

Guidelines for Attendees at ACT Events in a COVID -19 SAFE Environment

Basic Principles

The return to playing ACT Championship level Bowls is subject to all participants (players, officials, club members etc) adhering to the requirements – both literally and in spirit. All participants are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully – for their own safety and the wellbeing of others.

Bowls ACT recognises that there are members of the bowling community who are in high-risk groups in relation to COVID-19 due to age or serious underlying medical conditions. Those members should carefully consider whether they should be participating at this time as per their own circumstances and medical advice.

Maintaining good hand and respiratory hygiene, respecting social distancing (keeping 1.5 m apart) and staying home if unwell, are all standard expectations.

Controlling Body Requirements

Host Clubs are encouraged to outline these and any other requirements to players and officials prior to the commencement of matches.

Host Clubs are to provide two jacks and two mats per rink, wherever possible. Each team will use their own jack and mat when they have control of the rink. This may require the lead to collect the mat at the conclusion of the end. Jacks and mats are to be identified with a coloured dot or some other such temporary marking to avoid confusion. If there are insufficient mats to provide 2 per rink, players are to be advised to position the mat using a lifter (one per team).

Match cards are not to be handled unnecessarily by more than one person.

Where possible, a non playing person is to be designated to keep all score boards for the event up to date. If this is not possible, one player per rink is designated (by coin toss) to be responsible for updating the scoreboard. Skips may also agree not to update the score boards (unless the event is a 'sides' event).

Mats, jacks and scoreboards are to be disinfected at the completion of every match.

Players Responsibilities

Players must abide by the venue's COVID-SAFE Plan which would address issues such as entry/exit to greens and other facilities, social distancing, hygiene requirements, inside/outside limits on numbers, record of attendance etc. Players are encouraged to carry their own hand sanitiser to use in case of inadvertent breach of these guidelines.

Players **MUST** use their own bowls (ie not club bowls) and should not touch another players bowls during the course of the game.

Spray chalk **ONLY** is to be used to mark touchers. No teachers chalk or chalk pens are to be used.

Players may (carefully!) use the foot to position the jack on the centre line, or to return a short jack. Out of bounds jacks and bowls should be picked up using a lifter.

When measuring, players should use their own measure, and avoid touching either bowl or jack. Other players must stand back to allow for the appropriate social distancing to occur.

Score cards should be completed by one person only (per team). At the conclusion of the game, cards are to be compared to ascertain agreement of score and result, with each card then being signed only by that team's scorer.

Markers (Singles Matches)

Upon delivery of the jack, the Marker should position the jack on the centre line using either the foot or a lifter.

The Marker must use spray chalk ONLY to mark touchers. No teachers chalk or chalk pens are to be used.

The Marker (only) will update the scoreboard.

Out of bounds jacks and bowls should be picked up using a lifter.

Cards should be signed by the Marker, once both players have agreed to the score/result.

Umpires

All participants, including match officials, must take responsibility for their own health and safety and ultimately it is up to the individual to determine whether the circumstances are suitable for performing the duties safely. It may require changes to a number of protocols and habits.

When called upon to measure, take only the required equipment onto the green. Use hand sanitiser prior to each measure but in any case, minimise contact with jack and bowls. Umpires should indicate the shot bowl, rather than removing it. If bowls need to be moved to enable measuring, ask the owner of the bowls to remove them. Use hand sanitiser following the completion of the task. The use of gloves and/or masks is optional, noting their constraints.

Umpires Kits

Where possible, there should be one kit per umpire. If more than one umpire is using a kit at the same time, consideration be given to separating tasks and the equipment to be used for those tasks (for example, one person to do all Jack length measures, one person only to use the orbital measure etc). It is recommended that umpires have their own set of wedges.

Umpires kits (both the box/container and the equipment itself) to be disinfected prior to and following use. If a kit is securely locked away when not in use or used by one person only (ie 100% assurance that no one else has touched it) it need only be disinfected at the conclusion of use.

Umpires kits to include hand sanitiser and/or wipes to be used throughout a game where necessary.

Monitoring of Guidelines

The facility owner is responsible for ensuring the requirements of their COVID SAFE plan are being met. The Controlling Body is responsible for ensuring the match specific guidelines are met. Bowls ACT strongly recommends that host clubs appoint someone to monitor match day compliance. Umpires should not be expected to police these requirements.