



# EPSB – ENGLISH SNOOKER FACILITIES REOPENING GUIDELINES



ENGLISH PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS



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VERSION 2.1

**These guidelines apply to snooker venues across England and relate to snooker and billiards activity at amateur level. The measures have been produced in line with UK Government announcements on the easing of lockdown restrictions, and its guidance on [the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation](#).**

Snooker venues should follow this guidance alongside updated information published by the UK Government. They should also be clear on how [UK Government](#) guidance applies to their location in either England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Where a local lockdown is implemented, alternative guidelines may be in place.

**Clubs should also consult their Local Authority and Health and Safety Executive before re-opening.**

Snooker venues should apply these guidelines to their own circumstances; a commercial snooker clubs may operate differently from social clubs or community clubs.

The layout of clubs will also vary greatly. We have provided an example of a snooker club layout with safe distancing and customer flow (see page 6).

Clubs must complete a risk assessment template as part of the process to become COVID-19 secure. This should not preclude existing health and safety policies.

These guidelines are intended as guidance and are not an exhaustive list. Clubs should carefully consider additional protocols in line with how they operate, and specific to protecting their specific members, employees and volunteers.

**These guidelines apply to the EPSB and clubs in the UK but can be used as ‘guide only’ to assist national federations and facilities around the world. Clubs outside of the UK must seek guidance and full compliance with local laws and health and safety rules.**





## STANDARDS OF HYGIENE



Commit to a thorough clean of the venue daily.



Access to hand sanitiser will be provided at all tables, entrances and toilets.



Club snooker balls and boxes/trays will be cleaned and wiped after every customer session.



Staff should wear face coverings and gloves.



Customers will be encouraged to bring their own cues from home.



Table and equipment will be cleaned between customers, with special attention to touch points, such as table edges, scoreboards, triangle.



Club cues will be allocated by staff and these will be cleaned after every customer.

## LIMIT ENTRY



Customer contact details and playing times will be recorded and retained for a minimum of 21 days.



Up to four players allowed per table where space allows, in line with the club's risk assessment.



Tables should be booked in advance.



Clubs should implement staggered start/finish times for bookings to avoid any overlap with customers and allow time to clean the area.



Clubs operating a membership system should consider limits on guest entry.



Venue entry will be controlled/monitored by staff, where applicable. Social distancing measures should be in place to control any queues.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING



Risk assessment to be completed by the club to ensure it is COVID 19 secure in line with current social distancing guidelines.



Clear signage for customer flow to enable players to get to and from allocated tables. This includes government guidance signage on prevention measures.



Tables are used at least one table apart (see example layout below). Where table layout is not uniform, this should be risk assessed for social distancing.



Staff will monitor toilet usage to mitigate too many customers being in the same area.



## HOSPITALITY



Bar areas must have COVID 19 secure measures in place according to UK Government guidance.



A limited choice of food and drink will be available for table service from a safe distance.



Venues may offer take away food, but collections must be managed in line with UK Government social distancing guidance.



All used glasses/cups/plates on side tables must be cleared and the area cleaned after every customer.



All payments will be contactless or online, wherever possible.

## PLAYER GUIDANCE



Players must not enter the club if they are symptomatic or living with someone who has a possible confirmed case of COVID 19.



Players should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home and sanitise their hands before and after play.



Avoid unnecessary touching of the table, such as leaning on the table edges.



No shaking hands before or after play.



Players should use their own equipment as much as possible. Clean and wipe these down before and after play.



Players should use their own chalk and cue towel, and not leave these on the side of the table.



Pack up and leave the table before the end of the booking to avoid overlap with the next players.



Players must remain at least two metres apart from others at all times, sticking to opposing sides of the table where possible.



Avoid congregating around the table before or after play to allow access for others.



Avoid sharing 'touch points', such as triangles and scoreboards.



Do not share equipment. Allocate a rest for each player.



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## SNOOKER ACTIVITY



Both singles and doubles matches are permitted, in line with the club's risk assessment.



Local league team competition is permitted in line with EPSB guidance.



National Governing Body competitions can take place within strict protocols aligning to the latest UK Government guidance.



Other formats of competition should be carefully considered by clubs in line with UK Government guidelines and club risk assessments.



Internal club competitions should work to a format within the UK Government's guidelines. The 'rule of 6' means that a competition format should separate into groups of up to six players, with each group allocated specific tables.



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.

## COACHING



All coaching activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing and hygiene at all times.



Coaches must complete a risk assessment, liaising with the venue to follow the correct protocols implemented by the club.



Junior snooker and billiards coaching groups can operate in line with EPSB guidance.



Adult group coaching is permitted up to a total group size of six people, including the coach, and with no more than four players on one table.



Social distancing should be maintained at all times between the coach and the player.



Coaches should avoid sharing any equipment with customers, such as coaching aids.



Payments should be taken online wherever possible to avoid handling cash.





## EXAMPLE FLOOR PLAN

