

Laguna Woods Village | Conditional Reopening of Lawn Bowling Greens

Effective: June 8, 2020 | Updated: September 11, 2020 | Expiration Date: TBD

BACKGROUND

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Subsequently, on March 19, 2020, the governor issued Executive Order N-33-20, which ordered all state residents to stay in place and identified certain essential functions that could remain operational. Additionally, the order stated that individuals must adhere to strict social distancing guidance.

Bowls USA, which governs the sport of bowls in the United States and is a member of World Bowls, and Southwest Bowls, the geographic division encompassing Southern California, have issued guidelines to follow to ensure the safety of participants. Some of the guidelines are adapted from the National Golf Course Owners Association Park and Play Program Guidelines which align with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) social distancing and sanitation practices. The information is to be applied in accordance with facility-mandated rules and recommendations, as well as the latest federal, state and county guidelines related to the containment and prevention of COVID-19.

PURPOSE

Safeguarding our community is of utmost importance. It is imperative that our community self-enforce and strictly adhere to the restrictions mandated by the federal, state and county governments. This procedure is intended to reduce risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, but is not a guarantee of your safety. Residents should use their own good judgment in determining the amount of risk of exposure in using any shared facilities or amenities. Risk of exposure involves many factors out of the control of the Village corporations and management, including the compliance (or noncompliance) and safe/unsafe behavior of others using the same facilities or amenities.

SCOPE

This procedure establishes formal guidelines for the conditional reopening of the Laguna Woods Village Lawn Bowling Green's effective June 8, 2020 (for residents only), and a procedure for operating the greens during the COVID-19 crisis in compliance with federal, state and county guidance, and other applicable rules and regulations. The procedure reflects CDC advice that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know now, those at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people 65 years and older.

The lawn bowling greens manager, with support from the recreation and special events director, are responsible for these activities.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Applicability

The lawn bowling greens will reopen to Laguna Woods Village residents only. No guests, nonplayers or spectators are permitted at the lawn bowling greens. Arrange to play only with family members or others who live in your household or with individuals who are considered to be low risk.

2. Hours

Lawn bowling greens hours are daily from 9 a.m. to dusk.

3. Individual Practice, Singles or Pairs Play Only—No Triples or Fours (Rinks)

Play is limited to individual practice, singles or pairs. Playing in triples or fours (rinks), which could lead to incidental contact and unwanted proximity, is prohibited. Bowls USA and Southwest Bowls guidelines recommend avoiding triples and rinks play, as this is not conducive for 6-foot social distancing and leads to incidental contact with playing partners.

4. Facilities

Lawn bowling center facilities will remain closed (building, patio, chairs, water fountain, etc.). Management will adhere to Bowls USA and Southwest Bowls best practices for implementation to remain in compliance with state, county and other applicable safety requirements.

5. Safety Requirements

a. Touch points

All touch points will be eliminated.

b. Social distancing

Activity should always be in line with the federal government's advised social distancing measures (defined by the CDC as keeping 6 feet apart), including when arriving at and departing from a court.

c. Face coverings

Face coverings must be worn in all areas until playing begins on the court. Face coverings also must be worn after completing play.

d. Hand washing

Wash your hands with a disinfectant soap and water (for 20 seconds or longer), or use a hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available before going to the court. Players should wash hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after a match is completed. Players should consider using hand sanitizer between games.

e. Touching

Adhere to CDC guidelines by not touching your face after handling a ball or other equipment. Wash your hands promptly if you have touched your eyes, nose or mouth. Individuals should refrain from shaking hands or making a high five.

f. Sharing equipment

Do not share bowls or any equipment with other players.

g. Health

Do not play if you are exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus: mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing or other symptoms identified by the CDC; have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or are a vulnerable individual. A vulnerable individual is an elderly individual and/or an individual with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity and asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

6. Completion of Play

Upon completion of play, individuals must avoid post-play socializing and proceed directly to their car/cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregating in the lawn bowling greens or parking lot.

7. Wash equipment

After play, thoroughly wash bowls, bag, rolling cart, water bottles and other items you have used or touched.

LAWN BOWLING PROVISIONS

1. Scheduling

Playing time will be scheduled in 90-minute increments to ensure there are no congregations of individuals waiting to start, as well as to maintain social distancing on the lawn bowling greens. Lane assignments are made by the games person and are posted on the bulletin board.

a. Reservation times

- i. 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- ii. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- iii. 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- iv. 3 to 4:30 p.m.
- v. 5 to dusk

Scheduling may be adjusted by lawn bowling greens management as needed to satisfy safety requirements.

2. Group size

Play is limited to individual practice, singles or pairs. Players must maintain social distancing while on the greens waiting a turn and delivering a bowl, in between games and during time outs. Playing in triples or fours (rinks), which could lead to incidental contact and unwanted proximity, is prohibited.

3. Rinks (Lanes)

Rinks (lanes) will be scheduled to allow for an empty lane on either side of one that is occupied.

4. Distance Between Groups/Players

Groups must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement at all times, even when taking a break. Players must stay on their side of court. Avoid changing ends of the court.

5. Reservations

a. Advance reservations

Advance reservations required. No walk-ons are permitted.

b. Reservations

Reservations are made on the same day, one hour prior to lane assignment by calling 949-951-3027.

c. One reservation can be scheduled per telephone call

d. Resident identification number

All residents must have his or her resident identification number available when calling to schedule reservation.

e. Communication with playing partner

The resident scheduling the reservation is responsible for informing his or her playing partner of the accurate name and time on the reservation for proper check-in. Players unable to check in with proper information may lose reservation.

6. Lawn Bowling Greens Check-in

Players must not arrive more than five minutes before reservation time. Upon arrival to lawn bowling greens, confirm the reservation on the bulletin board and go straight to the lane listed. Players may be asked to show resident identification cards upon arrival to the lawn bowling greens. Staff will monitor greens use and resolve any problems.

7. On the Lawn Bowling Greens

a. Social distancing within group

Players must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement at all times.

b. Jacks

Reset the jack rather than roll it. Sanitize the jack before and after play.

c. Rakes

Do not use rakes, and kick bowls into proper placement.

d. Measuring

Do not measure with a tape (preferred). If it must be done, limit to one designated person for the entire game without touching the jack or bowls. Player must use own measure. Sanitize the measure before and after play.

e. Bowls

Although unlikely, it is possible that a bowl can transmit the COVID-19 virus, as virtually any hard surface can transmit the disease. Players must use own bowls and should touch and handle their own bowls for the duration of play. Bowls should be sanitized before and after play. Players must take bowls home after play.

f. Errant bowls

Never touch another player's bowls except to kick them with your feet.

g. Touch points eliminated

All touch points associated with the lawn bowling greens must be eliminated.

i. Drinking fountains

Drinking fountains will be turned off; players must bring own water.

ii. Score tenders

All score tenders will be taken off the courts to prevent touching; players must keep score verbally.

iii. Other equipment

Benches and chairs will be removed from greens.

h. Other players' equipment

Players should not handle other players' bowls, towels or other equipment.

i. Restrooms

Players must wash hands with soap and water when entering and exiting restrooms. Adherence to 6-foot social distance protocol required.

8. End of Play

Players must proceed directly to their car/cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregation on the lawn bowling greens or parking lot. Avoid post-play socializing. Thoroughly wash bowls, jacks, towels, clothes, bags, water bottles and other items you have used or touched.