



ENGLISH PARTNERSHIP FOR
SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS

EPSB Re-opening Guidance – FAQs

[UPDATED:] Why is the EPSB limiting the number of people playing on each table?

We are following the current [UK Government Guidance](#) about meeting people from outside your household within an indoor setting.

In a snooker club we have set the limit at four players playing together on a snooker table where space allows, while also maintaining social distancing and excellent hygiene.

We believe this is a sensible limit and within the UK Government's [rule of six](#) for maximum group sizes. It also allows for either a coach or a referee, where applicable, who must also maintain social distancing at all times.

When can local league team matches and junior coaching academies start up again?

We have produced some guidance to support junior snooker and billiards clubs to restart from 25 July 2020.

We have produced some guidance to support local league team matches to restart from 1 August 2020.

Please see our dedicated [COVID-19 guidance page](#) for further information.

[UPDATED:] When will EPSB competitions resume?

We are working with the UK Government on a plan to enable EPSB competitions to resume at the earliest opportunity.

At present, [outstanding EPSB competitions](#) from last season will be completed in October 2020.

[UPDATED:] Can referees participate again?

Yes. Refereeing can recommence, with referees or markers maintaining social distancing at all times and following the club and player protocols. Gloves should be worn, which must be washed or disposed of after use.

Can my club host exhibitions?

We advise clubs not to host exhibitions, in line with current guidance on indoor gatherings.

My club is not based in England. Can these guidelines be used at my club?

Wherever your club is based, we are happy for you to use our guidelines as a 'guide only'.

However, clubs in other locations should seek guidance and full compliance with local laws, and health and safety rules, and check with their national federation.

[UPDATED:] How should we maintain the cloth on our snooker tables under COVID-19 measures?

There are different options for maintaining the cloth to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Ironing

Ironing the table is an effective tool. Clubs should increase the regularity of ironing. Temperatures of over 75 degrees Celsius will kill the virus.

Clubs should iron the table with the usual regularity at a normal temp of between 140-160 C at the normal frequency. In addition, clubs should introduce additional ironing (after each session) at a lower temp (100-120 C) so that the cloth is not prematurely deteriorated.

Santising

Alternatively, clubs may consider the use of a mist sanitiser.

This needs to be carefully considered so as to avoid products that may damage the cloth or could be flammable, such as those containing isopropyl alcohol and de-ionized water.

There are some specialist mist sanitisers available on the market for snooker cloths. These can be applied very quickly and easily between sessions.

The baize may be sanitised after each session where ironing the table is not considered an option.

Affiliated clubs can find out more via our [147 Club members](#) page on Facebook or by visiting our [supply partner](#) page.

Re-cloth

Clubs may also consider a new cloth; cloth manufacturer Strachan has recently introduced an antiviral snooker cloth – 6811 Tournament Antiviral.

Please see our [supply partner](#) page for further details.

Should players wear face coverings in snooker clubs?

As of 8 August 2020, a wider number of settings require people to wear face coverings under the latest [UK Government guidance](#).

This is not currently a requirement of licensed premises. Snooker clubs are not specifically listed among the indoor settings.

We advise clubs to consider this measure within their risk assessments based on their own particular venues. The government guidance for [providers of grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities](#) may help clubs to consider these risks.