



## 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: 30 October 2021

These guidelines are based on [Department of Health and Human Services advice](#), and the current [Chief Health Officer Directions](#) for Victoria as a whole, as updated on 22 November 2021. Relevant Directions published on the [Chief Health Officer page](#) are the:

- Open Premises Directions [apply across Victoria]
- Stay Safe Directions [apply across Victoria]
- Workplace Directions
- COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions – applies to volunteers, employees and high performance players and those supporting them.
- 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

Croquet Victoria strongly encourages all members who are able to be vaccinated to do so. For the protection of members, the Croquet Victoria Council has decided that anybody entering the Victorian Croquet Centre must be double vaccinated or medically exempt.

### ACCESS TO PLAY

Double vaccination [or medical exemption] is now required for social play across Victoria. No-one may participate in social play who is not double vaccinated or medically exempt.

In all cases, children under 16 count as exempt.

**If all are double vaccinated or exempt**, courts and clubhouses are now open and numbers are unlimited, both indoors and outdoors.

At unstaffed outdoor sporting venues, COVID check in marshals are no longer required. Everyone attending should check in with the QR code and carry evidence of their vaccination status.

Exceptions to the double vaccination requirements allow for

- high performance sport - double vaccination is not required until 26 November 2021.
- community sport, where this is the only activity at a venue.

In croquet, this means local competitive events, either tournaments or interclub competitions, where handicap cards are used. Everyone present must be concerned with the competitive event. There are no restrictions on numbers and vaccination status is not inspected.

Access to toilets and shelter in inclement weather is allowed. Access to the clubhouse is allowed only if no other group is using it.

Anyone conducting an event under these exceptions should ensure everyone checks in.

Clubs may decide that everyone attending their club should be double vaxxed, irrespective of the type of activity. This needs to be a formal decision, acknowledging that it does not exclude those who are medically exempt.

### MASKS

Outside the home, masks must be carried. They must be worn indoors only in limited settings (eg shops), and outdoors when social distancing cannot be guaranteed.

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

Social play, training and competition are allowed for everyone who is double vaccinated or medically exempt.

Community sport (training and competitions) may proceed without the requirement that everyone be double vaccinated, provided that other activities are not being undertaken at the same time at the same venue.

## 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 registers using the QR code, and is aware of the vaccination requirements. See <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/register-to-use-vic-gov-qr-code-service>. Staffed venues need to have someone fulfilling the role of COVID Check in Marshal at every playing session, ensuring use of the QR code and checking vaccination status.

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. Useful guidance is provided at

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist>.

## 5 Social distancing and hygiene

Across Victoria, **fitted masks are generally not required indoors**. They must still be worn in shops and health settings and on public transport; also where you cannot maintain a 1.5m distance from others.

No handshakes or high fives!

Density quotients no longer apply to indoor spaces.

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. 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 playing session before others use it.

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**

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

Across Victoria, provided everyone is double vaccinated, there is generally no limit to the number attending a gathering indoors or outdoors, including in the home. Some restrictions still apply in health settings.

## **10 Workers, volunteers and vaccination**

Workers and volunteers in sport and recreation are currently expected to have had at least one vaccination, and to have their second vaccination by 26 November.

Clubs are now required to

- ensure that any worker at the club (paid or unpaid) is vaccinated consistent with this timeline
- maintain records indicating that they have sighted evidence of vaccination.

A template for registering this information is attached.

*Examples:* members on a clubhouse cleaning roster; gardener; greenkeeper; line marker; coach; referee

## **11. Travel**

Travel within Victoria is not restricted.

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

## **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.