

Croquet Association Guidance

2021 Covid-19 Precautions for Playing Croquet



Version 4- 13th May, 2021

The Croquet Association offers the following advice to clubs and players, to minimise the risk of infection by Covid-19. This version applies to clubs in England from 17th May, when lockdown restrictions reach Step 3, until further notice, though revised guidelines are expected to be issued if there are further changes, hopefully when legal restrictions are removed in Step 4.

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 and has been reviewed following a [risk assessment](#), which clubs may adapt for their own use. 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. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with that advice.

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

1. Clubhouses may open, but people using them should only socialise in groups of no more than six, or two households if greater.
2. Carry out a risk assessment if there isn't already a relevant one in place.
3. Use of changing rooms should be minimised.
4. Congestion at self-service refreshment points should be avoided.
5. If alcohol is served, any food or drink must only be ordered and consumed while seated. If not, food may be collected but must be consumed while seated.
6. Ensure that the necessary facilities and cleaning products are available to maintain a clean environment.
7. Provide hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser for players.

8. To facilitate the NHS Test and Trace service, contact details for all people entering the club should be recorded and kept for 21 days. Many businesses, including those serving food or drink, are required to [generate](#) and display an NHS QR Code poster specific to their premises.
9. Consider providing a lawn-booking system, both to avoid congestion and to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
10. The gathering limit for activities outside is 30, so there are no longer any restrictions on court usage.
11. If possible, 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 should observe social distancing at all times unless they are in the same household or support bubble. Do not shake hands before or after a game, nor congregate indoors in groups of more than six. Particular care should be taken in all doubles, including alternate stroke Association Croquet and in Golf Croquet games.
4. Maintain strict hygiene standards by washing your hands and wiping down, particularly after touching internal surfaces such as toilets or door handles.
5. Wear face coverings when indoors, except when eating or drinking.
6. Use the court booking system if your club provides one.
7. If possible, dress appropriately prior to travelling to the club, rather than changing there.
8. Car sharing is now permitted, but is a matter of individual choice.

Changes Log

V1, 3rd March. First published.

V2, 26th March. Reviewed following publication of [DCMS guidelines](#). Risk assessment published; scope of organised activity widened; washing equipment and use of face coverings indoors added; ban on spectators noted.

V3, 7th April. Limit on numbers for formal coaching increased from 5 to 6 plus coach, following review of DCMS guidance.

V4, 12th May. From 17th May, limits on court usage removed. Use of clubhouses permitted, but with restrictions. Car sharing permitted.