



CLUB SAFETY

Safety Officer: What is it and what do they do?

A Safety Officer is primarily responsible for ensuring that your club adheres to its local municipal and Provincial public health & safety guidelines, and that all steps of your club's Return to Play Framework are adhered to in full. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that all participants sign the appropriate waivers and forms, ensuring that the appropriate cleaning and sanitization protocols are taking place and that there is a log to verify these procedures, remaining up-to-date on all public health advisories/recommendations, and educating the appropriate stakeholders as changes are made to local conditions regarding public health, ensuring the club is looking to mitigate their risks, etc.

Safety Committee: What is it and what do they do?

For many clubs, the tasks and responsibilities of a Safety Officer are too burdensome for one person to handle alone. In these instances, a Safety Committee is used to share the responsibility amongst several people. While this is a great method to reduce the amount of work required of just one individual, it can lead to gaps if there is an absence of communication and a formal lead or chairperson. If your club has a Safety Committee instead of one Safety Officer, ensure that you have frequent and detailed communications and that all aspects of your club's Return to Play framework are being addressed.

How often do we need to clean/sanitize equipment and the club?

The more often the better. At the bare minimum, you should be cleaning and sanitizing any surface before and after someone touches it. It is strongly recommended that you designate someone (or a group of people) to clean and sanitize your equipment and your clubhouse on a regular basis, on top of cleaning/sanitizing before and after usage.

What should we use to clean/sanitize?

The Government of Canada has a list of disinfectants [here](#). Some solutions (e.g. bleach) may have a severely negative impact on your greens. When disinfecting equipment that will be used on the green, work with your greenskeeper to determine the best disinfectants that will have minimal impact to your greens.

Do we need to wear masks?

According to Canada's [Public Health Authority](#), the best thing you can do to prevent spreading COVID-19 is to wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. If none is available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

To protect others, you should also:

- stay at home if you are ill
- maintain a 2-metre physical distance from others

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- when physical distancing cannot be maintained, consider wearing a non-medical mask or homemade face covering
- avoid touching your face, mouth, nose or eyes

Wearing a homemade non-medical mask/facial covering in the community **is recommended** for periods of time when it is not possible to consistently maintain a 2-metre physical distance from others, particularly in crowded public settings, such as:

- stores
- shopping areas
- public transportation

Public health officials will make recommendations based on a number of factors, including the rates of infection and/or transmission in the community. Recommendations may vary from location to location.

Wearing a mask alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. You must consistently and strictly adhere to good hygiene and public health measures, including frequent hand washing and physical (social) distancing.

It is also important to note with the hotter weather still to come that the Canadian Sport Medicine Committee noted the heavier you breathe and sweat, the less useful the mask becomes.

Should we be testing participants for COVID-19? Should we be taking their temperature?

Testing is not reasonable for amateur sports - accessibility and cost makes it prohibitive. Taking participant's temperatures can also be misleading as individuals who may be ill, may not present with a temperature. Additionally, taking temperatures is dependent on both the equipment working effectively and the user implementing it effectively. Instead, the Canadian Sport Medicine Advisory Committee recommends that the most effective technique for amateur sport at this time is making sure that participants complete the appropriate pre-screening tool **each time** prior to participating. Source: [Covid-19 Return to High Performance Sport Framework](#), OTP

What is an effective way to pre-screen participants?

Our recommendation is that participants pre-screen at home before they arrive. Have them self-declare by filling out the appropriate forms, and direct them to Health Canada or provincial websites or apps to further self-screen. Pre-screening "Declaration Form" templates are available from your Provincial Bowls Association.

What if someone tests positive?

In the event that one of your members tests positive for COVID-19, you should alert your Public Health Authority immediately. You should also alert anyone that came into contact with said member and encourage them to get tested as well. Your Return to Play Framework and/or

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safety protocols should have this outlined in detail, so that all members/participants at your club are aware of the process that will be taken.

What if our members don't come back?

This is a possibility for many clubs. At the present time, COVID-19 is a very real and dangerous threat, especially to those over the age of 60 or a person of any age with pre-existing conditions. Given that most members of bowls clubs are predominantly senior, this means that COVID-19 is a greater risk to many club members than the rest of society. Many of your club members may decide that the risk is too great, and that they do not want to bowl or come to the club at the present time. This is an understandable decision, and in many instances should likely be encouraged. The safety of your members and participants should be your top priority, and if your members or participants don't feel comfortable returning, then you should not force them to.

Once the risk of COVID-19 has reduced significantly, we can work together to regain your members and grow your club further. For the present time though, safety should trump everything else, and no one should be expected to participate in an activity that they don't feel safe in. You may wish to consider some of the Membership Engagement resources that Bowls Canada has created to help connect with members who are not able to participate at this time.

What about insurance?

Many insurance companies now have contagion exclusions, which mean they will not support or cover your club or its directors if someone contracts COVID-19 and proceeds to sue the club. If this is the case, it is a risk that your club should fully understand. The need to make informed decisions regarding whether or not to open the club and allow participants to bowl is imperative. If someone were to contract COVID-19 and proceeded to sue the club, it could bankrupt the club and force its closure permanently. The waiver that participants sign helps to reduce this risk, but it does not remove it entirely. Be aware that without insurance, your club is in a precarious position and should weigh its options carefully.

Further, if your club is **not** incorporated, your members and directors could be held personally liable. In other words, if someone were to sue the club, your club's directors and members would need to foot the bill. This makes a lack of insurance an even bigger problem for things outside of just COVID-19.

When it comes to insurance, if a claim is brought against your club, your insurance provider will likely ask to see your risk mitigation and/or return to sport plans. It is HIGHLY recommended that your club have a detailed Return to Play plan, with proper protocols, waivers, declaration forms, and pre-screening and tracing protocols to reduce your club's liability.

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We hire out a company/contractor to clean our club. What if they do a poor job and someone contracts COVID-19?

It is important that you review your contract with your cleaning company/contractor to ensure that everyone is on the same page with roles and responsibility. While it is possible to transfer the liability to the company/contractor by spelling out in the contract that they are responsible for risks due to insufficient cleaning, your club is still responsible for reporting sub-par cleaning that you observe. Failing to report sub-par cleaning could still hold you liable.