorities on how to manage waste. While it is encouraged for bowlers to take their own waste home with them, this may not be a plausible solution for items such as used disinfectant wipes.

### *Recommended Protocol for Common Storage and Equipment Use*


Ideally, bowlers will bring and use their personal bowls. In those cases, where participants do not have access to their own bowls, consider the following recommendations for Phase 2 of Return to Play. At all times, the guidelines and legislations of Provincial and Local Health Authorities must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations.

- Appoint a safety volunteer who will ensure that used bowls are appropriately cleaned and ready for use;
- Post signage outlining the Protocol for Club Bowls Storage and Use
- Designate a “sanitized” area and “un-sanitized area” for bowls and jacks;
- Only one person at a time may enter the bowls storage area to remove a set of sanitized bowls and two sanitized jacks for play;
- Bowls and jacks to be used only once before being sanitized by the appointed safety personnel
- Have safety personnel wear appropriate PPE when sanitizing bowls
- Consider assigning a specific set of bowls to a specific person for their use during this Phase of RTP

### *Recommended Protocol for Phase 2 Bowls Activity – Modified Games*

The following recommendations are for consideration for Phase 2 by Provincial Bowls Associations and local clubs. At all times, the guidelines and legislations of Provincial and Local Health Authorities must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations.

- Have bowlers pre-schedule the use of a rink. Bowlers without a pre-scheduled time should not to be permitted access.
- Consider using an online tool such as SignUpGenius or Google Calendar. For those bowlers that don’t have internet access, clubs could appoint a volunteer who can be telephoned to help manage the scheduling process.
- Include as part of the sign-up process a commitment from participants that they have completed the pre-screening and will adhere to club protocols during their session.
- Remind bowlers to complete whatever screening tools the club has provided prior to arriving at the club for their pre-scheduled time to bowl.

- Leave some time between playing time slots to minimize contact between the participants of different slots. Consider playing time slots of not more than an hour during phase 2 especially if washrooms are not open at the club. This will also provide more opportunity for people to get out on the green over the day.
- Designate separate entrance and exit points to the grounds. If this is not possible, consider extending the time between playing time slots.
- Bowlers should arrive no more than 5 minutes before their scheduled time slot to discourage loitering. 
- Designate a “waiting area” in case bowlers do arrive early for their pre-scheduled time slot and ensure it is marked appropriately with physical distancing cues. This waiting area must be away from the playing areas so that participants in the earlier time slot do not cross paths unnecessarily.
- Keep a record of each person who arrives at the club and identify their arrival and departure times. This record should be virtual/digital if possible, to avoid multiple people using the same book/log. The online scheduling tool can help with this process.
- Do not permit bowlers to congregate in the parking lot either before or after they have finished bowling. Post a sign to remind bowlers of this protocol.
- Restrict the number of people on a rink to a maximum of **four** (two at each end) during Phase 2. Follow local physical distancing legislation at all times.
- There should be at least one empty rink between rinks being used.
- At this stage, mats are not recommended as they can be difficult to sanitize completely between uses. It is recommended that bowlers bring a personal item such as a towel to use as a delivery area.
- Consider using two jacks, one for each end. Designate one person to be in charge of setting the jack. The jacks should be cleaned and sanitized before and after use.
- It is recommended that at this stage modified games that incorporate physical distancing be allowed in addition to Phase 1 activities. See Appendix for examples of modified games. As restrictions are relaxed to later phases, modified games or tournaments will be recommended.
- If coaches are available, they should maintain physical distancing practices, and should not share equipment with participants (including bowls, jacks, and mats). Coaches must adhere to all return to play protocols.
- Do not use scoreboards. Do not use pushers/rakes. Do not kick the bowls in or pick up your own bowls. Do not touch someone else’s bowls or equipment.
- Close access to benches.

- Ensure appropriate signage is posted throughout the playing area to advise participants of the safety protocols in place.

## Bowler Expectations

The following recommendations are for consideration in Phase 2 of Return to Play by Provincial Bowls Associations and local clubs. At all times, the guidelines and legislations of Provincial and Local Health Authorities must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations.

