



## Recommended Return to Play (RTP) Protocols for Lawn Bowling in PEI Phase 3 – Intra Club Games

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### Introduction

This document is based on the Recommended Return to Play (RTP) Framework of Bowls Canada Boulingrin. It is a document with recommended protocols by the PEI Lawn Bowling Association (PEILBA), for a club to proceed with their own RTP plan, based on their stage of reopening, in coordination with guidelines and directives of all federal, provincial and municipal government and public health authorities, which take precedence.

Based on the official stage of re-opening within the province, clubs will need to identify which phase meets their conditions. Each incremental phase encompasses the recommendations of the previous phase.

Phase 1 – training and practice only

Phase 2 – modified local games

**Phase 3 – intra club games**

Phase 4 – inter-club games

Phase 5 – provincial championships

### Readiness for Phase 3

To determine readiness for Phase 3 RTP implementation, the following steps are recommended:

- Clubs must contact their provincial/municipal authorities before implementing Phase 3 of the Return to Play protocols, as well as the PEI lawn Bowling Association (PEILBA). Failure to do so may result in a club unknowingly implementing protocols that are in breach of provincial government directives. PEILBA works closely with sport and government representatives on what standards are required for sport and recreational facilities.
- A club must confirm with their insurance provider that they are covered for this phase of Return to Play Protocols.
- Identify and adhere to the stage of physical distancing rules approved by local public health authorities, numbers permitted for organized sport gatherings, mask requirements and confirm that the club is able to implement the required standards, recognizing that they may change as COVID-19 risks increase or decrease.

Once a club has confirmed its readiness to implement Phase 3, they can proceed to the development of an RTP protocol for their club. The following are recommendations on how clubs may consider operations once their local authorities have given them permission to access their facilities.

### RTP Framework

This framework recommends the following areas be considered for any return to play implementation plans.

## Pre-Screening

- Clubs should ensure that all participants are aware of signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Consider encouraging participants to use the Government of Canada [tracking application](#) to monitor and track symptoms before coming out to play. Use of this application would also help with the implementation of a tracing protocol.
- Is recommended that a club consider appointing a safety officer and/or safety committee that will be responsible for overseeing and monitoring the RTP protocol.

## Recommended Operational Protocols

If the following safety measures cannot be implemented, the club should consider whether or not the clubhouse can be safely opened. ***At all times, the guidelines and legislation of provincial and local health authorities must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations.***

### Clubhouse

Many clubs may choose to keep their clubhouse closed or provincial/municipal or local public health authorities may not allow them to open or may allow partial usage. The clubhouse may remain closed to activities to further reduce the potential of infection.

- If partial use of the washroom and bowls storage areas is permitted, use signage and barricades to block all areas not to be accessed.
- It is recommended the kitchen be closed and no bowlers be strongly encouraged to bring their own food/water.
- Place visible signage at all entrances and storage facilities, outlining the physical distancing guidelines in place as well as hand washing recommendations/protocols.
- Provide necessary sanitation supplies such as disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizers etc. in common areas and in washroom stalls.
- Dedicate resources to clean and sanitize all identified usable areas and equipment on a daily basis, before and after use. Create a cleaning log to identify when items are cleaned/sanitized throughout the day. Follow [Government of Canada disinfecting guidelines](#) for cleaning common areas.
- Recommend to disinfect all surfaces and materials before and after each individual use and discuss with your local health authority to determine if the disinfecting can be less than this.
- Washrooms should only be used if approved by local authorities. If your club washroom is permitted to open, limit washroom entry to only one person at a time. Post a cleaning and disinfectant protocol for each occupant to follow before exiting. Check with your local public health authority for minimum requirements. Establish a clear recognition tool so others are aware of when a washroom is “in use” and do not enter.
- If the clubhouse is large enough to allow two washrooms being used, everyone inside should maintain physical distancing, no congregating inside.
- Tables and chairs (if use is permitted by local public health authorities) should be set up to adhere to physical distancing requirements.
- Adhere to provincial and municipal guidelines/regulations for indoor capacity. If the clubhouse is open, everyone inside must still maintain physical distancing.

### Common Storage and Equipment Use

Ideally, bowlers will bring and use their own bowls. However, where participants use club bowls, consider the following recommendations.

- Appoint a safety volunteer who will ensure that bowls are appropriately cleaned and are ready for use.
- Post signage outlining the protocol for equipment storage and use.
- Designate a “sanitized” area versus an “un-sanitized” area for bowls, jacks, mats and equipment.
- Only one person at a time may enter the bowls storage area to remove sanitized bowls, jacks, mats or rakes and returning the sanitized equipment.
- Bowls, jacks and mats are to be used only once before being sanitized.
- Have safety personnel wear appropriate PPE when sanitizing equipment.

### Bowls Activity

Phase 3 games include scheduled club activities, such as recreational games, league play, and tournament which are restricted to club members only.

