

‘PLAY SAFE, STAY SAFE’

HEWELL IS (NEARLY!!) OPEN FOR BOWLING

The government issued new guidance on Monday 11 May following an address by the prime minister the previous evening. This guidance included a relaxation of the rules regarding outdoor activity.

Subsequent guidance from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has confirmed the following:-

All outdoor sports and activities are permitted (including specifically bowling), without time limit, apart from outdoor swimming. All activity must be done either

- alone;
- with members of your household; or
- with one person from outside your household.

Therefore we can play in groups of no more than two, unless we are exclusively with members of our own household.

Obviously there will be more bowling availability if people ‘pair up’. However we absolutely understand if you would prefer to play alone given the circumstances.

If the weather is poor (eg raining), marshalls will take the decision as to whether to close – with no changing rooms and more wiping of bowls etc., it isn’t sensible to bowl in the rain.

All bowling will be on a ‘booked’ basis – there must be no turning up for a roll up on the off chance. I will allocate time slots based upon individual preferences received.

We are starting bowling on Monday 18 May and there will be no disruption as a result of electrical works.

There will necessarily be significant rules and guidance in place to ensure we are operating within the government’s guidance and doing all we can to keep everyone safe. ***If you want to bowl, you must follow these rules***, they are aimed at reducing risk. Please bear with us whilst these rules bed in – it will be easy to criticise but we are all taking something of a step into the unknown. I’m sure they will develop as time moves on.

Before outlining the rules can I just re-iterate the government’s guidance regarding two particular groups of people – it is then for individuals to make up their own minds whether they bowl taking account of this guidance and the procedures the club are putting into place to mitigate (***but not eliminate***) the risk of transferring infection.

Clinically extremely vulnerable people – These people will have been identified and will have received written confirmation to that effect.

If you fall into this category the advice is very clear – you should follow shielding guidance by staying at home at all times and avoid all non-essential face to face contact. This applies until the end of June currently. In short you should not be bowling at this stage.

Clinically vulnerable people – These people have been identified as those aged 70 or over, people with liver disease, people with diabetes and pregnant women.

If you fall into this category the guidance suggests you should stay at home as much as possible. If you do go out, take particular care to minimise contact with others from outside your household.

RULES/GUIDANCE – STAY SAFE AND BE SENSIBLE

Managing the risk of infection and general hygiene

1. If you or someone in your household has coronavirus symptoms, then ***self-isolate and do not bowl.***
2. Maintain social distancing (2 metres) at all times **(unless both from the same household).**
3. Jacks should be cleaned at the end of your game.
4. Please wash your hands before **(at home)** and after bowling.
5. Please leave space either side when parking your car.
6. Rink bookings are for 90 minute periods. ***You should not arrive and get out of your car before your start time. You should ensure you are leaving the premises by your end time.*** This will ensure there is no risk of contact during the changeover period – ***it is really important that everyone sticks to this rule.*** You will get about 80 minutes playing time – this should be plenty of time for singles or an individual roll up. When you see the rink booking sheet, start times are staggered by 30 minutes – this is again to avoid too many people arriving and leaving at once.
7. **In line with Bowls England guidance, no spectators are allowed.**

Facilities

8. The club will be opened by an appointed person at the start of the day and closed by an appointed person at the end of the day. We would expect those playing last to help with the clear up. Doors to the main clubhouse should remain open throughout the day.
9. ***Changing rooms, the equipment room and the nomination room will remain closed and off limits.*** Jacks and mats will be on the green No ditch markers or pushers. You should arrive ready to bowl and change your shoes at the edge of your rink.
10. ***The clubhouse will be open for access to the toilets only.*** The entrance doors to the toilets will be wedged open to save touching the handles. Please can ladies bring a cloth or wipes to keep the cubicle doors clean. There should be no other access to the clubhouse – in particular the bar and kitchen are ‘off limits’. Please bring your own drinks/refreshments. **Please take home any rubbish - do not put it in the club's bins.**
11. Please bring your own supply of wipes and a bowling cloth – there will be some industrial wipes available at the end of each rink.

Rink booking system

12. Only 3 rinks will be utilised per day, ensuring there is always a free rink separating each game.
13. Rinks will be allocated to people using the information provided by members. You can swap with another person **but do not just turn up if you think a rink is free – it may have been allocated late.**
14. Always use the rink number you have been allocated.
15. Completed booking sheets will be emailed to members each Friday for the following week (maybe a day late this week!). A copy will be loaded to the website. A proforma is at Appendix 1 – there will be 14 time slots per weekday and 11 at weekends, so 92 per week.

Bowling

16. Bowling will be limited to 2 players per rink as defined on page 1 by DCMS.
17. The mats will be placed on the 2 metre mark at each end by the appointed person at the start of each day. They should be left in position all day and not moved until end of day.
18. There will be 2 jacks on each rink. Place jacks with your feet after each end.
19. There will not be more than 8 bowls on any end. Therefore please use your feet to collect bowls rather than the pushers – this will reduce the chance of passing infection. However, only one player should do this to ensure 2 metre distancing.
20. Do not use scoreboards – there will be a supply of scorecards in the veranda for those that want them.....and bring your own pens!

APPENDIX 1

[illegible]