

Croquet Association Guidance

Covid-19 Precautions for Playing Croquet

Version 8- 24th September, 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 24th September 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 13th 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 4th July, and subsequent tightening to limit groups to 6 both indoors and outdoors from 14th September and to make recording for contact tracing mandatory. Further requirements for premises offering catering were added on 24th September: please see the appendix. However, it is up to clubs to decide whether they can safely accommodate more people playing or spectating and to what extent to open their clubhouse and other buildings.

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 may be used in accordance with government [COVID 19 Secure guidance](#). Clubs are strongly advised to carry out a risk assessment: a checklist of points to consider before and while opening has been provided in [MS-Word](#) and [PDF](#) formats.

2. Changing rooms should not be used other than for access to equipment, toilets and hand washing facilities.
3. Additional consideration should be given to the opening of bars and catering facilities, for which there is [separate government guidance, which is summarised in an Appendix](#)
4. To facilitate the NHS Track and Trace service, it is now mandatory that contact details for all people entering the club should be recorded and kept for at least 21 days. Many businesses are required to [generate](#) and display an NHS QR Code poster specific to their premises.
5. Consider providing a lawn-booking system, both to avoid congestion and to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
6. It is a matter for clubs to decide whether they can now accommodate guests, visitors or spectators.
7. There should be no more than six players on a court for play. 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.
8. Whether or not in play, no more than six players, guests, visitors or spectators should be permitted in any group and social distancing should be observed within it (unless all are members of no more than two households or support bubbles).
9. Ensure that the necessary facilities and cleaning products are available to maintain a clean environment and enable players to wash equipment before and after use.
10. Provide hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser for players.
11. Provide clear signs to encourage good hand washing technique, social distancing and limits to the number of players per court.
12. Where equipment can be left out, then it is preferable to do so.
13. 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. Familiarise yourself with your club's rules and respect its risk assessment.
3. All players must observe social distancing at all times unless they are in the same household or support bubble. Particular care should be taken in all doubles, including alternate stroke Association Croquet and in Golf Croquet games.

4. 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, nor congregate in groups of more than six.
5. Use the court booking system if your club provides one, rather than turning up in the hope of being able to play or practise.
6. If possible, dress appropriately prior to travelling to the club, rather than changing there.
7. Consider [government advice about travelling](#), either to you own club or when visiting other ones for tournaments or matches.
8. Check if the club's catering facilities are available. If not, bring any food or drink you might need.
9. Wash your hands and clean any equipment you use, such as hoops, balls and club mallets, before and after you play.
10. Clean anything that you touch e.g. tables, chairs, padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use.
11. Avoid using toilets wherever possible and clean after use.
12. When setting out and taking in a court, only one person should handle any particular hoop or the peg.
13. Clean any corner pegs/offside markers or flags you touch: these are not necessary for social play. Personal counters should be used to keep count of bisques/extra strokes.
14. Do not move stop-boards/check fences, but take relief instead.
15. 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 you own balls and clips, not those of your opponent.
16. 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 15th May 2020 and updated after further consultation with them on 29th May. Reviewed again on 2nd July, 12th and 24th September.

Appendix: Catering Guidance

The following advice is an attempt to summarise various official sources, but it is liable to change and should not be taken as definitive:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-22-september>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#face-coverings-at-work>

1. Any premises serving food or drink must close by 10pm.
2. If food is served indoors then customers/players must be seated at tables and must be served at tables. If there are no tables inside then food can be collected, so long as the queue respects social distancing, and taken outside.
3. Anyone moving about in a clubhouse where food is being served must now wear a face-covering, and only those seated at a table and eating or drinking are permitted to remove their face-covering.
4. Face coverings for people serving food are not mandatory where it hinders speaking to or supporting customers. If face coverings are worn then they must be used appropriately i.e. washing hands before and after putting on and removing a face covering, not touching the face covering, changing the face covering if it becomes damp, continuing to wash hands regularly.
5. For people who are preparing food the advice remains that scrupulous hand and surface washing is essential and that inappropriate PPE such as face coverings should not be used as a substitute or for risk management.

Changes Log

v1 12th May First published.

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

v3 15th May Updated to note that it had been reviewed by DCMS

v4 30th May Updated in the light of Government guidance announced on 28th 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.

v5 30th June Updated in the light of revised Government guidance announced on 23rd June, which takes effect on 4th July. In the section for clubs, paragraph 1 has been split into two; paragraphs 3 & 4 have been added; and 5, 7, 10, 11 & 12 (as numbered in v5) amended. In that for players, paragraph 2 has been added; 3,7,11,12 & 15 amended; and 14 in v4 (which advised against using chairs) deleted.

V6 2nd July Updated to clarify the advice in paragraph 4 of the advice to clubs, about recording contact details; to increase the limit of the number of players on a court from four by six in paragraph 7, and add a reference to travel guidance

for players. The opportunity has been taken to re-arrange the paragraphs into a more logical order.

V7 12th September Updated to note the restriction to groups of six both inside and outside imposed from 14th September, and that record keeping for contact tracing is now mandatory. The prohibition on using corner pegs/offside markers and corner flags has been relaxed as these are now felt to carry relatively little risk.

V8 24th September. Added appendix to cover additional requirements for premises serving food or drink from 24th September, Availability of NHS QR Posters noted in para 4 of the advice to clubs.