

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the re-opening of Golf in Wales
Updated 1st September 2020

Q: Can we host Quiz evenings/Bingo/Whist/Dances/Past Captain's Dinner/Presentation Ceremonies etc. indoors?

A: The First Minister announced on the 18th of August that from Monday 21st of August that certain organised events could be conducted indoors. Those were Weddings, Civil Ceremonies and Funerals. Therefore no other form of organised events should be conducted indoors as the rules on people meeting indoors with people who are not part of their household or extended household remain unchanged.

This means that people should only use the club's restaurant and bar or other indoor spaces with people from their household or extended household. Attending or organising an event/activity open to more than one social bubble would contravene the guidelines.

Q: Do we still have public liability insurance for Covid risks?

A: In general terms you need to check with your insurance company. There are many risks that will not be covered such as loss of revenue due to the pandemic but in general, your public liability cover should still be in place. It is very important that you **CHECK** this as there may be exceptions.

Q: What happens if someone breaks the rules at our club/venue?

A: You should take appropriate action to ensure the safety of other participants and your staff and volunteers. Any action you take should be reasonable and proportionate. Always be aware that there may be a valid reason for why something has happened, for example, social distancing may have been breached for a reason connected with a disability that you are not aware of. Always allow someone to explain their actions and try to educate and help where possible.

Q: Can members of the same household break social distancing?

A: Members of the same household may break social distancing under government rules, but you need to decide if this will lead to breaking of the rules by others in attendance. We suggest that the social distancing rule be evenly enforced on all participants as this is easier to manage.

Q Can NHS staff who may have contact with Covid-19 patients as part of their work engage in group sporting activities?

A: The advice we have received on this is that if they were wearing recommended PPE (as they should have been) they will not be classed as contacts for the purpose of self-declaration.

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 club's 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: Yes. Locker rooms and changing facilities can now open. Please follow the following guidelines when opening your changing room facilities [here](#)

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 club's risk assessment policy.

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

A: All professionals must carry out a thorough risk assessment as 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 TTP'?

A: Yes. See TTP FAW document for further information.

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 could re-open for retail purposes. All shops must adhere to the social distancing and Welsh Government Guidelines.

Driving Ranges:

- Driving ranges contain several hard surfaces and remain a high-risk area for the spread of COVID-19. **driving ranges** are able to open providing strict Welsh Government Procedures are in place.
- 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: Yes. 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.

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 bubbled households are allowed to meet indoors.

Q: Should we be offering Golf packages to include food?

A: Where possible, there should always be an option to purchase golf without food, so individuals have the choice if they wish to consume food on the premises.

If offering a golf package to include food, the club needs to ensure that both areas, the golf and catering (sometimes catering is franchised out) meet the necessary regulations and minimise risk.

Clubs should always conduct a risk assessment and consult their insurance companies.

Q: Can we run a 'shot-gun' start?

A: Under the current government regulations

'people must not gather outdoors in groups of more than 30'

A shot-gun start involves everyone starting at the same time from different locations on the course and finishing at similar times. Although not impossible, and the people share the same common purpose (participating in the same competition/ event), it would be challenging to manage this format without breaching the above regulation, particularly around the clubhouse area before the groups go onto the course and when they finish.

The clubs should always conduct a risk assessment for each event, and if in doubt, choose the safest possible option.

Until the guidelines change, we would recommend NOT to use this format.

Q: Can more than 30 take part in a club competition?

A: Yes as long as the club sticks to the government's, organised sport and Wales Golf guidance.

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Q: Should clubs be taking temperature to identify if anyone has symptoms of coronavirus?

A: Under general sports guidance, this is not recommended. There is no clear lawful basis under data protection to gather this kind of information. Just because someone has a higher than 'normal' temperature does not mean that they have Covid-19 or any other infectious disease. Unless you are an experienced medical professional, you cannot make any form of diagnosis from a temperature reading.

What will you do if someone presents with a high temperature? Are you going to refuse to allow them into the building? On what grounds will you do this? If their high temperature is gender or age-related, or connected with any form of disability, you have just committed an act of discrimination.

We are advising that you do NOT implement ANY measure to monitor health. It is fine to issue common-sense advice along the lines of:

"If you are unwell and suspect you may have Covid-19 or have any of the symptoms of Covid-19, please stay at home and contact 111 for advice."

"Please also inform us if you have been instructed to isolate. Let us know the date that your isolation will end."

Dos and Don'ts on health monitoring

- DO NOT take people's temperatures!
- DO NOT ask intrusive health questions
- DO NOT 'diagnose' people's 'symptoms'
- DO have plenty of signage at your locations about social distancing, educating on the symptoms of Covid-19 and advising on how people can get a test organised or what to do if they think they may have been infected. Don't assume everyone will have seen this information elsewhere. It never hurts to remind everyone.
- DO ask staff people to stay at home if they think there is a reasonable risk that they have been infected or been in contact with someone who has been infected. Tell them to report their absence in the usual way and seek help about a COVID test from the online service of NHS 111.
- DO provide signs that ask people not to enter the premises if they think they may be infectious or have had contact with someone who has got Covid-19. Again, provide helpful information on your signs.

Wales Golf has a template declaration and statement available on our website.

Q: Do children of primary school age need to social distance in golf?

A: Young children can still transmit the virus. It is important in sport to have consistency between age groups; age groups are also likely to mix.

Golf is a sport that can be played and enjoyed at a social distance, so for consistency and to reduce risk, social-distancing rules should apply to.