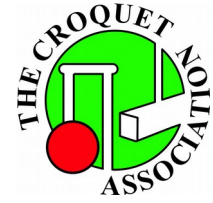


# Croquet Association Guidance

## Covid-19 Precautions for Playing Croquet



*Version 4- 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020*

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 from 1<sup>st</sup> June until further notice.

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.

The [guidance published by DCMS](#) on 13<sup>th</sup> May states that organisations are encouraged to think creatively about how best to make their sport or activity possible within the guidelines, but also that they should only reopen or restart activities as soon as they feel able to do so safely. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with that advice. They have been updated in line with the further relaxation of the lockdown in England from 1<sup>st</sup> June, but it is up to clubs to decide whether they can safely accommodate more people playing or spectating.

These are uncertain and very unsettling times. 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.

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 now more stringent measures that must be followed if our sport is to be managed in a safe way.

1. Clubhouses should only be open to the extent required to access equipment, toilet and hand washing facilities. Bars and catering facilities should remain closed.
2. Ensure that the necessary facilities and cleaning products are available to maintain a clean environment and enable players to wash equipment after use.
3. Provide hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser for players.

4. Only pre-arranged games, coaching or individual practice should be permitted, not roll-up or public sessions. There should be no more than four players on a court for play: either one game of singles; two, double-banked, games of singles; or one game of doubles. 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.
5. Provide clear signs to encourage good hand washing technique, social distancing and limits to the number of players per court.
6. Consider providing a lawn-booking system, both to avoid congestion and to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
7. It is a matter for clubs to decide whether they can now accommodate guests, visitors or spectators, but if they do it is recommended that a record should be kept to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
8. 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.
9. Where equipment can be left out, then it is preferable to do so. Non-essential equipment should be stored away.
10. Avoid the need to share club mallets. Consider allowing members to borrow one for a while.

## **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. All players must keep 2m apart at all times unless they are in the same household. Particular care should be taken in all doubles, including alternate stroke Association Croquet and in Golf Croquet games.
3. 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.
4. Wash your hands and clean any equipment you use, such as hoops, balls and club mallets, before and after you play.
5. When setting out and taking in a court, only one person should handle any particular hoop or the peg.
6. Clean padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use.
7. Avoid using toilets wherever possible and clean after use.
8. Use the court booking system if your club provides one, rather than turning up in the hope of being able to play or practise.

9. If possible, dress appropriately prior to travelling to the club, rather than changing there.
10. Bring any food or drink you might need.
11. Do not use clips, corner pegs/offside markers or flags (unless needed to secure string boundaries). Players should agree the score at the end of each scoring turn. Personal counters should be used to keep count of bisques/extra strokes.
12. Do not move stop-boards/check fences, but take relief instead.
13. Avoid using movable chairs as far as possible, otherwise clean them before and after use.
14. Use your feet, rather than hands, to position balls where you can do so with sufficient precision, including when moving or replacing balls from a double-banked game. If playing Association Croquet, handle only your own ball(s), not those of your opponent.
15. Players should be their own Referees and acknowledge faults and errors if they occur.

*Reviewed by the Dept. for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and updated after further consultation with them on 29<sup>th</sup> May.*

## **Changes Log**

v1 12<sup>th</sup> May First published.

v2 14<sup>th</sup> May Updated to reflect DCMS guidance published on 13<sup>th</sup> May and to encourage provision of signs

v3 15<sup>th</sup> May Updated to note that it had been reviewed by DCMS

v4 30<sup>th</sup> May Updated in the light of Government guidance announced on 28<sup>th</sup> May and guidance from DCMS, that groups of up to 6 people may meet outdoors providing that social distancing is followed. Paragraphs 4, 7 and 8 of the advice to clubs, and 2, 11 and 14 of that to players, have changed.