



GUIDELINES FOR RETURN TO PLAY



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Tenpin Bowling Australia has developed the following guidelines to assist the tenpin bowling community to return to league and tournament play in a cautious and methodical manner.

These guidelines are based on the best available evidence and advice to optimise participant and community safety and are in line with the Federal Government's National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities and the The AIS 'Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment'.

The guidelines should be used in conjunction with the directives and guidelines of the centre, Federal government and those of the relevant State or Territory.

The priority must always be preservation of public health and minimisation of the risk of community transmission.

All community tenpin bowling participants (this includes centre staff, social bowlers, league bowlers, parents/guardians, coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators, spectators, and tenpin bowling organisations) must play a role in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19.

RETURN TO PLAY PATHWAY

**Preparation of
bowling centres**



Return to league



Return to social play



**Tournaments
& Development
Programs**

PREPARATION OF BOWLING CENTRES

Whilst the specifications of bowling lanes and the other technical components of the sport are highly consistent, bowling centres vary considerably in size, layout and offerings. Therefore, centres must consider their specific circumstances and modify these guidelines accordingly.

Tenpin Bowling Australia acknowledges the guidelines will be implemented differently in each State and Territory with potentially further variation within each of those jurisdictions. At all times, government regulations take precedent over these guidelines.



PREPARATION OF BOWLING CENTRES

It is important for bowling centres to safely prepare the venue for all participants. This includes;

- A thorough risk assessment of each area of the centre to determine if the 'Return to Play' requirements provided by the State & Federal Governments can be met taking into consideration each stage of restrictions (refer to Bowling Centre – Return to Play Summary 2020)
- Preparations to ensure social distancing between participants of at least 1.5m is maintained at all times. Maximum capacity to adhere to government requirements but based on the assumption of 1 person per 4 square metres.
- Where possible, leave an empty lane between groups & modify league play to maintain social distancing
- Create plans for the arrival and departure of all participants to ensure adherence to maximum capacity numbers
- Limit operating hours to allow sufficient time for cleaning and sanitation
- No more than 3 bowlers per lane
- Regularly clean all bathrooms and communal areas and maintain a cleaning log
- All venues must provide sanitising hand-rub dispensers in prominent places around the facility
- No spectators allowed in the centre
- All bowling balls, shoes, players area console, ball return and settee area sanitised and cleaned after each group

RETURN TO LEAGUE

Resumption of organised weekly league play will operate under different conditions depending on the level of restrictions.

The education of all league bowlers on risk mitigation strategies is essential to set expectations for required behaviours before league resumes.

This is critical not only for bowler and community safety, but to ensure bowlers understand the modifications to the rules and regulations of the sport.



RETURN TO LEAGUE

Centres must:

- Ensure all bowler's returning to league have been briefed on changed conditions and risk mitigation strategies
- Clearly communicate and enforce a 'get in, bowl and leave' philosophy.
- No high fives or hand shaking
- Where possible bowler's must use their own equipment and avoid touching the equipment of others
- Bowling balls should be cleaned with alcohol based sanitiser before and after each session of play. Bowlers can sanitise their equipment throughout the course of play if necessary, however no other substance will be allowed to be used during play
- League bowlers requiring the use of house ball or shoes must leave equipment in the players area after games are completed for the centre to clean and sanitise
- Create a plan for each league to resume. This may include a decision to postpone the league's commencement, splitting a league into different sessions, making use of pre and post bowling options to reduce the number of bowlers in the centre at the one time.
- Leagues with 3-5 person teams must be spread across a pair of lanes. Singles or doubles leagues can compete with one team per lane but should be spread out if possible.
- Encourage bowlers who are in a particularly high risk category who wish to return to league to consider pre or post bowling during quieter periods
- Schedule sufficient breaks between leagues to allow one group to leave the venue before the next group arrives and for staff to complete sanitisation requirements.

RETURN TO SOCIAL PLAY

A substantial number of participants enjoy the health and recreational benefits of tenpin bowling with family and friends. Social play presents a different set of circumstances to manage as compared with the league or tournament bowler.

Social participants most usually require the use of rental shoes and a bowling ball which has the potential to expose participants to a higher risk for COVID-19 transmission.



RETURN TO SOCIAL PLAY

It is recommended to mitigate the risks the participant should:

- Book in advance to ensure the centre has adequate capacity and minimise wait times
- Follow the directions of bowling centre staff upon arrival including the sanitising of hands at the entrance
- Ensure only those participating attend (no spectators allowed)
- Strict adherence to the procedures outlined by bowling centre staff with regards to selecting a bowling ball and wearing of rental shoes
- Leave all equipment and any items used on their lane(s) after use for staff to clean and sanitise
- Use cashless options for payment where possible
- Stay in their own lane and settee area to maintain social distancing

RETURN TO SOCIAL PLAY

Bowling Centres are required to:

- Provide hand sanitiser at the entrance and at all high touch points within the centre
- Provide & promote cashless payment options where possible.
- Restrict entry and exit into centre to maintain participant limits
- Encourage pre-booking of lanes to avoid wait lists and crowds
- Record contact details of all participants
- Maintain social distancing by leaving at least one lane free between groups.
- Ensure all house balls are sanitised before use each day and before each use by a different person
- Manage bookings and schedules to allow sufficient time for cleaning and sanitation
- Display social distancing signage throughout bowling concourse
- Provide clear directions to participants to leave all equipment and any items used on their lane after use to be cleaned and sanitised
- Where practical remove all house balls from display. Allow participants to observe the sanitation process of bowling equipment and provide sanitisation wipes to each participant
- Remind participants to leave promptly after completion of their games

RETURN TO TOURNAMENT PLAY & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

If and when government legislation allows for the re-start of tournament bowling, promoters must contact TBA to discuss tournament logistics and provide a plan that meets COVID-19 safety regulations.



RETURN TO TOURNAMENT PLAY & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Ranked Events

TBA will determine when ranked events will resume in 2020 considering all relevant government legislation

This will be influenced by factors including:

- Easing of interstate travel restrictions
- Providing athletes adequate training and preparation time following closure of bowling centres
- Adequate spread of events across all divisions
- Location, historical significance and prestige of event

Development programs

- Development programs such as Bowl Patrol and BowlAbilities can resume with limited numbers under stage 2
- Parent/carer can accompany participant but must adhere to social distancing requirements