

Lawn Bowls Nova Scotia RTP Phase 3 – intra club games

Clubs must work with the PSO to create a tailored RTP protocol. It is essential that any and all decisions regarding the timing and protocol for a resumption of bowls activity must adhere to Federal, Provincial and Local Public Health Authorities.

Items highlighted in yellow denote the possible changes to bowls activities that may be considered by each club's leadership team, including President and Safety Officer. Items in italics are already included in Phase 2 RTP plans and have received approval. Clubs are not required to re-submit, in their Phase 3 RTP plan, those protocols nor Safety Procedures which are already in place for Phase 2.

What is required for submission to LBNS for your club's Phase 3 RTP plan?

Clubs should proceed with an independent development of an RTP Phase 3 protocol which will describe exactly which aspects of the **activity changes (highlighted in yellow)** can be managed, safely, by their club.

A statement of intent, by the Club, to continue to follow all existing Safety Procedures, must be included in the RTP Phase 3 plan. Any changes from these Phase 2 procedures must be noted in the Phase 3 plan.

Once a club is ready to implement their chosen modifications for Phase 3, the club's RTP plan must be submitted to LBNS Safety Officer, Janet Kelley. Clubs will begin their Phase 3 play, independent of each other club, in communication with LBNS, as previously stated.

Phase 3 Readiness

This document contains a series of recommendations for how we might imagine 'rebooting' lawn bowling activity during the third phase of returning to play.

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

1. Clubs **MUST** first contact Lawn Bowls Nova Scotia before implementing Phase 3 of the Return to Play protocols. Failure to do so may result in clubs unknowingly implementing protocols that are in breach of provincial government directives. LBNS is working closely with sport and government representatives on what standards are required for sport and recreation facilities.
2. Clubs must also confirm with their insurance providers that they are covered for this phase of Return to Play protocols.
3. Identify the stage of physical distancing relaxation approved by local public health authorities and confirm that the club is able to implement the required standards.

These are unchanged from Phase 2 Safety Procedures, both Common and Club-Specific. Clubs are not required to resubmit their Safety Procedures but adherence to these must be confirmed in Phase 3 RTP plans (as a Statement of Intent).

Recommended Protocols for Operations of Clubhouse

Clubs will need to consider if they are able to implement the cleaning and sanitization protocols required by local public health authorities for common spaces and equipment. If the following safety measures cannot be implemented, then the club should consider whether or not the clubhouse can be safely opened.

Note: at all times, the guidelines and legislations of the Province of Nova Scotia, respective municipalities, and Nova Scotia Health Authority must be respected and will take precedence over these recommendations. Many clubs may choose to keep their clubhouses closed through Phase 3.

- Place clearly visible signage by all entrances and storage facilities outlining the physical distancing guidelines in place, as well as hand-washing recommendations/protocols.*
- Dedicate resources to clean and sanitize the club house on a daily basis. Create a cleaning time log to identify when items are cleaned/sanitized throughout the day. Follow Government of Canada disinfecting guidelines for cleaning common areas.*
- Disinfect all surfaces and materials before and after each individual use.*
- The kitchen is kept closed and participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own food/water.*
- Tables/chairs (if use is permitted by local public health authorities) should be setup to adhere to physical distancing requirements.*
- Washrooms should only be used if Club-Specific Safety Procedures have been approved. If your club washroom is able to open, r limit usage to one person at a time. Clean and disinfect the washroom on a regular basis. Establish an easy to read recognition tool so others are aware of when a washroom is “in use” and do not enter.*
- No club sponsored social gatherings are permitted. Adhere to provincial & local guidelines/regulations for indoor gathering capacity. If the clubhouse is opened, everyone inside at the same time must still maintain physical distancing.*
- Provide hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant wipes in common areas.*
- Manage waste. While it is encouraged for bowlers to take their own waste home with them, this may not be a plausible solution for items such as used disinfectant wipes.*

Protocol for Phase 3 Bowls Participation Activity – Intra Club Games

Phase 3 games can include scheduled club activities such as jitneys, leagues and tournaments which are restricted to club members only.

No visitors or guests are permitted.

Identify the stage of physical distancing relaxation approved by local public health authorities and confirm that the club is able to implement the required standards.

Designate separate entrance and exit points to the grounds. If this is not possible, entrants will wear masks when coming and going from the rinks.

Clubs should create a protocol for how to deal with mats and jacks (if to be used) during game play such that equipment is not shared without being cleaned/sanitized first. It is recommended that mats and jacks be cleaned with soapy water or sanitizing spray or any other appropriate sanitizing method and left to dry between uses. Protocols should include minimal handling of these equipment and only by a single, designated player for each item for any game.

