

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the re-opening of Golf in Wales
Updated 27th July 2020

Q: Can golfers share a buggy?

A: When entering a golf club, best practice and social distancing should remain at all times. It is the clubs decision whether they would like to open up buggies to extended household bubbles or household groups.

If the club has adapted their buggies, for example fitted screens between the occupants then sharing a buggy can be allowed. The golf club must approve all sharing of buggies and have carried out the appropriate risk assessments on the suitability of the screen.

Q: Can clubs run competitions with over 30 participants?

A: In most team sports e.g. football, cricket, rugby etc the 30-participant regulation refers to people sharing the same playing area/pitch, golf is different in that an 18-hole course in reality has 18 separate playing areas allowing participants to social distance safely and very rarely stray into another groups playing space.

In golf you can safely have between 1 and 3 groups of 4 playing on each hole depending on its length and design. An analogy in a team sport such as football would be when there are 3 pitches next to each other 3 separate organised groups of up to 30 participants would be permitted under the current regulations.

Q: How many people can congregate in an outdoor space?

A: Wales Golf would advise all clubs to work against their risk assessment. Clubs may wish to consider a maximum table time or 2 drink rule to avoid overcrowding and give adequate time to clean the area between customers.

Q: Can the locker room facilities be open for use at the club?

A: Locker rooms and changing facilities must remain closed. However, a locker room can open as a throughway to toilets facilities.

Q: Can trolley sheds open?

A: Yes, however the club should ensure that there is a safe system in place E.G one in – one out. This should be in line with the clubs risk assessment policy.

Q: What is the maximum number of participants for group coaching?

A: All professionals must carry out a thorough risk assessment to how many participants they can coach. Wales Golf New2Golf programme has a maximum number of 4-8 participants.

Q: Does my club need to follow 'Test, Trace, Protect'?

A: Yes. Whilst serving food and drinks, your club must follow all Welsh Government and Hospitality industry guidelines. This includes Test, Trace and Protect.

Further Welsh Government Advice [here](#)

Q: My club has a member who wishes to play golf by themselves, how can I avoid others signing up with them?

A: If a club has a member who would feel safer playing golf alone, the club should accept the players request and no other individuals should be able to sign up at that allocated tee time.

Q: Can Professional Shops and driving ranges be opened at the golf club?

A: Professional Shops

As of Monday 22nd June, Professional Shops in Wales can re-open for retail purposes. Please ensure all shops are adhering to the social distancing and Welsh Government Guidelines.

Driving Ranges:

- Driving ranges have been constructed in a variety of different ways, with varying features of indoor and outdoor facilities, making it impossible to provide a blanket response as to whether they can or cannot open.
- Driving ranges contain several hard surfaces and remain a high-risk area for the spread of COVID-19. However, **outdoor driving ranges** are able to open if they can operate outdoors – E.g., on a grass area, with outdoor access points, and not under-cover.
- If your facility is under cover or sheltered, you should get in touch with your local Environmental Health and Trading Standards office who will be able to provide further advice whether you can open
- Facilities **must** conduct a full risk assessment.

Further Guidance

- Where there is room for doubt, our advice would be to pursue the safest option. For any further clarification, we suggest that clubs check with their local Trading Standards and Health and Safety authorities, and full risk assessments must be carried out.

Q: Can washrooms and toilet facilities be opened at the club?

A: Indoor facilities apart from toilets should be kept closed.

When accessing and leaving facilities people should wipe down areas of contact, wash their hands thoroughly, use paper towels where possible and avoid touching any surfaces in transit. Clubs should also regularly clean touch-point areas and surface in line with their club COVID-19 risk assessment.

A: The club must ensure toilets are regularly cleaned and well managed to minimise the risk of the transmission of the virus.

- A full risk assessment should be carried out setting clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets to ensure they are kept clean and social distancing is achieved as much as possible.
- Consider a one in one out system and 2 metres queueing point could be implemented outside the building which can help ensure physical distancing.
- More frequent rubbish collection
- Replacing hand dryers with paper towels in handwashing facilities Clubs can also contact their local Environment Health and Safety Authority for additional advice and guidance regarding opening toilet facilities. It is also recommended that clubs check everything with their insurance companies.

Q: Can clubs meet in the clubhouse to run board/committee meetings?

A: This should be done digitally where possible (e.g. zoom, google meet, skype, email etc) or via phone call as current COVID-19 lockdown measures in Wales state that no more than two households are allowed to meet and clubhouses are to remain close