

MGM TIMBER CARPET BOWLING LEAGUE

CLARIFICATION ON BOWLS SCOTLAND'S "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLAY"

In response to Bowls Scotland's carpet bowls and short mat [Recommendations for Play](#) published 30 September 2020, below are a few points to clarify matters with regard to the forthcoming MGM Timber Carpet Bowling League.

First of all, player safety and club liability are our chief priorities. Hence why the following measures were agreed at our recent AGM:

- No practice ends
- Pairs only
- A minimum of 6 players per team per match
- No break for hot drinks and snacks
- Sanitiser, spray and wipes to be provided at both ends of the carpet

Furthermore, players and clubs must adhere to [Scottish Government Guidance](#) for hospitality venues published 25 September 2020. In particular:

- Wear a face covering apart from when seated
- Record contact details for Test and Protect
- Observe one metre physical distancing
- Gather in no more than groups of six from two households per table
- Exit premises by 10pm

With regard to Bowls Scotland's recommendations, they are just that – recommendations, not statutory guidelines – as they do not run or have jurisdiction over carpet bowls and short mat competitions. Furthermore, many venues across Scotland which host carpet bowls and short mat matches are not bowling clubs (ie social clubs, community centres and church halls) and as such are not obliged to follow the advice of Bowls Scotland.

That said, their recommendations are valuable on a number of fronts and should inform competitive and bounce matches.

To go through each point in turn:

- Text marked in **GREEN** denotes which recommendations **will** be followed
- Text marked in **RED** denotes which recommendations will **not** be followed
- Text marked in **BLACK** explains why we will not follow these recommendations and/or what additional measures have been agreed to minimise risk.

Bowling Activity

- A 'bowling bubble' can be created whilst play is taking place, in effect suspending Scottish Government household number guidelines for the duration of the activity.
- Good hygiene measures should be followed and where possible, physical distancing should still be maintained.
- Singles & Pairs ONLY should play in line with the above 'bowling bubble'.
- Normal household guidelines MUST be adhered to before and after play.
- The maximum number permitted in one 'bowling bubble' session is 16 (for example 4 players x 4 carpets). The maximum 'bubble' will be 20. Though with the minimum number of players required for each team reduced from eight to six, it is likely that the average 'bubble' will be less than or equal to 16.
- Players should only play in one 'bowling bubble' per day.
- No external competition matches, or club friendlies should take place. External competition matches will take place, club friendlies will not.
- A player with a disability that requires functional support to enable their participation can be provided without maintaining physical distancing.

Before, During and After Play

- Players should always adhere to the bowling activity guidance outlined above. With the exception of guidance marked in red.
- Players should wear a face covering whilst playing. Seats may be provided at either end of the carpet so that players who are not delivering a bowl may take a seat and temporarily remove their face covering. For example, when leads are playing at one end, skips can take a seat at the other.
- Setting of the mat and jack: At the start of the session one player will be nominated to set and collect the mat. One player will be nominated to always set the jack (this will always be the same player but will be instructed by the winning side to its position). Mats will not be used. Jacks should be set by foot, not hand.
- Resetting the block: One player should be nominated to reset the block, no matter who hits it. Clubs may wish to utilise self-righting blocks.
- Removing dead bowls: Players are responsible for the lifting of their own dead bowls. Players may remove another players' dead bowls by foot, not hand.
- Touchers/Measuring: One player will be nominated to measure, the nominated person should not touch any bowls. Touchers will only be marked with spray chalk.

Setting up Equipment

- Equipment should be set out and put away by a maximum of three nominated individuals per session.
- An adequate ventilated space should be used to ensure physical distancing can be maintained eg. if a club wishes to play more than one mat, there must be at least 2m between each mat.
- **Players should avoid sharing equipment eg. Bowls, measures, cloths etc.** Home teams should play with the same set of bowls throughout, as should visiting teams. Similarly, leads should play with the same set of bowls throughout, as should skips. These should be marked with different coloured stickers.
- Where sharing of equipment is unavoidable, equipment should be sanitised before and after every session. Any member that touches shared equipment should maintain good hygiene throughout the session.
- **All other equipment should not be used eg. Scoreboards.** Scoreboards should be marked by the same person throughout.