- Pre-schedule when you would like to play; do not just show up and expect to play.
- Arrive no more than 5 minutes before your scheduled time, and leave promptly when you are finished.
- Practice physical distancing by staying a minimum of two metres away from each other at all times.
- Use your own bowls. If you do not own your own bowls, make sure you follow the posted safety protocols for using club bowls if they are available.
- Bring a towel to use in place of a mat.
- Designate one person to set the jack, or bring your own tennis ball to use as a jack.
- Do not share equipment.
- Do not shake hands or high five.
- Do not visit with other people; stick to your assigned rink and maintain physical distancing.
- Do not bring visitors with you to your scheduled bowling time slot.
- Do not access closed spaces or equipment. This includes benches.
- Do not loiter in the parking lot before or after you have finished bowling
- Do not enter the washroom if there is already someone else inside or if the washroom has been closed.
- Bring your own water
- Take home your own waste material.
- If you are feeling unwell, regardless of the symptoms, stay home.

## Turf Maintenance

The following recommendations are for consideration by Provincial Bowls Associations and local clubs. At all times, the guidelines and legislations of Provincial and Local Health Authorities must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations.

- For Phase 2, continue following safety standards for minimum requirements on the Bowls Canada website. At this stage, clubs may wish to consider increasing green maintenance as it continues to align with local municipal and public health physical distancing and safety standards.
- Post COVID-19 symptom signage regarding physical distancing requirements
- Post protocols for operations and safety

## General Safety Protocols

The following recommendations are for consideration by Provincial Bowls Associations and local clubs. At all times, the guidelines and legislations of Provincial and Local Health Authorities must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations.

- Educate volunteers and participants to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19. A list of symptoms is available from the [Government of Canada](#) and or as an infographic at the end of this document.
- Establish a communication plan to keep volunteers and participants informed and updated on issues affecting the club
- Establish a policy that requires volunteers, staff, and participants to inform you when they've been exposed to any highly communicable illness. Direct them to the local health agency for testing. Implement a screening program to ensure all staff/volunteers/participants are healthy and have not travelled outside of Canada. Consider using the Government of Canada [tracking application](#) for this purpose.
- Conduct meetings by phone or online where possible. If in-person meetings are required, maintain physical distancing.
- Ensure appropriate signage is throughout the facility. For example:
  - COVID-19 symptom signage at entrance points,
  - handwashing techniques and waste removal in the washrooms,
  - rules and safety protocols in all common areas including clubhouse, green, storage area, parking area, waiting areas, etc.
- Educate volunteers and participants on [proper handwashing and hygiene techniques](#).
  - Provide necessary sanitation supplies such as wipes and hand sanitizers.

- Ensure hand washing signage is present at all hand washing stations.
  - It is recommended that bowlers wash their hands frequently rather than wear gloves
  - Provide hand sanitizer stations for volunteers, staff, and participants in multiple locations.
- It is recommended that bowlers and volunteers wear masks.

It will be up to clubs and their local authorities for how to deal with individuals who do not follow safety precautions or other guidelines that the club had adopted.

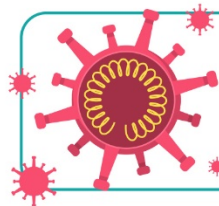
## Tracing Protocol

- Follow the tracing protocols established by your local health authorities.
- Ensure you have a process to notify your members and those directly impacted should a participant test positive.
- Consider the consequences and ability to implement tracing protocols before allowing participants to return to play at your facility.



# CORONAVIRUS

Covid-19 or 2019-nCov



## WHAT IS IT? Q

COVID-19 is a new virus and so health officials are still learning about its impact and severity. At this time, it appears to cause an illness similar to the flu with the most common signs of infection being fever, cough and shortness of breath. In severe cases patients can develop pneumonia, severe respiratory distress, kidney failure and death.



## PREVENTION



Stay at home when you are sick



Avoid touching eyes, nose, & mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid close contact with people who are sick



Clean & disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



Wash your hands at least 20 seconds



Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue



Avoid crowded places and all unnecessary travel



## SYMPTOMS

Common Less typical



## INCUBATION

Because the early symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses, if you have any of the common symptoms (fever, cough and shortness of breath) you should contact your doctor's office and arrange to have a consultation.



# REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19. WASH YOUR HANDS.



1

Wet hands with warm water



2

Apply soap



3

For at least 20 seconds, make sure to wash:



4

Rinse well



5

Dry hands well with paper towel



6

Turn off tap using paper towel



palm and back of each hand



between fingers



under nails



thumbs

📞 1-833-784-4397

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Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
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## Appendix – Modified Games for Phase 2 Return to Play

### *2-bowl Pairs*

- Play 2-bowl pairs using 4-3-2-1 scoring format
- First to 51 points

### *Distant Singles Game*

- 2 players (each on their own rink), 4 bowls each, 8 ends
- The jack is set at a specified length for the game. Each player plays on their own rink and draws to their own jack. Measure the distance of each bowl from the jack (i.e. inches or centimeters); whoever has the lowest average distance (over 32 bowls) is the winner.