It is possible to use rinks at least 5.5m wide so that you can have 6 rinks per green. For those clubs that are in high-risk areas or have participants who are the most at-risk, using every second rink at regular rink widths continues to be an alternative

Bowler Expectations

- Pre-register to play; do not just show up and expect to play.
- Do not bring visitors with you to the club.
- Arrive no more than 10 minutes before your scheduled start time and leave promptly when you have finished playing.
- Use your own set of bowls. Club bowls may be used according to established protocols
- Do not share equipment. Players should only pick up their own bowls. Do not pick up or use your hands to touch someone else's bowls or equipment.
- Do not shake hands or high five.
- Do not access closed spaces or equipment.
- 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. Do not use the tap.
- Take home your own waste material, if possible.
- If you are feeling unwell, regardless of the symptoms, stay home

Playing of Club Games: (Draws and competitions which are purely social or recreational)

- *At the start of each end, each team's bowls should be placed on opposite sides of the rink, behind the mat.*
- *Only designated leads (and skips) may touch the jack and the mat*
- *Players at the mat end, when not in possession of the rink, should stand at least two metres 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 they are not in possession of the rink, should stand at least two metres behind the player who is directing the head, while maintaining a safe physical distance from other bowlers.*
- *When changing ends, players should walk up the right-hand side of the green, near the boundary line, while keeping a safe distance apart.*

Measuring:

- *Agree with your opponent who will do the measuring for the game (if applicable). Physical distancing should still be maintained while measuring takes place. For longer measures which require two people, the primary measurer holds the measure at the jack, the secondary person holds the pointer-end. This ensures the main part of the measure is not touched by the secondary person. In all instances where a measure involves two people, both measurers should immediately sanitize their hands and the measure itself after completing the measure.*

The National Officiating Committee (NOC) has made the following suggestions to modify typical rules/norms, such that intra club games may take place while still adhering to all local and provincial health guidelines. The conditions of play may include aspects of play that are different from the Laws of the Sport.

Clubs may choose which format modifications, if any, they can/will apply to each draw or session of play.

- *Skips may go to the delivery end at the beginning, to retrieve and reset their bowls in the designated team spot.*
- *The mat is to always be placed at the 2-metre mark (in this way only one lead would need to place the mat, regardless of who's team won the last end)*
- *The jack is to be pre-set by the skip; use 2 jacks, one at each end (in this way the leads would never touch the jack and reduce the use of shared equipment)*
- *Skips can centre the jack with their foot or lifter so they do not touch the jack with their hands. Consider designating one skip to set/centre the jack for the entire game, regardless of who won the end (in this way, only one skip would ever touch the jack).*
- *Each lead is assigned their own mat and jack (in this way, equipment is not shared between leads)*
- *Touchers must be marked by a member of the team that delivered the bowl (or a marker). Spray chalk is recommended in order that nobody else touches the bowl, or it may be nominated as a toucher.*
- *Live jacks and bowls in the ditch should not be indicated with any shared equipment. A player may use their personal bowls cloth, placed on the bank, to indicate the position of the jack or bowl.*
- *For triples play, the mat and/or the jack may be set at the 3-metre mark instead of the 2- metre mark, for the game, to allow for adequate space behind the mat/jack to maintain physical distancing and still observe the play.*

Arrangements for Intra-club Competitions/Tournaments

As the controlling body for club games, the club may determine the conditions of play for an event.

- A games convenor should be appointed for each event. As sign-up sheets in the clubhouse are not recommended, consider using an online tool such as SignUpGenius or Google Calendar, email, or telephone to accept entries.
- Club members must register to play prior to an announced entry deadline.
- Entrants should be asked to provide their name, contact information, position (if applicable) and names of other team members (if applicable).
- Entrants must be asked to confirm the following: That they **have completed** the pre-screening tools prior to arriving at the club and will adhere to club protocols and physical distancing measures during the event; **That they are not practicing or competing at any other clubs during Phase 3; members of multiple clubs should choose one club to participate at.**
- Schedule alternate playing times (e.g. a.m. and p.m. time slots) in order to provide opportunities for more bowlers to participate.
- Bowlers should arrive **no more than 20 minutes prior** to their scheduled start time to register and receive further instructions.
- Keep a record of each person who arrives at the club and identify their arrival and departure times. This record should be virtual/digital if possible, to avoid multiple people using the same book/log. The online scheduling tool can help with this process.
- **Tournament games should be restricted to Singles, Pairs or Triples during Phase 3. Skips may visit the 'head' at the completion of an end to retrieve and place their bowls for the start of the next end, while maintaining distancing from other teammates and opposition.**
- If coaches are available, they should maintain physical distancing practices, and should not share equipment with participants (including bowls, jacks, and mats). Coaches must adhere to all RTP.
- **Trial ends are at the discretion of the controlling body and should be included within the established time limit (if applicable).**

Regarding Spectators for Club Tournaments

Registered Club members, those having completed the insurance waiver and Declaration of Compliance, and having registered with the club Safety Officer, may attend a club tournament as a spectator.

All spectators must:

- **Wait outside the gate to enter the facility until all participating bowlers have moved to their assigned rink, then are signalled by the monitor**
- **Wear a mask throughout their 'visit' at the facility**
- **Answer all Pre-screening questions asked by the Monitor**
- **Have name recorded as an attendee for that draw, including time of entry and exit**
- **Be seated, if permissible on club benches, on opposite sides of the green from the direction of play**
- **Maintain 2 m physical distance from all, including competitors (except family members)**