

Croquet Association Guidance

2021 Covid-19 Precautions for Playing Croquet



Version 5- 16th July, 2021

The Croquet Association offers the following advice to clubs and players, to minimise the risk of infection by Covid-19 when playing the sport. This version applies in England from 19th July, when most legally enforceable lockdown restrictions are removed at Step 4 of the government's roadmap. However, some precautions are still advised, as the virus continues to circulate.

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 consensus seems to be that the risk of transmission is relatively low while playing outdoors, but higher when people mix in confined or congested spaces inside.

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.

1. Carry out a risk assessment if there isn't already a relevant one in place.
2. Clubhouses should be ventilated as much as possible.
3. Consider steps to avoid congestion in confined spaces, such as toilets, changing rooms or kitchens.
4. Consider whether you wish to make the wearing of face coverings inside mandatory (except when eating or drinking).
5. Ensure that the necessary facilities and cleaning products are available to maintain a clean environment.
6. Provide hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser.

7. To facilitate the NHS Test and Trace service, contact details for all people entering the club should be recorded and kept for 21 days. You can [generate](#) and display an NHS QR Code poster specific to your premises.
8. Consider providing a lawn-booking system, both to avoid congestion and to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.

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. Be aware that other players may be more vulnerable than you and respect their need for social distancing.
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 a face covering indoors if you think appropriate or if required by your club's policy.
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 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.
- V5, 16th July. From 19th July, legal restrictions removed but caution and sensitivity to others' needs requested.