### *Pressure Game*

- 2 players, 3 bowls each, 3 end sets
- for the first set, player one has an extra bowl which is placed (front toucher) before the first bowl is played.
- for the second set, player two has the extra bowl (simulates the situation when a lead has an outstanding first bowl - protect a good shot / minimize losses)

### *Skins Game*

- 2 players, 4 bowls each
- played as a normal game of singles with player holding shot establishing mat placement and length to play
- on each end the player with the bowl furthest from the jack has that bowl removed for the rest of the game
- no drives; a jack moved more than two mat lengths is returned to its original position
- winner is the last player to have bowls in play (maintaining bowls in a scoring zone, beating opponent bowls, weight control)

### *Add to 8*

- 2 players, up to 8 bowls each
- both players have 8 bowls available, and will always have 2 bowls to compete
- each player starts with two deliveries, as a minimum every end, however, whoever wins the first end can now add a bowl for delivery the next end
- if they lose that following end they forfeit that extra bowl and both players are back to two deliveries
- consecutive winning ends means you add bowls to play with  
(\*alternate game- add a bowl every time a player wins an end (no forfeiting) until one player earns all eight bowls)

### *FULL House: Decision-making*

- 2 players, 4 bowls each
- play singles where each player has to deliver each of these four types:
  1. Forehand draw
  2. Yard to 2-yards on shot, hand of choice
  3. Backhand draw
  4. Drive, hand of choice
- each player chooses the order when they use each of these four deliveries as part of the decision making process

### *Singles Serve*

- 2 players, 4 bowls each
- \*based on squash scoring system- serve to win a point/shot
- a player only scores by winning the end to secure serve, and then must win the subsequent end to score points
- losing that end means the other player has the serve and capacity to score on the next end
- play first to 7 shots

## *JACKO*

- 2 players, 4 bowls each
- play as a regular singles games, without the jack (which is not thrown until after all bowls are delivered)
- as the end progresses, players have to consider where best to place their bowls to minimize lost points
- the jack is rolled by player one (predetermined), and the end is scored
- if the jack goes out of bounds, is short of the legal playing length, or goes in the ditch, the opposition has a chance to roll the jack to their shot advantage

## *Crown Bowling*

- 2 players on a rink. Number of bowls could be 2 - 4 depending on whether you want to keep things moving quickly....or not so much. Players bring their mat along with them. The closest bowl is declared the winner. That person then drops the mat near the head, tosses the jack to an open space and rolls the first bowl.

## *Consistency*

- 2 players on a rink using either 3 or 4 bowls. The closest 4 bowls count and they are each worth 1 point. This keeps the score quite close.

## *Heartbreaker*

- 2 players, 4 bowls each
- After all bowls have been delivered, remove each player's closest bowl before determining shot/scoring.

## *Singles with a marker*

- 3 bowlers are on the rink but one of them takes their turn to mark for the other two. If you play 18 ends you could rotate the marker every two ends OR change the marker every 6 ends. Either way, players mark 6 ends and play 12 ends

## *Singles with exercise*

- 2 players, 3 bowls each
- The game is singles with one person at each end. Player A rolls 2 bowls. Players switch ends. Player B rolls three bowls. Switch ends. Player A rolls the hammer.

- Next end: Player B rolls 2 bowls. Players switch ends. Player A rolls 3 bowls. Switch ends. Player B rolls the hammer.
- Play twelve ends.

### *Safety Tips*

In addition to *Bowler Expectations*, here are a few other safety tips when playing modified games:

- Start and finish each game with a wish for a good game and a thank you. No touching is necessary.
- When not delivering a bowl or directing the head, stand on the rink boundaries or in the vacant adjacent rink and at least 2 metres from all other players. Each team could have its own “side” to stand on.
- At crossover, players can use the unoccupied adjacent rinks to avoid passing too close to each other.
- Bowls that go into the ditch will remain there to be picked up by their owner for use in the next end, even if they are not touchers.
- Touchers may be marked using spray chalk. A toucher in the ditch may be deflected by a non toucher in the ditch. So be it. Leave it where it comes to rest. No re-spotting the Jack
- Burnt ends are NOT replayed. Carry the score forward and the same Lead will go first in the following end. This way only the same lead player delivers the Jack.

The team Lead handling the Jack must sanitize the jack at the start and end of the game before returning it to the club for future use.