



Croquet CNSW COVID-19 Guidelines

Date of Guideline: 21 September 2021: Changes since last guideline (September 12, 2021): Additional comments on play for fully vaccinated players in stay at home areas. Comments on the lack of clarity for Community Sport advising against holding inter club competitions

These guidelines are provided for the use of players and clubs. We use our best endeavours to keep the guidelines up to date. Moreover, these guidelines set a minimum level only. Clubs should consider their own circumstances and if appropriate introduce stronger measures. This has already happened with a number of clubs.

The NSW Government and the Office of Sport issue press releases, health orders, announcements, guidelines and regulations under State emergency powers from time to time to take into account changes to COVID-19 case numbers and outbreaks. Our insurers have advised that our liability insurance remains in place provided the guidelines are followed.

As croquet is not the primary focus, CNSW often needs to seek further guidance about the application of the amended orders and guidelines for croquet. We seek advice from the Office of Sport who in turn seek advice from the Department of Health. The Office of Sport know the correct questions to ask. Guidance from the Office of Sport can be found at <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/>.

Whilst it is not a mandatory requirement clubs are strongly advised to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Clubs should use the Outdoor Events template which can be found at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/outdoor-events>.

The CNSW guidelines are updated in response to changes. Please let us know if anything has been missed or is not clear. Contact treasurer@croquet-nsw.org.

1. Executive Summary

Most clubs play croquet as exercise in what is defined as a non-controlled outdoor gathering (different rules may apply if you are playing in a shared area). This means that social distancing applies. Masks are always required in LGAs of concern. Outside these LGAs masks are only required when social distancing cannot be achieved or when players are indoors. Clubs are strongly encouraged to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Competition is regarded as Community Sport which, for croquet, is generally a COVID-19 Safe Outdoor Gathering. There can be no Community Sport in stay at home areas.

In stay at home areas play is limited to two players (five if all are vaccinated and have proof of vaccination with them) and most clubs limit playing time to 1 hour, although this not a requirement. Players must come from within 5km of the LGA (5km only for areas of concern). Play is booked via an online system and the club does not arrange games. If your club is playing under these guidelines, please check with the local police.

In general areas play may resume however it is not yet clear if inter club competitions are allowed.

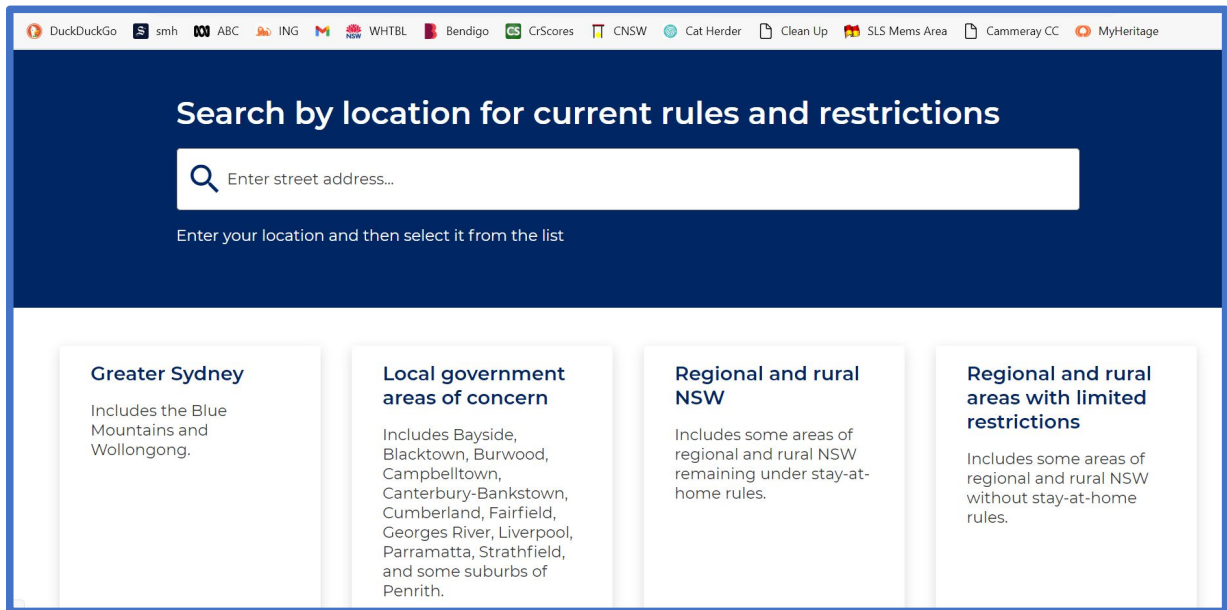
Whenever croquet is played, always follow the hygiene rules and social distancing.

2. Which area applies to my club?

The NSW state government has defined three different types of areas for the management of COVID-19 risks. They are

- areas of concern.
- stay at home areas
- general areas

See <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules> to look up the rules for your address. Please note that rules apply to individuals based on the residential address as well as clubs based on club address. There is no mixing between areas.



