



**Pétanque**  
**ENGLAND**

## COVID-19 UPDATE: PLAY SAFE GUIDELINES - RETURN TO RESTRICTED PLAY

On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the UK Government announced that the COVID-19 alert level should move from Level 4 (A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially) to Level 3 (A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation).

The Government has further eased restrictions **from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July** and these have new implications for the playing of our sport. We are not making recommendations as to whether any individual should or should not return to playing, everyone must make their own decision based on their particular circumstances and with reference to the guidance available please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do#public-spaces--outdoor-activities--exercise>

The most important starting point is that you should not leave your home to play pétanque if Government advice means you should stay at home because you or someone you live with has or has had symptoms of COVID-19.

The latest UK Government advice issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June leads us to revise our guidance to our members.

Firstly, from **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July**, those advised by the NHS to shield from coronavirus will be able to spend time outdoors in a group of up to 6 people including those outside of their household, while maintaining social distancing. Whilst we emphasise that every individual should make their own decision as to whether they should play, it will be possible for 'shielded' people to play our sport should they decide it is safe for them to do so. We recommend that those players who were formerly 'shielded' should inform fellow players of their status if they are not already aware.

Secondly, given our Government's decision to ease certain restrictions from **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July**, we have revised our guidance accordingly.

Safety remains our number one priority, our advice to our members that choose to play from is to follow the good practice guidance set out below.

## GENERAL

- From 4<sup>th</sup> July, sports clubs, social clubs and pubs will be permitted to open subject to following 'COVID Secure' guidelines, allowing players to use facilities and buy food and drink subject to venue restrictions. Players should follow any local guidance issued by the operators of the premises;
- Contact your club or playing venue to ensure that pitches are available for use. It may be necessary for clubs to arrange some sort of booking system to avoid overcrowding as maintaining a 2m distance (or at least 1m or more where this is not possible from 4<sup>th</sup> July) between persons from multiple households is imperative;
- Large gatherings at venues should still not happen. Smaller venues should only allow gatherings that can be safely accommodated;
- Mindful that the majority of playing venues used by our players and clubs are constrained in terms of space, we recommend that matches should continue to take place with a vacant lane between them as a precautionary measure to maintain social distancing;
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home and on return (or use an alcohol gel if washing hands is not possible);
- Consumption together in groups of six of food and drink is possible outside at venues if space permits for 2m (or at least 1m or more where this is not possible from 4<sup>th</sup> July) social distancing to be observed. You must not pass each other food or drink unless you live together. You must not use plates or utensils that someone from another house has touched - either bring your own or ensure you have thoroughly cleaned them before using;
- Spectators should only attend if they can watch safely, do not cause overcrowding and fully respect 2m (or at least 1m or more where this is not possible from 4<sup>th</sup> July) social distancing;
- Players may wish to consider wearing a face covering. The evidence suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you but it may protect others if you are infected but have not developed symptoms.

## TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE VENUE

- Avoid using public transport if possible but if you do, wear a face covering;
- Avoid touching gates, fences, benches, etc. if you can;
- Only congregate after playing in groups of no more of six and maintain 2m (or at least 1m or more where this is not possible from 4<sup>th</sup> July) social distancing.

## DURING PLAY

- If the physical space at venues allows for 2m (or at least 1m or more where this is not possible from 4<sup>th</sup> July) social distancing between players from different households, matches can be Singles, Doubles or Triples. We recommend that players and clubs consider carefully through risk assessment whether restricting play to Singles and Doubles is a better and safer option for their venues;
- Each player should touch their own boules and equipment only;
- Each player should have their own jack to throw when it is their turn or their team's turn. If a jack is invalidly thrown, the other player or player in the other team must place their own jack, not pick up the jack that has been invalidly thrown;
- Plastic circles should not be used; instead players must mark circles with their feet or a marker which should be only used by them;
- Maintaining social distancing of 2m (or at least 1m or more where this is not possible from 4<sup>th</sup> July) between players must be observed at all times. This is particularly important when playing Doubles or Triples where there will be up to six players on an individual pitch. If possible you should stand side on, even at 2m (or at least 1m or more where this is not possible from 4<sup>th</sup> July) distance, and avoid standing face to face;
- Clean your equipment before and after use;
- No static or club provided scoreboards should be used, pocket scorers should be used by one player only.

PE Board, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020