



# Return to Play Framework for Lawn Bowling in Alberta

## Updated PHASE 1 based on BCB's Phase 1



### Introduction

Bowls Alberta, as the governing body of the sport of Lawn Bowls in Alberta, and a member of Bowls Canada Boulingrin (BCB), has prepared this Return to Play document for our member clubs. We are thankful to BCB for their preparation of general Return to Play Phases that we can amend to comply with the recommendations of the Alberta Health Services (AHS) and of the mandatory provincewide public health measures.

Using the AHS measures issued on ~~April 30, 2021, <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>~~, **May 9, 2021 <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx#jumplinks-3>** and the Bowls Canada Phase 1 recommendations, the board has adopted this Phase 1 and its protocols for the start of the 2021 season. Bowls Alberta recommends delaying return to play at the clubs until May 15 to comply with the Premier's plea to stay home and help reduce the upward and record-breaking trend of cases in Alberta. They are also adopting a phased in approach to Return to Play to ensure clubs can assess their readiness to fully implement local health authority requirements as well as help their members reacquaint or become familiar with the protocols and expectations. We are hopeful that we will be able to move through Phases, like last year, with approximately two weeks between each phase. This is based on the hope that the current case numbers in the province will begin to trend downward and more and more Albertans will be vaccinated. Bowls Alberta's board recognizes that some of the restrictions in this phase go beyond what the AB government recommends for outdoor sports at this time, but they are confident that all our members will understand the heartfelt desire to help our members stay safe.

### Disclaimer

All Federal, Provincial, and local Government and Public Health Authority information, guidelines and directives supersede this information. The Board of Bowls Alberta expects that if stronger restrictions are put in place, all clubs will comply. The current situation is fluid and we need to ensure we are ready to respond to new restrictions and hopefully lifting of those as we move through the next few weeks and months.

### Phase 1 Readiness

To determine readiness for Phase 1 implementation, clubs are expected to follow these steps:

1. Clubs must appoint a Head Safety Officer who will oversee their club's readiness and compliance in implementing the Return to Play protocols as stated in this document. This Head\_Safety Officer will be the main contact with Bowls Alberta regarding questions, clarifications, and concerns and will receive updates from Bowls Alberta that are received

- from our Provincial Sport Contact and from the Alberta Health Services.
2. Clubs must contact Bowls Alberta with the name and contact information of their Head Safety Officer and the date they are able to and will implement Phase 1. Failure to do so may result in clubs unknowingly implementing protocols that are in breach of provincial government directives. Bowls Alberta's Executive Director will continue to work closely with their Government representatives on what standards are required for our sport.
  3. Clubs must also confirm with their insurance providers that they are covered for operations as they follow the AB Health Authorities and these Bowls Alberta protocols.
  4. Head Safety Officers should always work closely with their club's Board of Directors throughout all phases and work to determine the maximum numbers of participants their club can accommodate with social distancing throughout the summer. This information will be useful for setting further phases and in planning possible events (tournaments, development camps, coach courses). The Board of Bowls Alberta will request this information as they prepare Phase 2.
  5. Each club **MUST** use a preregistration system for their participants and so should prepare Sign UP Genius or a similar online registration system for this process. Contact the Bowls Alberta office to set up your Sign-Up Genius account for up to two administrators. Using this system assists in maintaining records of participation.

## **This Framework**

This Phase 1 Return to Play framework, and all subsequent Phases, recommends that specific areas/aspects pertaining to each club be considered. The areas and specific recommendations for each are outlined below. Some considerations may eventually differ *slightly* from club to club because of their number of greens, area available around the greens, and their club house sizes and availability and their storage areas. But for now, Bowls Alberta requests that all member clubs be consistent in complying with the essential points within each area as outlined below as we slowly return to play.

**Clubs may commence play on May 15, or a later date, once they have met the readiness requirements above and comply with the specific area preparations below.** Clubs are reminded to email Bowls Alberta as to the date they will open. Clubs could use the week prior to beginning return to play to allow members to pre-register for an opportunity to drop by the club, to complete their membership registration and sign various forms, to pick up equipment or just to drop by and admire the greens and build anticipation to play! This also gives all members the opportunity to again become familiar with the pre-registration requirements and restrictions of masks, social distancing, and limiting numbers. Note that if your club is in one of the provincial hot spots you should consider delaying inviting members to your club.

## **Turf Maintenance**

- Post COVID-19 symptom signage and physical distancing requirements for all staff & volunteers working on the greens or with equipment.
- Post protocols for operations and safety....this should always be posted!
- Ensure hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are available in work areas.