3. Playing Croquet – Exercise or Sport?

Croquet can be played as either “Exercise” or “Community Sport”. It all depends on what sort of gathering you have and how your games are organised. Exercise may be included in the general term “Exercise and Outdoor Recreation”.

Under Health Regulations there are three types of gatherings.

COVID Safe Outdoor Gatherings – attendance at these events is subject to social distancing requirements and maximum crowd sizes. Attendees do not need to be seated or enclosed by fencing and do not have a time limit. The organiser must have and comply with the relevant COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Controlled Outdoor Gatherings – ticketed and seated COVID-19 safe outdoor gatherings have maximum crowd sizes and seating capacity requirements. The event must be enclosed by fencing or another barrier. The organiser must have and comply with the relevant COVID-19 Safety Plan

Non-controlled outdoor gathering – these events are restricted to a maximum size per gathering. While not required, a COVID-19 Safety Plan is strongly encouraged.

Croquet is usually regarded as a non-controlled gathering. Given the risk profile of croquet players and the high risk of death or disability if they contract COVID-19, each croquet club should have a COVID-19 Safety Plan. It is not a legal requirement but the process itself makes clubs aware of the risks and how to control them.

A club may regard itself as a Covid Safe outdoor gathering if croquet is played in an outdoor recreation venue. An outdoor recreation venue is usually a sports oval which usually has some form of ticket admittance. Clubs who share facilities should check with the venue manager about the category.

Community Sport is generally played between teams representing communities but would include any internal club competition but not games played on a social basis as exercise.

Croquet as a Community Sport would include any competition (such as club championships, ladders or special trophies) as well as team training for competition.

4. Croquet as Exercise in stay at home areas (including areas of concern)

Croquet as Exercise in stay at home areas	
Item	Details
Player Restrictions	Within your LGA or a 5km radius of where you live
Play in areas of concern	Same as other LGAs subject to stay at home orders. Restrictions apply to travel for work.
Play outside LGAs of concern	2 per lawn. Players must social distance and wear a mask except when playing. Check with local Police to confirm they agree with what you are doing. Arrive, play, leave. If you are fully vaccinated, Play is permitted for up to 5 people per lawn if all are fully vaccinated. Players must have proof of vaccination with them and must show a Police Officer your proof of vaccination if its requested. At this stage, there is no requirement for the club to record vaccination status. The responsibility to show vaccination status currently lies with the individual when they are asked for proof of vaccination by a Police officer. This is expected to change though when NSW hit the 70 percent vaccination target as the eased restrictions outlined in the roadmap will be applicable to fully vaccinated or medically exempt people only.
Travel	No car pooling between different households.
Sign In	Electronic Record Keeping is required – see Record Keeping.
Equipment	Sanitise before and after you play. Shared equipment such as croquet balls and clips should be washed in soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after use. Shared mallets should be wiped down before and after use.
Masks	Masks do not need to be worn while playing croquet unless you are in an LGA of concern in which case masks must be worn. Masks should be worn if you are outside and cannot social distance. Masks must be worn inside but clubhouses are closed.
Clubhouse	Clubhouses are closed but you may use the toilet.
Club Meetings	Clubhouses are closed. Zoom meetings work well.
Coaching	Not allowed.
Competitions	Not allowed.
Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation is not covered in these guidelines as the recommendation for exercise is arrive, play, leave. If your club has “outdoor recreation” then the requirements should be included in the club’s COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Stay at home rules (formerly known as lockdown) currently apply in stay at home areas with extra restrictions in areas of concern.

If you are in a stay at home area you must stay at home unless it is for an essential reason. If a club does choose to allow play, then it would be prudent to be comfortable that local police support that decision. Clubs who have approached police have been given permission

to play with 2 people per lawn playing for no more than 1 hour with time between bookings to allow for cleaning equipment and no overlap of players.

Under the regulations, Community Sport will not be permitted during the stay at home period. However, croquet played as exercise is not subject to the Community Sport prohibition. This would include social games and practice. The Department of Health advise that there should be no competition games. There should be no coaching.

Players must remain in their local government area or a radius no more than 5km from where the players lives. Common sense would mean playing at your closest club. When exercising, there is a maximum of 2 people per group. Consider how separate your lawns are. Clubs should also consider limiting lawn time to no more than one hour. Arrive, play, leave.

In LGAs of concern extra restrictions on movements apply. Masks must always be worn when playing croquet. Croquet is not vigorous exercise.

5. Croquet as Community Sport in stay at home areas

Not Allowed

6. Croquet as Exercise in general areas

Croquet as Exercise in general areas	
Item	Details
Player Restrictions	Cannot come from stay at home areas
Number of Players	1 per 2 square metres with a limit of 50 people per gathering if there is a COVID-19 safety plan and 20 otherwise.
Sign In	Electronic Record Keeping is required
Equipment	Sanitise before and after you play Shared equipment such as croquet balls and clips should be washed in soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after use Shared mallets should be wiped down before and after use
Masks	Masks do not need to be worn. Masks should be worn if you are outside and cannot social distance. Masks must be worn inside
Clubhouse	Clubhouses are open – see Clubhouses
Coaching	Allowed but coach must wear a mask
Competitions	Regarded as Community Sport

7. Croquet as Community Sport in general areas

The rules are not clear as there is no definition of community sport. Community Sport was previously allowed in general areas but politicians have announced that that Community Sport is not allowed. It is believed that they are referring to junior sport and team competitions. Croquet is probably not top of mind.

