



## CROQUET VICTORIA

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

Making an assessment of whether croquet can be provided safely 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, do observe the following restrictions and guidance.

### POST-LOCKDOWN GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS LOCATED IN VICTORIA: 5 October 2021

These guidelines are based on [Department of Health and Human Services advice](#), the current [Chief Health Officer Directions](#) for regional Victoria and the restricted areas of Greater Melbourne and Greater Shepparton as updated on 5 October 2021; and [the changes announced by the Premier on 26 September 2021](#). Relevant Directions published on the [Chief Health Officer page](#) are:

- the Restricted Activity Directions (Restricted Areas) and Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) [recreational activities]
- the COVID-19 Vaccinated Activities Directions [requirements on a coach working with a group]
- Area Directions [identify the areas subject to lockdown]
- Stay at Home Directions (Restricted Area) [enables play under the "picnic" provision]
- Stay Safe Directions (Regional Victoria) [includes requirements re masks]
- Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions [allows residents of bubble to move between Victoria and NSW]

They still include the requirements of a COVID-safe Plan. Contact the [Croquet Victoria Secretary](#) if you need assistance.

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

### LATEST NEWS

Under the Government roadmap, **double vaccination** will progressively open up more opportunities. Croquet Victoria strongly encourages all members who are able to be vaccinated to do so.

**Shifts in restrictions for Metro Melbourne and Greater Shepparton (Latrobe is out of lockdown).**

**Shepparton is to be in lockdown for a week from 2 October. No play except as below.**

**A tiny release for croquet players in Melbourne – the "picnic" clause:**

Outdoor play is allowed for two players, or a group of up to five players (plus coach) **if all are vaccinated**. As for picnics, members of a group must come from no more than 2 households. The coach may be from a different household. So long as groups **keep completely separate** (eg arriving at different times, playing on different courts), more than one group may play. If a coach is working with a group of five, they are required to sight evidence of full vaccination or an exemption for each player (COVID-19 Vaccinated Activities Directions). Children under 12 count are exempt.

**Access to clubhouses is limited to the use of the toilets. No other access to clubhouses, sheds or other enclosed spaces** (walls and a roof). Players are not allowed to enter to access equipment stored in an indoor space. **It is permissible to reach through an outside doorway for equipment placed just inside. Such arrangements should be cleared with the relevant local authority.**

Where members can bring their own equipment, they must respect the group limits above.

**In the regions (outside Metro Melbourne and Greater Shepparton):**

Social play and practice. No competitive events.

No limits on travel within Victoria, except that travel to and from metro Melbourne/ Latrobe City is allowed only for authorised workers.

Members in the border bubble between Victoria and NSW are now allowed to travel interstate for recreational play.

Clubs must register all attendances using the Government QR code

Outside the home, masks must be worn indoors and outdoors, except during vigorous exercise, or while eating or drinking.

**Subject to the density quotient** of 4m<sup>2</sup> per person at sporting venues:

Clubhouses are now open for groups of up to 10 people

Outdoors, group sizes are limited to 10; maximum of 20 per venue. Groups of 10 must be kept apart.

No competition. Spectators are NOT allowed.

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

**REGIONS:** Groups a maximum of 10 – must not mingle. Maximum of 20 people per venue, subject to density quotient of 4m<sup>2</sup> per person.

**RESTRICTED AREAS (Metro, Greater Shepparton):** groups of two people, or five if all fully vaccinated, from no more than two households. More than one group may play, **so long as they do not mingle**. No entry to clubhouse for equipment. Exercise and social interaction limited to 4 hours a day per person.

**Everyone** is asked to observe social distancing. Phase sessions to avoid congestion at entry / exit points. No competitive play.

## 2 Who can play

Please only play with others if you are in good health. If you are suffering from a condition that puts you at risk, be especially careful to observe the hygiene requirements.

## 3 How is attendance recorded

To assist with contact tracing, all attendances *must* be recorded using the Victorian Government QR code. This is mandatory. Options include:

- a fellow member registers others attending at the same time
- a responsible member of the club is contacted to check in people without a phone
- the government COVID Kiosk, which you can use to set up multiple log-ins on the one device

It is the club's responsibility to set up a system to ensure that everybody is registered. See <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/register-to-use-vic-gov-qr-code-service>. Unstaffed venues no longer need to have a COVID Check in Marshal, but it is still useful to designate a player for a particular playing session who reminds everyone to check in. Note that players are not allowed to travel from Melbourne or Greater Shepparton to play at a club in the regions, and if they do they should not be admitted.

You may wish to record attendance and use of the QR code on paper. If so, try to avoid sharing the pen - one person in each group can be designated to record everyone's name, arrival and leaving times.

## 4 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.

## 5 Social distancing and hygiene

Across Victoria, **fitted masks are mandatory outdoors and indoors** (except at home).

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, label the space to indicate how many people may be there at the same time (using the relevant density quotient).

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
- 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 for 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, including toilets (includes Metro and Greater Shepparton). [Regions only] 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, the hoop trolley.

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 [applies to all]**

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 – Regions only [not Metro or Greater Shepparton]**

Attendance at gatherings other than at home must be registered using the Government QR code.

Public gatherings are still limited to a maximum of 10, subject to the space quotient of 4m<sup>2</sup> per person.

No visitors to the home.

## **10 Travel**

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

Outside Metro Melbourne and Greater Shepparton, no limits on travel within Victoria.

Within Metro Melbourne and Greater Shepparton, car travel with someone from another household should be avoided. Travel is limited to a radius of 15 km from home.

## **11 Documenting what you are doing**

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