### ***Clubhouse and Common Storage Areas***

- Signage should be placed by all entrances outlining the physical distancing guidelines in place for each space.
- Everyone that enters the club grounds, club house or storage area must wear a mask.
- Clubs should restrict the number of people allowed in the indoor areas to 1 person at a time to begin with.
- Hand-washing recommendations/protocols should be posted in washrooms. Post a cleaning and disinfectant protocol for each occupant to follow before exiting.
- Water fountains should not be available.
- Kitchens should be kept closed during Phase 1.
- Bars and/or sale of alcohol should follow the local health authorities recommendations.
- Hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant wipes should be available in the indoor areas.
- Clubs should regularly clean and sanitize the indoor areas and create and maintain a cleaning log for each area. Follow [Government of Canada disinfecting guidelines](#) for cleaning. A very good non bleach cleaning product is Virex II-256, a quaternary ammonia-based disinfectant. It is safe for all surfaces and equipment.
- Ensure you have protocols in place for managing waste.

### ***Equipment Use***

- It is recommended that bowlers will bring and use their personal bowls.
- Consider assigning a specific set of bowls to a specific person for their use.
- Post signage outlining the Protocol for Club Bowls Storage and use.
- Designate a “sanitized” area and “un-sanitized area” for bowls, jacks and mats. If sets of bowls are assigned to individuals the bowlers themselves should sanitize their bowls.
- Appoint a safety/cleaning volunteer/Safety Officer for each ‘time slot’ who will ensure that used equipment is appropriately cleaned after each use. This volunteer should wear appropriate PPE when sanitizing equipment.
- Minimize shared equipment at this time and do not use rakes or score boards.

### ***Greens***

- Ensure appropriate signage is posted along the greens to remind all players of the social distancing requirement and of the need to minimize touch points.
- Put up a sign or two to remind people to respect each other and to have fun as well!

### ***Pre-Screening***

- Clubs should ensure that all members that wish to participate at the club are aware of signs and symptoms of COVID-19. This can be made available to members through a handout as they register for the season or via an email. Clubs are also encouraged to post a few signs at the club that outline the signs and symptoms.
- All members must go through pre-screening protocol when registering online. (Confirm that they are feeling well and have not been in contact with someone with Covid-19 or who is awaiting test results.) If health conditions or exposure changes prior to the scheduled date; members must cancel their booking and NOT go to the club.
- Clubs must share with their members the ‘Bowler Expectations’ document and post the

document in a few high-profile places at their club.

- As all bowlers register for a time slot, they must also confirm that they are aware of the Bowler Expectations and will abide by them.
- For those bowlers that don't have internet access, clubs could appoint a volunteer who can be telephoned to help manage their registration times and confirmations.

### **Tracing Protocol**

- Clubs are required to have a record of member participation at the greens. Ideally an electronic system is best such as Sign-up Genius or a similar registration system in the event that this information is required for tracing purposes.
- Insurance companies and lawyers do recommend you maintain these records.

### **Bowls Activity -- Training and Practice**

- Bowlers without a pre-registered time should not be permitted access to the club.
- Bowlers should arrive no more than 5 minutes before their scheduled time slot.
- All individuals should sanitize their hands upon arrival at the club and upon leaving.
- Bowlers should wear a mask upon arrival and upon departure but do not have to wear a mask while playing. Bowlers should also consider wearing a mask if this makes others feel more comfortable while playing. We are in this together!
- Restrict the number of people on a rink to a maximum of ~~two~~ **ONE** during Phase 1 unless they are members of the same household (**Max of 4**) / singles support 'household' in which case the maximum number may be ~~four~~ **three**.
- There should be at least one empty rink between rinks being used unless the rinks are spaced out to a maximum of five rinks on a green.
- Consider using two jacks and two mats, one for each end. Designate one person to be in charge of setting the jack. Alternately have safety protocols in place to minimize touching of shared equipment. (**Applies to singles and their 2 close contacts only as all other rinks are singles or households only**)
- No competitions can take place during this phase; only practice and modified practice type games where bowlers feel confident in their social distancing. Practicing can be made to be fun and challenging ~~and hopefully coaches can assist!~~
- ~~If coaches are available, they are required to practice physical distancing, wear a mask, and cannot share equipment with participants (including bowls, jacks, and mats).~~ **NO Coaching**

### **General Safety Protocols**

- 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.
- Ensure a safety officer is present for all activities at the club or on the green.
- It will be up to clubs and their local authorities to determine how to deal with individuals who do not follow safety protocols or other guidelines that the club has adopted.
- Drop-ins are not allowed at this time as all players must pre-register.
- All bowlers *must* be members and members may play at more than one club if they are members of another club as well.

- ~~Coaches may offer sessions for new members complying with all social distancing and cleaning protocols and limiting the numbers to no more than ten on one green.~~
- Clubs should conduct meetings by phone or online where possible. ~~If in-person meetings are required, maintain physical distancing, and limit the gathering to 10 in an open outside area. This applies to all board and committee meetings.~~ **NO outdoor social gatherings or meetings at the lawn bowls greens. Greens are open for bowling practice, maintenance, and season preparation only.** If an AGM or larger meeting is required, the Zoom platform works well and is available for use from Bowls Alberta.