

# Ealing Croquet Club

## Covid-19 Precautions for Playing Croquet

**Revised 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

The rules below are based on the updated guidance issued by the Croquet Association on **May 31<sup>st</sup>**, to minimise the risk of infection by Covid-19 when clubs decide to open for play. 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. It may be further updated if advice changes.

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 enjoy your croquet.

### Club Rules

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. The clubhouse will only be open to the extent required to access equipment. The white room should be opened solely to access the toilets, which should be used only if absolutely necessary. Toilets, taps and basins should be thoroughly wiped down before and after use. The upper floor of the pavilion will remain out of bounds, and there should be no tea-making downstairs.
2. We will endeavour to ensure that the necessary facilities and cleaning products are available to maintain a clean environment, and to enable players to wash equipment after use. But do please bring your own if at all possible.
3. We will provide hand-washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser for players. But again, please bring your own sanitiser if you have it.
4. Only pre-arranged games or individual practice are allowed. There will be no roll-up or public sessions. **There should be no more than four players on a court; double-banking is now permitted, but only for singles matches. Please take particular care to observe social distancing in doubles matches.**
5. **Up to 6 people can be allowed on a court for coaching purposes i.e. 5 students and one coach. The coach is responsible for maintaining social distancing throughout the session.**
6. All play **must** be pre-booked using the booking system on the club website. Please book a maximum of **three hours** each day, to give as many members as possible the opportunity to play. Please ensure you put your name on the booking.
7. **Wherever possible, when booking a slot please schedule it immediately before or after another booking, to avoid unnecessary handling of hoops and the peg.**
8. Please only use the small pedestrian gate at the north entrance to the club.
9. For now, please do not drive your car into the park, as this involves getting out of the car twice to open gates, and also potentially endangers other park users at a time when it is likely to be very busy.
10. No extra-curricular or social activity can take place.

11. **Guests, visitors and spectators can be permitted so long as they do not gather in groups of more than 6 and they obey the social distancing rules. If you attend as a spectator please put your name in the diary to facilitate contact tracing.**
12. If you need to use a club mallet, please wipe it down thoroughly before and after use with sanitiser, then with a paper towel. And remember to observe hand-washing protocols. Use disposable gloves if possible.
13. **Please TAKE ALL RUBBISH AWAY WITH YOU, including any used paper towels or wipes, and dispose of them safely.**

## **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. All players must keep 2m apart at all times unless they are in the same household. Particular care should be taken in all doubles, including alternate stroke Association Croquet and in Golf Croquet games.
3. 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.
4. Wash your hands and clean any equipment you use, such as hoops, balls and club mallets, before and after you play.
5. When setting out and taking in a court, only one person should handle any particular hoop or the peg.
6. Clean padlocks, keys and door handles before and after use.
7. Avoid using toilets wherever possible and clean after use.
8. If possible, dress appropriately prior to travelling to the club, rather than changing there.
9. Bring any food or drink you might need.
10. Do not use clips, ball markers, corner pegs/offside markers or flags. Players should agree the score at the end of each scoring turn. Personal counters should be used to keep count of bisques/extra turns.
11. **In double-banked games players are advised to mark balls from the other game only when necessary, and to use their own markers.**
12. Avoid using moveable chairs as far as possible, otherwise clean them before and after use.
13. Use your feet, rather than hands, to position balls where you can do so with sufficient precision.
14. For both GC and AC, only handle your own balls. The usual courtesy of retrieving an opponent's ball from the gully should be suspended.
15. Players should be their own Referees and acknowledge faults and errors if they occur.