

Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee should work closely with the clubs COVID-19 Committee and should appoint a COVID-19 Officer to work with the Tournament Director and Tournament Referee for the duration of the event to ensure all guidelines have been implemented and are being followed.

Entry

As always, players will have to accept the Tournament Rules and Regulations as a Condition of Entry. Clubs must include several pre-screening questions for players in these Rules and Regulations.

By accepting these conditions of entry entrants should confirm that: You have not been, nor will you travel outside the Island of Ireland in advance of the tournament to any country not included on the relevant Government 'Green List' for travel appropriate to the jurisdiction in which the tournament is being held, within the required self-isolation/quarantine period mandated by that jurisdiction on your return. You have not been in contact with a case of COVID-19 in the 14 days prior (or 10 days with a negative Covid test on the 10th day) to the commencement of this tournament, and you undertake to withdraw from the tournament if you do so after completing your entry. You have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the 14 (or 10 days with a negative Covid test on the 10th day) days prior to the commencement of this tournament, and you undertake to withdraw from the tournament if you do so after completing your entry. You undertake to inform the tournament immediately if within 48 hours prior to the commencement of this tournament you experience any of the following symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat.

Clubs should restrict entry in all events to limit the number of players on site at any one time. A limit of 8 players per available lawn per day is recommended.

Check In

The Check-in desk should be staffed by only one person. If two people are required, they should be sitting at desks at least 2 metres apart.

Those working at check-in desks should either bring their own or be given at the outset of the tournament any material they require – pen, ruler, highlighter etc.

Check-in desk should be thoroughly cleaned by the person at the end of their shift. 2 metre queue markers should be placed in front of each check-in desk to ensure social distancing.

Thought should be given on the best location for the Check in / Tournament Office. The office should have a queue management system in place. Signage should be placed outside regarding the numbers allowed in at any one time. This number will change depending on the

size of the office. Signage on public responsibility for personal sanitising and physical distancing should also be provided at the entrance to the office

Clubs should ensure that sufficient COVID-19 Information Posters are located around the club environs

Face Coverings

In advance of the Tournament, encourage staff and players to wear face coverings in times when physical distancing is difficult. It would be important to be aware that cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without help or is a child under 13 years of age. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

Support healthy hygiene by providing supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible), and no-touch/foot pedal rubbish bins.

Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., club entrances, eating areas, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other germs, such as, by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering. Broadcast regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA system. Prior to the tournament taking place ensure that participants are contacted about behaviour that prevent the spread of COVID-19 (such as on tournament websites, in emails, and through club social media accounts).

Players should not shake hands or embrace and should be careful in maintaining social distance with their doubles partner.

Wearing a face covering can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Where social distancing may be a challenge, it is recommended that face coverings should be utilised while attending Croquet events.

Spectators

All Open and Club Tournaments as well as leagues must be run behind closed doors. No spectators should be allowed on-site. Only competitors, tournament staff/volunteers needed for the running of the competition and supervisors are allowed.

Players should leave the venue on completion of their match. The exception to this rule is where clubs are providing table service in line with Failte Ireland

Balls and Clips

Players should be reminded that extra care must be taken by them when handling croquet balls and clips and not to touch their face during play, and that they should clean / sanitise their hands before play, during play and immediately after finishing.

Balls and clips should be replaced if someone suspected of having COVID 19 comes into contact with them.

Consider using a disinfectant spray on balls when they have been returned.

Prize Giving

All presentations should ideally take place outdoors. All players/officials should be placed at least 2 metres apart .

Managing a Player / Spectator / Official with Symptoms

The designated COVID-19 Officer should take care of the management of any persons with COVID-19 symptoms. The COVID-19 Officer should immediately separate any person displaying or complaining of COVID-19 related symptoms from other people and ask this person to wear a facemask if possible. The designated person managing the situation should try to maintain at least 2m from the person with the symptoms and should wear a face mask and wash their hands regularly. If they are well enough to go home, arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible and advise them to inform their GP by phone of the symptoms. If they are too sick to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a COVID-19 suspect.

All persons who have been in close contact with the suspect case will need to be informed to restrict their movement until further information is available. i.e., a negative test result of the suspect case. The most common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are:

a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)

a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry

shortness of breath or breathing difficulties

loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Each club must take their own circumstances and club infrastructure into account when applying these guidelines. Social distancing measures must be always maintained