

E.B.F. update on Outdoor Bowling.

Following Boris Johnson's announcement on Sunday:

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (D.C.M.S) have now released instructions on when Bowling Clubs may re-open. Bowling green's can now re-open from today Wednesday 13th May, You should only partake in such activities alone, with members of your household, or with one other person from outside your household, while practising social distancing. Competitions and competitive bowling will not be allowed at the present time. Clubhouses should remain closed and you should take particular care if you need to use any inside facilities. (E.g. Toilets).

Clubs should take all the necessary steps in order to facilitate their Club re-opening; some players are clearly keen to get back on the greens. It will be for individuals and Clubs to determine when they are ready to start bowling again. Inside facilities such as toilets should be cleaned more frequently, paying close attention to high-contact objects e.g. door handles. Employers should provide hand washing facilities or hand sanitisers at entry and exit points and on the greens.

Equipment must be placed outside for members to use and cleaned with sanitisers and disinfectants. There will be no facilities for changing.

The following instructions should be followed.

1. If you are showing corona virus symptoms, or if you or any of your household are self-isolating, you should stay at home –and not play bowls, this is critical to staying safe and saving lives.
2. At all times, you should continue to observe social distancing guidelines when on Club Premises, including ensuring you are 2 metres away from anyone outside your household.
3. People will only be able to use these facilities, either by themselves, with people from their own household or with one other person who stays in another household.
4. Only singles games can be played unless all persons are from the same household.
5. The advice for those aged 70 and over continues to be that they should take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household. If bowling they should be careful to maintain distance from others unfortunately, we know that as you get older, there is a higher risk of corona virus having a more serious impact with infection. Complications and deaths are more common in the elderly, even those without pre-existing conditions.

Dave Woods

E.B.F. National Secretary.