



PUBLIC HEALTH & BCB

What level of Public Health should we be following?

Your local Public Health Authority (PHA) takes **precedence**. Depending on your region, it is possible that your town/city's PHA has stricter requirements than the rest of the province. Always refer to your local guidelines first, and then expand outwards from there. Before making any decisions, you should be aware of what local, provincial, and federal guidelines are.

What do we do if there are differences in protocols between authority groups (e.g. PHA is different from BCB, or BCB is different from our PSO)?

Your local Public Health Authority precedes all other groups. Your local PHA may have more strict requirements than your provincial or federal health authorities, so always adhere to your PHA first and foremost. If there are discrepancies between other groups (such as BCB's guidelines and your PSO's guidelines), connect with your Provincial Sport Organization to discuss further. When in doubt, use the guideline that is most stringent.

I'm confused between BCB's Phases and my provincial Phases

BCB's Return to Play Framework is listed in 4 phases. This may be similar, or different, to your provincial guidelines as each province is using different approaches. When looking at what to do for your club, please make sure you are clear about BCB's framework and phases, as well as your provincial government's framework and phases, as they may have similar names but different implementations. It is always best to check with your Provincial Bowls Association to clarify how the BCB Return to Play Protocol integrates with your provinces reopening plans.

What is the difference between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the BCB Return to Play Framework?

BCB is in the process of developing a Return to Play (RTP) Framework that clubs can use to re-open their clubs during or post-pandemic. This phased in approach has 4 phases, where Phase 1 is the most restrictive, and Phase 4 is the least restrictive. By having a phased-in approach, it is hoped that clubs across Canada can ease their bowlers back onto the greens without putting their members or participants at significant risk of catching or spreading the COVID-19 virus.

Phase 1 of the Return to Play (RTP) Framework focuses on getting bowlers back on the greens in a very limited and restricted manner. Bowlers can only train or practice, and there can never be more than two individuals on a rink at a time. Phase 2 of the RTP Framework loosens restrictions a little, by allowing modified games to happen, and up to four people on a rink at a time, provided physical distancing can still be maintained. To see the different phases, please click [here](#).



It should be noted that at all times, your local Public Health Authority takes precedence over BCB's RTP Framework, and that any guidance or recommendations from health authorities supersede the content of the Framework.

Phase 2 references “modified games”. What is the difference between modified games and normal competitions?

Modified games can refer to:

- Activities you might play as part of a practice (individually or with others)
 - The activity cards from the Learn to Bowl kit offer some examples of this
- Unstructured play
 - Example: 2 people having a fun game of singles against each other without keeping score or measuring
- Social/Recreational games
 - Example: See [Appendix for RTP Phase 2](#)

Formal competitions (for example, a club tournament or a league-night that leads to a club title), should not be pursued until BCB's Phase 3 or Phase 4, as they require many aspects that may not be advisable while in Phase 2 (such as using an umpire, sharing a mat, or measuring, to name a few).

What is the difference between Inter-club and Intra-club?

Intra-club is within the club. Inter-club is between multiple clubs.

What if we can't follow everything in BCB's RTP Framework?

If you cannot fully implement all of the recommendations in the RTP Framework, you likely should not open your club. The RTP Framework provides guidelines that should be followed as a bare minimum, and in reality, should actually be more stringent pending your local conditions. If you cannot implement the recommendations that are in the RTP Framework, then you run a greater risk to your members and to further spreading the COVID-19 virus. If you lack the resources (human, financial, or otherwise) to successfully implement the RTP Framework, then consider keeping your club closed until you can, or until your local region loosens restrictions.

How do we know what phase of BCB's RTP Framework to implement?

This will largely depend on your local situation. Phase 1 is the most restrictive phase, and Phase 4 is the least restrictive. If your area has a maximum gathering size of 10 people, then you're likely closer to Phase 1 than you are to Phase 4. Regardless of which phase you could be in, we would recommend that you start at Phase 1 to make sure you can implement all of the safeguards and recommendations for the most restrictive phase. It is better to be adhering to safety protocols that may not be necessary than it is to be missing safety protocols that are necessary.