



CROQUET VICTORIA

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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: 11 January 2021

These guidelines are based on [Department of Health and Human Services advice](#), the current [Chief Officer of Health Directions](#) for Victoria as a whole, and the changes announced by the Premier on 31 December 2020. They still include the requirements of a COVID-safe Plan.

This document is being progressively modified as government guidelines are updated. Please check the [Croquet Victoria website](#) for the most recent version.

LATEST NEWS: It has just been clarified (11 January 2021) that space ratios are now the same for indoor spaces and outdoor sporting activities, ie

1:2m² per person where the club uses a QR code to register attendance

1:4m² per person where the club uses only paper records of attendance

Each separate indoor space needs to be labelled with the number of people allowed at one time.

For detail of the Government QR code (available free), see <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qrcode>.

You must carry a mask at all times. Inside club facilities, wearing a mask is now mandatory. Masks are not mandatory outdoors, unless you are likely to come closer to other people than 1.5m.

Every club is still expected to maintain a COVID-safe plan. Contact the [Croquet Victoria Secretary](#) if you need assistance.

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

Essentially, the limits on croquet have been lifted. The number of sporting participants outdoors is now restricted only by the density quotient – this would allow 245 people per croquet court, with a maximum group size of 100. Groups are to stay a reasonable distance apart.

Social play and competition are allowed. Clubrooms, including kitchens, are open. Outside gatherings are preferred (density quotient 1:2m² with the QR code, 1:4m² without), but clubhouses may be used for gatherings (density quotient 1:2m²). Changing rooms are 1:2m² irrespective. Everyone is asked to observe social distancing. Phase sessions to avoid congestion at entry / exit points. The hygiene rules are still mandatory.

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, be especially careful to observe the hygiene requirements.

3. In the event of someone testing positive with COVID-19

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.

Clubs are to specify in their COVID-safe plan how they will manage an incident where someone has attended who is at risk of or been diagnosed with COVID.

4 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. Consider using the Victorian Government QR code, which will allow twice as many people to use the courts.

5 Social distancing and hygiene

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

Indoors, it is now mandatory to wear a fitted.

If your toilet and hand basin are in a restricted space, label the space to indicate how many people may be there at the same time (using the ratio 1:2m²).

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).

6 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.

Schedule regular and frequent cleaning of accessible areas and frequently touched surfaces. Display the schedule in the club rooms, with sign offs to show when areas have been cleaned.

7 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.

8 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.

9 Club and committee gatherings

Up to 100 people may meet outdoors, so long as they can socially distance. Indoors is subject to the density quotient of 1:2 m². If a QR code is being used for attendance, 1:4m² if only paper records are kept.

10 Travel

You are allowed to drive and/or use public transport to get to a venue for sport or recreation. Masks are mandatory on public transport and shared rides.

11 Documenting what you are doing

You need to ensure everyone knows (and does) what is expected. Use your COVID-safe plan to set this out.