

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions: 13:00 19 March 2020

Clubs

1. Will club capitation fees be given back to clubs/associations/affiliates?

Yes, clubs, associations and affiliates will receive a full refund of capitation. This includes membership fees, competition entries, tournament licenses, yearbook and merchandise (where an order has not been fulfilled). This will be processed as soon as we can, we would ask clubs to be patient while we do this as you will appreciate with over 900 clubs, associations, affiliates this will take weeks rather than days.

2. Are we still able to run a Try Bowls event this season?

No. Bowls Scotland will not be accepting any applications from clubs for our Try Bowls programme for the foreseeable future. Any clubs who have already registered for a Try Bowls event will be emailed with more information.

3. What will Bowls Scotland be advising to associations affiliated to them?

We will be advising Associations to follow the same guidance as we are asking clubs to follow.

4. What information should we be telling our members?

First thing is to reiterate to your members that their health and wellbeing is your club's top priority. You can share any messages and communication that has come out from Government and inform members that this is unprecedented times. At all times, your members should adhere to Government advice.

5. Can the club still arrange and play friendly matches or competitions?

As a club committee you should risk assess and ensure you are always adhering to Government advice relating to the delivery of any activities during this period of uncertainty. We hope that everyone will follow this strong recommendation. Bowls Scotland will notify all clubs when there are any changes to the Scottish Government's advice.

6. Can people still bowl at the club?

We appreciate that members will be desperate to get back onto the green, but health comes first. As a club committee you should risk assess and ensure you are always adhering to Government advice relating to the delivery of any activities during this period of uncertainty.

7. How do we support our most vulnerable members?

We would encourage all our clubs to keep in contact with their members throughout this time. Think about support members with a telephone call to make sure members are ok and

if they need anything. Look into any local support groups that might offer support with some of your more vulnerable members.

8. Can community groups still use bowling club facilities?

Clubs should follow Government guidelines on this and ask community groups to do the same.

9. Is there financial support available from Bowls Scotland?

Bowls Scotland is looking at setting up a new Club Support Fund to assist clubs through this difficult period. We will also continue to work closely with the Scottish Government to identify any new funding and financial support/relief which will hopefully be made accessible to all sports clubs in Scotland. The Scottish Government has set up a helpline for Scottish businesses: <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>.

10. What does this mean for staff employed by club? Payment of statutory sick pay and who pays this?

*Clubs can find help, support and guidance here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-support-for-employees-benefit-claimants-and-businesses>*

11. Should the greenkeeper still cut the green?

As we are unsure when the season will return, if a club can afford to continue with the upkeep of the green they should. However, at all times follow government and NHS guidance.

12. Is there anyone to talk to defer payments for utilities?

Contact your utility company as soon as possible and ask what options are available to help throughout this time. Look at other suppliers' rates and possibly change if there are better deals available.

13. Our club cannot afford upcoming bills what can we do?

Contact your providers as soon as possible to discuss the options available.

14. Do we have right insurance for the virus?

Contact your insurance provider, they will be able to help you with this.

15. What advice would go to clubs around members paying fees for the season ahead?

We are also encouraging all Scottish bowlers to, where possible, continue to pay their membership fees for the upcoming season to help your club manage through this unprecedented situation.

16. If fees already paid to club would they be entitled to a refund?

This would be up to individual clubs; however, we would encourage clubs to ask members to not ask for a refund and continue to support their local club throughout this time.

Coach Education

1. Will there be any coaching courses running in 2020

All face-to-face coaching courses (including wellbeing and protection) will not be delivered until further clarity is provided by the Scottish Government. Where we can and where relevant, we will continue to use technology to deliver courses online. Any coach education enquiries should be directed to Sarah Pryde-Smith, National Development Manager, sarahprydesmith@bowlsscotland.com

2. Will there be any Child Protection Courses running in 2020

All face-to-face coaching courses (including wellbeing and protection) will not be delivered until further clarity is provided by the Scottish Government. Where we can and where relevant, we will continue to use technology to deliver courses online. Any safeguarding enquiries should be directed to Lawra Cox, Lead Safeguarding Officer, safeguarding@bowlsscotland.com

Wellbeing and Child Protection

1. Can I still get my PVG checked?

If you have submitted a PVG before the 17th March, we will process this. After this date, we have a hold on PVG processing until further notice. Please do not pull together groups of people to check of ID documents. We will still send out PVG forms in preparation for us resuming checks. Any further questions email safeguarding@bowlsscotland.com

Competitions

1. Will Stage 1 (District) and Stage 2 of the National Championships still go ahead?

Unfortunately, both stage 1 and stage 2 will not go ahead in 2020. Any clubs that have paid entry fees to the National Championships will receive a refund. This will be processed as soon as we can, we would ask clubs to be patient while we do this.

2. If a player won the National Championships in 2019 when will they get to play British Isles; will this be 2021?

We will await further instruction from BIBC/BIWBC on when the British Isles Championships could take place. This could potentially be later this year if that is an option or in 2021. Bowls Scotland will contact the players directly with further information when we know more.

3. If they won their club championships in 2019 will they play national playdown championships in 2021?

Yes, winners from 2019 will be eligible to play the national playdowns in 2021.

4. What about our open tournaments where we have paid a licence fee?

Clubs will be refunded their licence fee for any open competitions that they registered with us and made payment for. This will be processed as soon as we can, we would ask clubs to be patient while we do this.

5. What happens if the season opens back up later in the year and competitions run in August/September?

Bowls Scotland will continue to monitor the situation and update as soon as we more information.

6. Will the Andrew Hamilton and Ladies Top Ten be played?

Both competitions will not go ahead in 2020 – Ladies & Gents Associations that have affiliated and paid entry fees into these competitions will receive a refund. This will be processed as soon as we can, we would ask clubs to be patient while we do this. Non-Association entries will also receive a refund.

7. Will there be any Competitions this year?

Depending on further recommendations from the government there may be an opportunity for Bowls Scotland to launch an open competition later in the year if it is deemed safe to do so. Further details will be released if this becomes an option for us.

8. Will the BIBC/BIWBC Internationals take place this year?

All BIBC & BIWBC Championships & International Series except for the BIBC Junior Internationals in September have been cancelled. The BIBC/BIWBC Statement can be found in our latest coronavirus statement (18 March 2020).

9. Should I still send in my BIBC/BIWBC application for Trials?

We have now stopped the application process for 2020. When a decision is made from BIBC regarding the Junior Internationals in September we will communicate this out through our website and social media channels.

10. Will the Linda Brennan U25 Pairs competition go ahead?

This competition has been postponed for this year. Entries to this competition have now been stopped. As this was a qualifying event for the BIWBC Junior Championships we will await further instructions from BIWBC as to when the next U25 Championship event is due to take place.

High Performance

1. What is happening with World Championships?

Both indoor and outdoor World Championships have been postponed. Bowls Scotland have contacted all players and coaches due to be involved. Updates will be provided as we get them from World Bowls. The IBD World Championships due to take place in Christchurch in November 2020 have been postponed Updates will be provided as we get them from World Bowls

2. Will the Para Home Nations take place?

Bowls Scotland will review whether the Para Home Nations event due to take place at the National Centre for Bowling, Ayr, in September will go ahead. As soon as we know further information, we will share it with our players and members.

3. When will squad sessions be taking place?

Bowls Scotland are working on several contingency plans to provide sessions when it is safe to do so. Players will be updated when more information is provided by Government.