



Malden Manor Bowling Club

Covid-19: Protocol for Casual Play

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The Government announced on 13th May that facilities associated with outdoor sports and physical activities, including lawn bowls, could reopen.

Additional Government guidance released on 1st June 2020 states: *"You can play lawn bowls where facilities have reopened, but you can only take part in these activities by yourself, or with members of your household or with no more than five other people outside of your household, as long as you are able to maintain social distancing."*

The Executive Committee has developed the following protocol in order that bowling can take place at Malden Manor Bowls Club in accordance with the guidance provided by the Government and Bowls England.

This is a live document and will be updated if advice changes. Bowls England continues to actively seek the latest advice from Government.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Create a safe environment for players to enjoy bowling while continuing to observe Government requirements for social distancing
- Provide clear guidance for members to follow.

It is of course members own choice to utilize the green and those that feel they should stay home, and exercise social distancing and shielding should of course continue to do so. Members are under no 'obligation' to participate.

Members are reminded that, while the Club will make provision for them to use the green for the purposes of playing bowls, they are doing so at their own risk.

It should be noted that the Executive Committee reserves the right to prevent individuals from using the green entirely if it becomes apparent that the protocols laid out in this document are not being adhered to. In the worst case scenario, the Executive Committee would have no hesitation in closing the green once again.



Protocol for Casual Play in accordance with Government Guidelines

The Clubhouse:

- Members making use of the green must bring their keys with them. It will be necessary for them to unlock the gate and clubhouse on arrival and also they should be able to lock up on departure.
- The gate should be locked while play is in progress.
- Access to the Clubhouse is limited to the use of the toilets only.
- Players may access the changing rooms *once only on their initial visit to play*, in order to collect any equipment they need. Having done so, the equipment should be retained by the individual member and not returned to the locker. If one-off access to a changing room is required, this is limited to only one member at a time.
- Access to the kitchen is prohibited and the bar will remain shut.
- All changing of shoes must take place upon the green surround
- Sanitiser will be available for cleaning hands and wipes will be available for cleaning equipment before and after playing
- There will be no rubbish bins – members must take any rubbish away with them
- Members are responsible for opening and closing the green and clubhouse and putting away (and sanitising) equipment used. On opening, only the foxfence by the gate should be disconnected.
- The clubhouse and gates must be locked, and the fox fence connected by the last member present, regardless of whether others may be attending later.
- Cleansing wipes will be made available for members to wipe all door handles, light switches, fox fence handles, gate handles and padlock.
- Green stewards will not be on duty, but members of the Executive Committee will monitor the use of the green and strict adherence to this protocol.

Playing Arrangements:

- Open only to playing members who have paid a full 2020 subscription.
- Rinks must be booked in advance; no walk ins are allowed. Rinks will not be released to members unless at least 24 hours' notice of booking is given.
- Rinks will be available for play Tuesday – Saturday.
- There are three sessions per day, 10.30 – 12.30, 14.30 – 16.30 and 17.30 onwards. (For the evening session the booker to advise their start time). Three rinks will be available per session.
- The number of bookings per person/couple per week (Mon-Sat) will be limited to three.
- To book a session, please contact Maggie Fleming on 020 8337 8111 (H), or 07749 552258 (Mob) or email maggiefleming@sky.com. The rink that you are playing on will be confirmed when you book. There will not be any booking sheet on display at the Club. Please also contact Maggie if it later transpires that you need to cancel your booking.
- Spectators are allowed, however their attendance must be in line with Government guidelines on social distancing. Chairs will be left out and must be sanitised after use.
- The new dress code will apply. Any transgressions will be frowned upon.



Playing Formats:

The following playing formats are in accordance with Government guidelines:

- Individuals playing bowls on their own on a single rink
- Members of the same household on a single rink
- Up to six individuals from different households playing on a single rink – Our recommendation is that this is limited to singles or pairs play in order to make social distancing easier.

Social distancing rules must be strictly adhered to; you must remain at least two metres apart from other bowlers (who are not part of your household) at all times.

Equipment:

To minimise the risk of infection, only essential items are to be utilised during any session.

- Members must use their own bowls, shoes, gloves (if appropriate), or bowls lifter (if appropriate)
- Pushers, shoes, bowls, or any other equipment contained in the Equipment Hut is not available for use.
- Jacks and mats will be kept in the Clubhouse, removing the need to access the Equipment Hut.
- Members must sanitise equipment used after play.
- Rink markers will be moved on a Monday morning and will remain the same for the week. There is no requirement for members to touch any rink markers.

To minimise the risk of infection, any other equipment is not deemed essential equipment at this time and should not be utilised. This includes:

- Scoreboards
- Bowls pushers
- Ditch markers
- 2m distance sticks
- Chalk



Guidance for Players:

It is recommended that all players follow the guidance below (the guidance may be adapted if necessary to meet individual needs, so long as they remain consistent with Government advice and social distancing requirements):

In advance

- Do not go to the club if you are experiencing any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or any cold or flu-like symptoms, in particular a cough or a high temperature. Use the NHS 111 website or 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
- Dress appropriately before you get to the club to avoid the need to change clothes – change shoes immediately before and after your game
- Travel to the green on your own or with members of your own household only – do not offer a lift to, or accept a lift from, anyone outside your household. Do not arrive more than 10 minutes before your allocated booking time.

Personal care

- Avoid using toilets at the club wherever possible and if not, ensure all fixtures and fittings touched are cleaned afterwards.
- Take any food or drink you might need with you
- Wash or sanitise your hands and sanitise any equipment (including bowls, jacks and mats) you use before and after you play – do not assume that the person before you has sanitised the equipment thoroughly
- Sanitise door handles, light switches, fox fence handles, gate handles and padlock after use.

Playing the game

- You can play by yourself, or with members of your household or with no more than five other people outside of your household, as long as you are able to maintain social distancing. Our recommendation is that this is limited to singles or pairs play in order to make social distancing easier.
- Do not shake hands before, during or after a game
- Do not 'high-five' OR 'hug' other players to celebrate shots or a win
- Ideally, only one player should handle the mat during the session
- Two jacks (one at each end) should be used and this should be set by one player only throughout the session
- Mats/jacks (if shared) must be sanitised before and after each session
- If scoring:
 - Social distancing rules must be strictly adhered to at all times
 - Do not touch your opponents' bowls with your hands
 - Avoid measuring for shot/s wherever possible

When you leave

- When you finish playing, change your shoes and leave the club immediately – ensuring that you have sanitised all equipment used and that the club is secure (as applicable). See also section on 'The Clubhouse' on page 2.

After Your Session

- If you subsequently exhibit any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms you must inform a member of the Executive Committee immediately in order that we can contact everyone who attended on the same day as you, as they will need to take a test.