

WPBSA SNOOKER FACILITIES CORONAVIRUS REOPENING STEPS

(7 July 2020, Version 1)

It is the aim of the World Professional Billiards & Snooker Association (WPBSA) to seek a responsible first step towards snooker clubs reopening from Covid-19 lockdown, offering safe activity and social interaction.

These guidelines apply to snooker venues across the UK and relate to snooker and billiards activity at amateur level. The measures have been produced in line with UK Government announcements on the easing of lockdown restrictions, and its guidance on [the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation](#).

Snooker venues should follow this guidance alongside updated information published by the [UK Government](#). They should also be clear on how UK Government guidance applies to their location in either England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Clubs should also consult their Local Authority and Health and Safety Executive before re-opening.

Where a local lockdown is implemented, alternative measures and guidelines may be in place.

Snooker venues should apply these guidelines to their own circumstances; a commercial snooker clubs may operate differently from social clubs or community clubs. The layout of clubs will also vary greatly. We have provided an example of a snooker club layout with safe distancing and customer flow (see below).

Clubs must complete a risk assessment template as part of the process to become COVID-19 secure. This should not preclude existing health and safety policies. We have provided a template.

These guidelines are intended as guidance and are not an exhaustive list. Clubs should carefully consider additional protocols in line with how they operate, and specific to protecting their specific members, employees and volunteers.

We will release updated versions of this guidance as the UK Government announces further amendments to lockdown restrictions.

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Standards of hygiene

- Commit to a thorough clean of the venue daily
- Access to hand sanitiser will be provided at all tables, entrances and toilets
- Customers will be encouraged to bring their own cues from home
- Club cues will be allocated by staff and these will be cleaned after every customer
- Club snooker balls and boxes/trays will be cleaned and wiped after every customer session
- Staff should wear face coverings and gloves
- Table and equipment will be cleaned between customers, with special attention to 'touch points', such as table edges, scoreboards, triangles

Limit entry

- Customer contact details and playing times will be recorded and retained for a minimum of 21 days
- The venue should consider reduced opening hours where it operates as a 24-hour venue – to allow adequate time for cleaning procedures
- Up to four players allowed per table if they come from a maximum of two households – only where space allows in line with the club's risk assessment
- Clubs operating a membership system should consider limits on guest entry
- Venue entry will be controlled/monitored by staff, where applicable – social distancing measures should be in place to control any queues
- Tables should be booked in advance
- Clubs should implement staggered start/finish times for bookings to avoid any overlap with customers and allow time to clean the area
- Clubs should consider a limit on the number and length of bookings for each member while initial demand is assessed


Social distancing

- Risk assessment to be completed by the club to ensure it is COVID-19 secure in line with current social distancing guidelines
- Clear signage for customer flow to enable players to get to and from allocated tables. This includes government guidance signage on prevention measures
- Tables are used at least one table apart (see example layout below). Where table layout is not uniform, this should be risk assessed for social distancing
- Staff will monitor toilet usage to mitigate too many customers being in the same area

Hospitality

- Bar areas must have COVID-19 secure measures in place according to UK Government guidance
- A limited choice of food and drink will be available for table service from a safe distance
- Venues may offer take away food, but collections must be managed in line with UK Government social distancing guidance
- All used glasses/cups/plates on side tables must be cleared and the area cleaned after every customer
- All payments will be contactless or online, wherever possible

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Player guidance

- Players must not enter the club if they are symptomatic or living with someone who has a possible confirmed case of COVID-19
- Players should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home and sanitise their hands before and after play
- No shaking hands before or after play
- Avoid unnecessary touching of the table, such as leaning on the table edges
- Players should use their own equipment as much as possible – clean and wipe these down before and after play
- Players should use their own chalk and cue towel, and not leave these on the side of the table
- Do not share equipment – allocate a rest for each player
- Players must remain at least two metres apart from others at all times, sticking to opposing sides of the table where possible
- Avoid sharing ‘touch points’, such as triangles and scoreboards
- Pack up and leave the table before the end of the booking to avoid overlap with the next players
- Avoid congregating around the table before or after play to allow access for others



Snooker activity

- Competitive snooker and billiards will be limited to singles matches, until further notice
- Inter-club team competition should not take place, such as local league activity, until further notice
- Internal club competition can re-commence, restricted to singles matches and within UK Government guidelines. For example, a club ‘ladder’ competition would be permissible with arranged fixtures over a period of weeks or months, whereas a singles knock-out competition taking place in one day would not currently be viable due to mixing too many households.
- WPBSA and National Governing Body amateur competitions will not take place, until further notice
- Other formats of competition should be carefully considered by clubs in line with UK Government guidelines and club risk assessments



Coaching

- All coaching activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing and hygiene at all times
- Coaches must complete a risk assessment, liaising with the venue to follow the correct protocols implemented by the club
- Coaching should be limited to one-to-one sessions
- Group coaching activities, including junior coaching clubs, are not permitted until further notice
- Social distancing should be maintained at all times between the coach and the player
- Coaches should avoid sharing any equipment with customers, such as coaching aids
- Payments should be taken online wherever possible to avoid handling cash

Example floor plan

