



# Return to Play Framework for Lawn Bowling in Alberta

## PHASE 3 based on BCB's Phase 3 & with Stage 2 AB Open for Summer



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### 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 late May, under Alberta's Open for Summer Plan, [Stronger public health measures | Alberta.ca](#), the board has updated this Phase 3 and its protocols to begin on June 10. We will continue to carefully monitor the lifting of restrictions and be ready to implement Phase 4 for our clubs which would then correspond with Alberta's Stage 3 of Alberta's Open for Summer Plans and the final Phase 4 from Bowls Canada.

### 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.

***Clubs can move into Phase 3 on June 10 when the province moves into their Stage 2 for Open for Summer as announced by the Government. The provinces Stage 2 and our Phase 3 will remain in effect for a minimum of two weeks.***

Clubs must still adhere to the *basic safety and cleaning protocols* set out in the Phase 1 Framework for their safe turf maintenance, the Clubhouse, their Common Storage Areas and for equipment use. But updates for indoor use and limit for numbers within spaces are changing! Protocols and for pre-screening and keeping records for tracing continues.

### Notification of moving to Phase 3

Clubs must have their Safety Officer notify Bowls Alberta when they move to Phase 3. Clubs are encouraged to update or prepare their own club protocols and continue to communicate these to members and ensure they are followed for the continued safety of all their members. Please send Bowls Alberta your club's Return to Play documents.

## ***Main new directive from the AB Government***

Youth and adult sports – resume with no restrictions for outdoors; practice, jitneys, competitions, and league play are all permitted. If you can do the activity with social distancing, then that is the expectation....so for lawn bowling we should still socially distance.

Some further 'enabling parameters' are coming for **youth under 12** (i.e. # in a gathering) because this group will still be at a higher risk of spreading any disease....we'll inform you with **updates when they are received**.

It is highly recommended you continue to ask the Screening questions.

Contact tracing will continue so do KEEP records still of who attends, dates and times.

Still carry on with cleaning high touch surfaces OFTEN and cleaning shared equipment / keep up those best sanitation practices.

Outdoor social gatherings are limited to 20; may have up to six at a table but still practice social distancing. i.e. out on a patio or large section of lawn.

Social indoor gatherings are still NOT allowed. BUT *use* of indoor spaces is allowed at 1/3 of fire code capacity.

Spectators are allowed at sporting events but up to 1/3 of capacity.

**Some health orders will still be in force** and are being updated and going through approval. Again, when we receive them, **we will update you**.

## ***What Bowls Alberta recommends:***

### ***Bowls Activity – socially distanced play***

- Bowlers should still pre-register to participate at the club since a club must still keep a record of who attends on what day and the times.
- All individuals should still sanitize their hands upon arrival at the club and upon leaving.
- Bowlers must still wear masks if they cannot socially distance or if they go inside storage rooms, club houses and washrooms.
- Each club is requested to set their own limits as to how many may be inside their club houses at a time and post on the doors. You may request 3 m distancing for indoors. i.e. limit of 10 at a time inside the clubhouse getting equipment from their lockers or using the washrooms.
- Ensure the rinks are spaced to assist bowlers in maintaining social distancing; it is recommended that greens be set up with no more than six rinks. Currently, we recommend that clubs begin with singles and pairs games and when comfortable begin playing triples.
- Continue using equipment as to minimize 'shared' touching and ensuring equipment is cleaned between use. But it should be noted that research has shown that Covid-19 is rarely spread through touch surfaces, but cleaning protocols are still the best practice.
- Since spectators are allowed we request that each club set their own limits and have those spectators register to come to the club so that records of attendance at the club are maintained for everyone.

### ***General Safety Protocols***

- Ensure a safety officer is present for all activities at the club or on the green; a safety officer may play while fulfilling their duties particularly if the group is very small.
- Drop-ins should still not be allowed at this time as all players must pre-register.
- Regardless of vaccination status, bowlers must adhere to club protocols.
- Coaches may offer sessions for new members complying with all social distancing and cleaning protocols.
- Kitchens should remain closed, but service of closed packaged snacks could be considered.
- Bar service could be arranged for outdoors following social distancing, safety protocols and cleaning practices; follow what is allowed for your own club.

### ***Anticipated Alberta Stage 3 Open for Summer***

- Could begin as early as June 24.
- All restrictions lifted, including ban on indoor social gatherings.
- 'Law' to wear masks indoors and socially distance will be gone but some recommendations will still be made. Municipalities may also have their own laws still in effect.
- Will no longer be any travel restrictions across the province.
- Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 remain.

### ***Bowls Alberta will make recommendations for the next Phase***

Ideally the Safety Officers and the Covid-19 Committee for Bowls AB will meet to discuss and prepare something for all clubs to consider.