

Beverley & East Riding Croquet Club

Procedures for the playing of Croquet during the coronavirus restrictions

Croquet in 2021

When we finally started our pandemic-delayed season in June 2020, I don't suppose any of us expected that we would still be playing under emergency restrictions in 2021. But we are where we are. We start the new season pretty much as we finished the old, washing or sanitising our hands, maintaining social distancing and wiping surfaces and items of croquet equipment after we have finished with them.

Our precautions and procedures have been designed to conform with Government restrictions and are informed by Croquet Association guidelines. When these change, we shall change with them.

We have made two changes to our procedures. Firstly, we are re-introducing club sessions, albeit with a maximum of ten attendees at each one.

We are also introducing an internet-based lawn booking system. To sign up to a club session, or book a lawn for your own use, you will have to sign on to the **Court Booking System**.

The paramount concern of the Committee is for the safety of all members. However, we do not have the resources (our own water supply, electricity for example) or the on-site club structure to provide round-the-clock supervision of the lawns and their use. For these reasons, we must rely on every member who uses the lawns to exercise the utmost care for their own safety and for that of other members.

Three Essential requirements

1. **We are making it a condition of playing that you bring your own hand sanitiser** and use it in conjunction with the spray disinfectant we will provide to keep yourselves and the croquet equipment as clean as possible.
2. We feel that shared use of club mallets is not advisable in these circumstances. **If you wish to play regularly, but do not own your own mallet, you will be required to borrow a club mallet** for the duration of the emergency. If you would like to do this, please contact Debbie to arrange for access to the store shed to choose one.
3. It must be clearly understood by all members that **if you choose to play under these conditions, you do so entirely at your own risk**. You will be completely responsible for your own hygiene and safety precautions.

It goes without saying that if you feel unwell on the day of your planned visit, you should not come. It is also essential that if you begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 within two weeks of having played at Rowley, you inform the club secretary and all your croquet contacts immediately.

Enjoy croquet again

With proper and careful precautions, we feel that members can once again enjoy croquet in this secluded location with minimal risk to themselves or anyone else.

Please read the information below for full details of the procedures that we shall ask you to follow.

Beverley & East Riding Croquet Club

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Your visit

Do not come if you are unwell

Do not come at all if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness on the day of your booking. Your opponent could then still come on his or her own or invite another member.

Throughout your stay

Keep your hand sanitiser with you at all times. Use it before and after touching anything.

Access to the clubhouse is limited to one person at a time.

After the initial setup, spend all your time on the lawn you have booked. Only one person (probably the hirer) should go into the clubhouse, and only to get the equipment you need for your game. Do not use the gas, crockery, or anything else in the clubhouse. That includes the chairs (bring your own). Do not leave personal belongings such as bags or clothing in the clubhouse whilst playing. Keep all your belongings with you at the lawn.

Do not go into the store shed. We are going to store basic sets of equipment in the clubhouse. We need to keep the shed as a preserved space for Steve. Some equipment will not be available, including bisques (bring something to use as bisques) and the lawn dividing rope. Use as hoop clips the old clothes pegs you took home last season. There are very few remaining on the racks.

Always observe social distancing of at least 2 metres, including before and after your game.

Do not shake hands at the end of your game.

Do not congregate in groups of more than 6 anywhere on site. There should be no interaction between lawns.

There will be a Portaloo behind the sheds for at least the first few months of the season. It will be provisioned for hand washing and will be serviced weekly by the hire company. In addition club will place in the unit anti-bacterial wipes, a bin and spray disinfectant. Please wipe down surfaces before/after use and leave the facility as you would wish to find it. Spray the door handles inside and out after your visit.

The unit will be secured with a coded padlock. If you are the last visitor to site, please remember to secure and sanitise the padlock, *using the spray disinfectant from the clubhouse and leaving the other bottle in the portaloo*. Similarly, observe padlock and handle hygiene if you are opening the portaloo as the first visitor of the day.

Spectators known to club are welcome but should bring their own chairs. We have been specifically asked not to use the hotel garden furniture. Spectators known to club should observe the rule of 6 and sign (preferably with their own pen) their name and date of visit in the Visitors' book hanging in the clubhouse. New visitors to club may be accommodated but please inform the club secretary prior to their visit.

On arrival at Rowley

When you arrive, check to see if your booked lawn is still in use by previous users. If so, let them know you are there, then please wait in your car until the coast is clear. Similarly, if you arrive to find Steve working on your lawn, please wait in your car until he has finished.

Please follow as much of this routine as necessary before you begin play:

1. Wipe your hands with sanitiser or wash with soap at the churchyard tap.
2. One of you only, let yourself into the clubhouse to get the equipment you need and for no other reason.
3. Set up your lawn. If the hoops and centre peg are already in place after a previous session, but not in the lawn format you want, reposition them as you wish.
4. Clean your hands again.

During play

Always observe social distancing of at least 2 meters (2 mallet-lengths).

Handle balls and hoops as little as possible. Move your own clips and bisques, but not those of your opponent. Position balls with your feet when possible.

If Steve arrives and wants to cut the lawn, please let him. Depending on the time, finish your session early or wait in your car till he has finished.

If a weekend hotel function is taking place, you may be required to retire gracefully from the lawns. Hotel patrons have priority at weekends. The bottom lawn is generally a safer bet at weekends.

If you need to shelter from rain during your session, please do so in your car, not the clubhouse.

At the end of your session

If no one is waiting to use the lawn after you, you may continue your session for as long as you like.

If other members are waiting to use the lawn after you, please leave the lawn set up for them.

Otherwise, please follow a procedure similar to when you arrived:

1. Sanitise your hands.
2. If another user is waiting to use the lawn, please wipe the tops of the hoops, the centre peg and the ball caddy handle with disinfectant, then leave, leaving the hoops and balls where they are.
3. Otherwise, put the equipment away where you found it, first treating it with sanitiser or disinfectant. Disinfect everything you have touched, including the rubber mallet and the hoop extractor if you have used them.
4. Lock up, sanitising the locks and door handles as you leave them.
5. Sanitise your hands again.

Safety in a nutshell

Keep 2 metres (or 2 mallet-lengths) apart.

Clean your hands before touching anything, so that you do not contaminate it.

Clean your hands after touching anything so that it has not contaminated you.

Observe the rule of 6 on all areas of the site.