Croquet as Community Sport in general areas	
Item	Details
Player Restrictions	Cannot come from stay at home areas
Number of Players	1 per 2 square metres with a limit of 50 people per gathering if there is a COVID-19 safety plan and 20 otherwise.
Sign In	Electronic Record Keeping is required
Equipment	Sanitise before and after you play Shared equipment such as croquet balls and clips should be washed in soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after use Shared mallets should be wiped down before and after use
Masks	Masks do not need to be worn. Masks should be worn if you are outside and cannot social distance. Masks must be worn inside
Clubhouse	Clubhouses are open – see Clubhouses
Coaching	Allowed
Club Competitions	Allowed
Inter Club Competitions	The status is not clear so it is best to be cautious and not hold these for the time being

8. Hygiene Rules When Playing Croquet

The general principle is arrive, play and leave. If members stay for a social event, then the rules for Social Gathering apply.

- No member should play if unwell or waiting for the results of a Covid-19 test or have been overseas or in a hotspot in the previous 14 days.
- Clubs should complete and display a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Clubs can download a template from <https://www.nsw.gov.au/register-your-business-as-covid-safe>. The template allows you to choose Community Sport as a business type. The NSW Office of Sport encourages sporting organisations to register as a COVID-19 Safe business and display your COVID-19 Safety Plan. Many croquet clubs have already done this. Clubs should use the template for outdoor events <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/outdoor-events>.
- Shared equipment should be cleaned and sanitised before and after use. Croquet balls should be washed with soap and water as the manufacturer has advised that alcohol wipes may affect the colour. Hoops clips etc should be wiped with sanitising wipes or washed in soap and water
- Social distancing applies at all times –1 person per four square metres and 1.5 metres between players. If you cannot maintain 1.5metres between players, then you should wear a mask. This is especially important when playing GC doubles and when coaching.
- Clubs should provide sanitiser and wipes for member use and members should be asked to bring their own supplies as well. Sanitise before and after play.

9. Record Keeping

Keep a record of name, contact number and entry time for all staff, volunteers, participants, spectators and contractors attending community sports activities, where this is practicable, for a period of at least 28 days. Electronic collection (e.g., using a QR code which is issued when you register your COVID-19 Safety Plan) of contact details for each person is strongly encouraged.

If customers do not have the Service NSW app on their phone, they can check in using the Service NSW webform

<https://apply.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-safe-check-in-webform/>

If there are unexpected circumstances which prevent the use of electronic methods to collect customer contact details, you can manually collect customer contact details using paper and pen. Any paper records must be entered into an electronic format, such as an Excel spreadsheet or Word document, within 12 hours of manually recording the details.

Electronic records need to be produced within 4 hours of a request from an authorised officer.

10. Social Gatherings and Outdoor Recreation

There are no social gatherings in the stay at home areas. The definition of Outdoor Recreation is not clear. Any players at the club not playing croquet need to wear a mask and follow the rules for gatherings and Outdoor Recreation as specified in the club COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Gatherings in general areas are limited to 20 people if you do not have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and 50 if you do. Outside gatherings must allow at least 1 person to every two square metres and inside gatherings are 1 person for every four square metres. Masks must be worn in indoor non residential areas.

11. Corporate Hires

There can be no corporate hires if you are in the stay at home areas.

In general areas each Corporate hire must have their own COVID-19 Safety Plan.

12. Clubhouses

Clubhouses must be closed in the stay at home areas.

In general areas clubhouses can be open.

- Clubs are strongly encouraged to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Masks must be worn indoors. Social distancing applies at all times. Clubhouses must display the maximum number of people in the clubhouse (even if it is closed) at one time based on one person per four square metres. Kitchens can open under the conditions specified in your COVID-19 Safety Plan. Please note that surfaces must be cleaned at least once a day using gloves and an appropriate cleaner. Kitchen utensils and food should not be shared so use disposable items.
- There are no specific requirements for food but the principles of hygiene and not crowding apply. Food should be prepared under a COVID-19 Safety plan, so it is not advisable to bring food from home for consumption by others. Gloves/paper towels should be used to handle items
- Club meetings and AGMs may be held within the clubhouse, if open, subject to the conditions of your COVID-19 Safety Plan

13. Competitions

No competitions are allowed in the stay at home areas, including competitions between club members.

In general areas competitions between club members may be played. However, confusion over the definition of Community Sport (which is not defined in regulations but mentioned by many) means it is best not to play competitions between clubs.

14. CNSW Competitions

There are no CNSW competitions at the current time