



Open for Lawn Bowling in Alberta Final Phase with Step 3 of Alberta's Open for Summer Plan



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 another updated 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. We are now moving to Bowls Alberta's Phase 4 which now allows Provincial /Covincial Tournaments along with the club events and intercity league play. Note that our Phase 4 does NOT fit with the BCB Phase 4 of Return to Play.

With the Premier and Alberta Health Services announcement of "Open for Summer" beginning July 1st, the board has now approved this final Phase 4 update to begin on the same day. We will continue to carefully monitor any new imposing of restrictions and be ready to implement new protocols, if and when required. With the continuation of vaccinations, we are very hopeful that we will continue to see very low numbers across the province. The variants are somewhat of a concern, but they will be around for years to come and hopefully will not put the province in another place of imposing restrictions.

Disclaimer

As usual, 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 or returning to restrictions as we move through the next few weeks and months.

Main new directive from the AB Government

All remaining restrictions will be lifted, including the ban on indoor social gatherings on July 1st.

Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 may remain.

The general indoor provincial mask mandate will be lifted, but masking may still be required in limited and specific settings.

Bottom line: there are no more restrictions on participation in any sports.

What Bowls Alberta recommends:

Clubs can move into Phase 4 on July 1st but are requested to do so with good caution and a special measure of respect for all of their members.

General Safety Protocols

- If municipal regulations, particularly for face masks, is different from the provincial regulations make sure you obey the orders for your city.
- Continue with best practices of basic cleaning protocols.
- Ask members to continue good personal hygiene practices.
- It is recommended to continue to avoid handshakes and high fives.
- Clearly communicate with members that they do NOT come and play when having any covid-19 symptoms and/or not feeling well.
- Continue to keep records of attendance at the club.
- Drop ins and guests are now allowed but do keep records.
- Recommended to move slowly with opening kitchens and consider not sharing or selling food unless prepackaged containers until later in August or September.
- If possible, move your 'bar' to outdoors with a 'bar cart' and that way help limit line ups or people inside your buildings.
- Clubs should still set in place some restrictions for indoor (clubs houses, storage spaces, lockers, washroom use, etc.) spaces, limiting the number of people in close spaces and requesting masks if necessary.
- Continue to have a Safety Officer in place to ensure compliance with club protocols; the Safety Officer is no longer required to be present each time the club is open.
- Clearly communicate your expectations with all your members!

Bowls Activity

- Bowlers should be respectful of others; respect their personal space and their concerns or fears of Covid. Encourage everyone to be patient and caring!
- Clubs can move to triples and fours when they feel comfortable and ready.
- Clubs can move the rinks back to normal distances when they feel ready.

Bowls Alberta will make recommendations for Clubs if a fourth wave of the Covid-19 virus or its variants does come about.

Ideally the Club Head Safety Officers and the Covid-19 Committee for Bowls AB will meet to discuss and prepare something for all clubs to follow complying with all requirements from Federal, Provincial, local Governments, and Public Health Authorities.