- A game coordinator should be appointed for each event, to ensure all provincial, municipal, local health authorities and club RTP protocols are followed. They should ensure the maximum number of individuals permitted to gather is not exceeded, and that distancing and masking rules are followed. The number of individuals permitted to gather includes participants, volunteers and spectators.
- Advise bowlers to ensure they meet the provincial pre-screening requirements prior to arriving at the club. Include as part of the sign-up process a commitment from participants that they have completed the pre-screening and will adhere to club protocols during the session.
- Event sign-up sheets in the clubhouse are not recommended. A sign-up table outside, with a receptacle for “sanitized pens” and a receptacle for used, “un-sanitized pens”, maintaining 2 meter/6 ft distances and wearing a mask, if required by current provincial health regulations, is an alternative, as long as all the provincial health regulations are followed.
- Keep a record of each person, including their phone number, who arrive at the club to play. This can be used by the game coordinator to make-up the teams for the event and also for tracing protocols. Start a new sign-in sheet for a second event that occurs on the same day.
- Where pre-registration for a tournament is required in order to make up the teams, a sign-up sheet on a clip board, set up outside, again following all provincial health regulations, or online by email or phone are alternatives to a sign-up sheet inside the clubhouse.
- Do not permit bowlers to congregate in the parking lot, clubhouse or outside area before or after they have finished bowling. Post signage to remind bowlers of this protocol.
- All equipment, club bowls, jacks and mats, must be sanitized after play. Use of scoreboards are not permitted.
- Games should be restricted to singles, pairs or triples during Phase 3.
- There should be at least one empty rink between rinks being used, to accommodate distancing rules.
- Clubs should create a protocol for how to deal with mats, jacks and rakes during game play, such that equipment is not shared without being cleaned/sanitized first.

- Designate one person to use the rake at each end; do not have multiple people using the same rake.
- Only leads and skips may touch the jack and the mat.
- Other club equipment, such as scorecards should not be used. If players bring their own personal equipment, these must not be shared with any other bowlers.
- Each skip should keep a scoreboard. At the end of the game, both should verbally agree upon the details of the scorecard rather than signing it. The results should be verbally communicated to the drawmaster rather than handing in scorecards.
- At the start of each end, each team's bowls should be placed on opposite sides of the rink, behind the mat. This will help alleviate congestion around the bowls.
- Players at the mat end, when not in possession of the rink, should stand at least two meters behind the mat and on the side where their bowls are, maintaining a safe physical distance from other bowlers.
- Players standing in the head, when not in possession of the rink, should stand at least two meters behind the player who is directing the head, while maintaining a safe physical distance from other bowlers.
- Players should only pick up their own bowls. Do not pick up or use your hands to touch someone else's bowls or equipment.
- Agree with your opponent who will do the measuring for the game. This way measures will not be shared. Physical distancing should be maintained while measuring takes place.
- When changing ends, players should walk up the right-hand side of the green, near the boundary line, while keeping a safe distance apart.

### Bowler Expectations

- Regardless of vaccination status, bowlers must adhere to club protocols.
- Arrive no more than 20 minutes before your scheduled start time, and leave promptly when you have finished playing.
- Practice physical distancing by staying a minimum of two meters away from each other at all times.
- Use your own bowls. If you do not own bowls, make sure you follow the posted safety protocols for using club bowls.
- Only leads and skips may touch the jack and the mat.
- Do not share equipment.
- Designate one person to use the rake at each end; do not have multiple people using the same rake.
- Do not shake hands or high five.
- Do not bring visitors to the club.
- Bring your own chair instead of using benches.
- Do not enter the washroom if there is already someone else inside or if the washroom has been closed.
- Bring your own water.
- If you are feeling unwell, regardless of the symptoms, stay home.

### Turf Maintenance

- Ensure that bowlers maintain physical distances and/or masks when the ground maintenance personnel are working.
- If club members operate any grounds maintenance equipment, sanitize the equipment before use and after.

### General Safety Protocols

- Educate bowlers to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19. A list of symptoms is available from the [Government of Canada](#).
- Establish a communication plan to keep bowlers informed and updated on issues affecting the club.
- Establish a policy that requires bowlers to inform you when they've been exposed to any highly communicable illness. Direct them to the local health agency for testing. Implement a screening program to ensure all volunteers and participants are healthy and have not travelled outside Canada. Consider using the Government of Canada tracking application for this purpose.
- Conduct meetings by phone or online where possible. If in-person meetings are required, maintain physical distancing.
- Deal with individuals who do not follow safety precautions or guidelines that the club has adopted. Clubs are ultimately responsible for the safety of all bowlers.

### Tracing Protocols

- Follow the tracing protocols established by your local health authorities.
- Ensure you have a process to notify your members and those directly impacted, should a participant test positive.
- Consider the consequences and ability to implement tracing protocols before allowing participants to return to play at your facility.
- Consider using the Government of Canada tracing app.