

CROQUET VICTORIA

The guidelines below indicate what is permitted under current Victorian government policy.

Across Victoria, croquet clubs and associations and local councils operate in many different ways and within different surroundings and communities. Making an assessment of whether croquet can be provided safely will depend on factors which vary across each council area and may be specific to each venue. It is the responsibility of each council, association and club to work together to make this assessment based on individual circumstances.

Croquet Victoria recommends that each club and each member carefully weighs up the benefits and risks when making their decision. The Croquet Australia insurance policy does not cover any COVID-19 related illness.

If in doubt, don't play. If your club or you decide to play, please observe the following restrictions and guidance.

POST-LOCKDOWN GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS LOCATED IN VICTORIA: 19 October 2020

These guidelines are based on [Department of Health and Human Services advice](#), and the current [Chief Officer of Health Directions](#), together with changes announced by the Premier on 18 October 2020. They are consistent with the principles announced by Sport Australia on 9 May 2020. This document is being progressively modified as government guidelines are updated. Please check the [Croquet Victoria website](#) for the most recent version.

LATEST NEWS: throughout Victoria, all adults must wear masks when they are outside their home. From midnight on 18 October 2020, there have been slight changes to the Third Step restrictions for regional Victoria; metropolitan Melbourne moved to a modified version of the Second Step.

1 What play is allowed, and how many people can play

In regional Victoria, under the Third Step, social play and competition are allowed. Clubhouses closed except for toilets and change rooms. Everyone is expected to observe social distancing and hygiene rules. Phase sessions to avoid congestion at entry / exit points.

SOCIAL PLAY

Both singles and doubles are permitted. Maximum of 10 players (social play) [RAD 6(3b)]. Consult your local authority about the approach at your club.

COMPETITION

[Recent SRV guidelines](#) clarify that the maximum for a competitive activity is set by the sport's state body and depends on the number required to facilitate the activity, including officials. For croquet, unlike cricket, this is variable. It may mean all club members (for a formal season opening competition); teams of four or more plus referee/s for an inter-club competition; or blocks of six or eight for a tournament. Keep groups as small as is appropriate for the competition, and maintain separation between the groups. No spectators. [RAD 6 (6B (3(f)note))]

In greater Melbourne, including the Mornington Peninsula (not the Bellarine Peninsula), there is to be no competition. Social play is allowed, for a maximum of ten people at the venue. Potentially singles or doubles. The group of players on any one court to be from no more than two households. Groups on different courts to stay apart. [RAD 13 7 (1A (d))]. Travel limited to 25km from home or workplace. [RAD 7 (1A (i) Note)]

2 Who can play

Please only play with others if you are in good health.

There is no explicit ban on players over 70. If you are suffering from a condition that puts you at risk, please stay away or arrange to practise on your own. Be careful to observe the hygiene requirements. If you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, please get tested and stay home till you are cleared. If the test is positive, please inform the club, and of course stay home till you are cleared.

3 How is attendance recorded

Keep an attendance register. We recommend that in order to assist with contact tracing, one person in each group records everyone's name, arrival and leaving times. Ensure that contact details for those attending are readily available.

4 Social distancing and hygiene

Wear a mask. Keep at least 1.5 metres between yourself and anyone else. No handshakes or high fives!

If your toilet and hand basin are in a restricted space, consider arrangements to ensure social distancing when they are in use. Hygiene involves:

- wash your hands thoroughly (palms, backs of hands, between fingers, fingertips, thumbs, wrists) with soap or sanitiser – when you arrive, and after you have touched something that someone else may have touched.
- keep your hands away from your face (we are told people normally touch their faces 23 times an hour).
- clean items that you have touched that other people will use after you (see below)
- if First Aid is needed, use single-use gloves (see below).

5 Hygiene equipment

The club should ensure that players can access

- soap and sanitiser
- paper towels for drying hands
- alcohol wipes for cleaning equipment
- disinfectant in toilet
- single-use gloves (kept near the First Aid kit and the toilet)
- Personal Protection Equipment for use if there is a need for someone to give First Aid: mask, protective goggles, disposable raincoat.

Arrange to clean accessible areas and frequently touched surfaces regularly and frequently.

6 Playing equipment

Use your own mallet if possible.

For any playing session, arrange for each item of shared equipment to be handled by only one person. For example, the attendance register, the hoops, the peg, and any other shared equipment such as the trolley or corner pegs and lines.

If you have to use a club mallet, put out hoops / peg, get out balls, or handle other equipment:

- sanitise your hands (washing with soap is fine)
- clean the equipment with soap, detergent or sanitiser (for balls, use only a mild detergent and water – anything else may damage the balls)
- sanitise your hands again
- sanitise all equipment at the end of the session.

In Golf Croquet, each ball should normally be handled only by the person playing it. However, if need be, other players could use their foot or mallet to move it.

In Association Croquet and Ricochet, the striker may only handle their own ball. When other balls need to be moved or positioned, this should be done with the foot or mallet.

7 First Aid

Use disposable (single-use) gloves to open the First Aid kit and deal with the emergency. Use the Personal Protection Equipment as required.

Afterwards, discard the disposable items and wash your hands before closing the First Aid kit.

8 Club and committee gatherings

In regional Victoria public gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed outdoors (inclusive of households) and visitors to your home are limited to two per day. Clubhouses are to be closed. ***In metro Melbourne*** 10 people from up to 2 households can meet outdoors (no time limit), within 25 km of home or work. SHD 19 9(2) and (3). Visits to one-person households only by partner or bubble buddy, whichever applies.

9 Travel

You are allowed to drive and/or use public transport to get to a venue for sport or recreation. Social distancing is advised. This means it would be preferable for people to travel only with people they share a house with. Travel should be minimised. Please play at your nearest accessible courts.

10 Documenting what you are doing

You need to ensure everyone knows (and does) what is expected.

Strategies could include:

- displaying these guidelines at the club, where members attending can see them
- writing to all members listing what is required
- establishing a booking system to ensure that no more than ten people attend at once
- keeping an attendance record which shows when people came and went
- maintaining a folder with receipts for relevant equipment
- designating one or more members to take responsibility for implementing different aspects of the guidelines, eg managing the booking system, counselling members who appear to be unaware of the guidelines.