



*Bowls* **KAPITI COAST INC.**  
*Serving the Bowling Clubs of Kapiti & Horowhenua*

---

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

# **Corvid-19/Coronavirus Effects**

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Note:- All below is subject to change and review.  
Further update will follow.

The Board of the Bowls Kapiti Coast Centre has reviewed the latest information regarding the Corvid-19/Coronavirus situation. This is a serious social environmental health issue and will affect bowlers throughout NZ.

The overall principle for health safety is based on the national wide government promoted “social distancing” approach to containing the spread of the virus. This is especially important due to the demographic vulnerability of the bowling community.

- ❖ Bowls Kapiti Coast **does not support gatherings of more than 100 people** at any event within the Centre’s area. It strongly advises all member clubs to postpone any and all events that exceed this number of people, including non-players and support personnel, in a single location.
- ❖ Therefore we have indefinitely **postponed the North vs South** representative event (scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at Central Levin).

All other events remain on the schedule as published BUT this may change at short notice if the situation deteriorates. In general ongoing reviews will happen regularly and decisions will be made on items no more than two weeks ahead of the date of the review.

Please be aware that it is not just the event and the games of bowls that must be considered in relation to the health safety issues, as in addition to the players, umpires, markers and officials, consideration must be given to catering/kitchen staff, bar staff, administration and especially to the services these people provide with the handling of cups, glasses, cleaning items etc. It is not just game personal contacts that need to be minimised but clubhouse and social area interactions that need to conform to the “limited personal contact/social distancing” requirements.

- ❖ Furthermore Bowls Kapiti Coast expects our and Bowls NZ social interaction protocols to be included in the “Conditions of Play” for all associated events held by the Centre and member clubs.

- ❖ All Centre Events will, and Clubs events are expected to, provide “no penalty withdraws”, with refunds, for any player who chooses to no longer play in an event they entered due to the Corvid-19 situation.

Other changes or decisions will be notified as and when they are made by the Board.

The Bowls NZ Protocols for play, as listed and downloadable on their website, are:-

Hand hygiene should be strongly promoted and encouraged, and equipment and facilities should be thoroughly cleaned and wiped down as usual following use.

All Members & Visitors Should Practice Good Hygiene by:

- Covering coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or elbow
- Washing hands for at least 20 seconds with water and soap and drying them thoroughly:
  - before eating or handling food
  - after using the toilet
  - after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- Reduce face to face contact closer than 1 metre for more than 15 minutes
- Don't shake hands, hug or kiss.

We encourage all Bowling Clubs to have a plan to help reduce the possible spread of the Covid-19 virus within our bowling community. For Clubs to Consider:

- There is presently no rationale to close or cancel sporting events at the club, but this may change as the situation evolves.
- Anyone with flu-symptoms or feeling unwell should avoid the risk of spreading their infection, whatever that infection may be, by staying at home and recovering.
- For those hosting sporting events, whatever their size, attendees and participants should stay up to date on the government's latest advice on how to avoid catching or spreading the virus, which is here.
- As the situation progresses, we might advise the frail, elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions (to be defined) to stay away from gatherings as part of general advice aimed at minimising unnecessary contact with others
- Club should discourage handshakes, kisses or hugs and encourage verbal greetings only.
- Bowlers should not shake hands before or after the event – a simple “good bowls” statement will suffice.
- Bowlers should not pick up their opponents or teammate bowls.
- Bowlers should wash their hands “thoroughly” before and after a game
- Clubs should consider providing hand sanitiser products for members and visitors to use, such as at the bar and entering the clubhouse.

The Bowls NZ website has two useful documents for information on their website, a general updated info sheet <https://bowlsnewzealand.co.nz/news/coronavirus-covid-19-update-16-03-20/>, and a Corvid19 Procedures Guide <https://bowlsnewzealand.co.nz/news/club-guide-for-covid-19/>.

Finally please be considerate of others at all events, including their views and opinions, during these trying and unprecedented times.

Graham Fairburn  
Chairman – Bowls Kapiti Coast Inc

Wayne Watts  
Administrator – Bowls Kapiti Coast Inc

Postal Address: PO Box 427, Levin 5540    Office: 36 Bristol Street, Levin.  
Telephone: (06) 368 6462    Email: [bowlskapiticoast@gmail.com](mailto:bowlskapiticoast@gmail.com)    Website: [www.bowlskapiticoast.com](http://www.bowlskapiticoast.com)