

BRITISH TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



COVID-19: Return to Sport Bowling - Leagues

**Written by Jo Cundy and Dave Steiner
28th November 2020**

To actively encourage a return to competitive bowling, the British Tenpin Bowling Association (BTBA) has produced a shortlist of things that should be done, before considering starting or restarting a league and requesting a League Sanction.

In all cases, the initial guidance that must be followed, is that as issued by the Government for the geographical location of the centre where the league intends to play.

The second factor to be taken into consideration would be the guidance and risk assessment by the management of the bowling centre. It should be noted that while preparing this document the Association used The [UK Hospitality](#) COVID-19 Secure advice and risk assessment for hospitality businesses, as a guide to what to expect when we return to the centres.

The responsibility for making the decision of starting sport bowling within a given centre lies with league committee and the centre management, and not the BTBA. The local committee are those that understand the local regulations.

Once the League committee is content that the relevant safety and risk assessments have been made, and that sport bowling may start, the League should decide their own local rules for how it can be played within the Government and centre guidelines. The suggestion from the UK Hospitality guide is that it may well be single lane use only.

The BTBA will issue a sanction to leagues that have met the Government and centre guidelines, and all the players of the League are current members of the BTBA. The sanction will cover all high scores and finances of the League subject to rule 102c. In order for sanction to be granted, please complete the form attached to this publication.

The BTBA has approved waivers and modifications to the General and League Playing Rules to allow certified leagues more flexibility to return to bowling while adhering to Government and local guidelines related to COVID-19.

The modifications allow certified play to take place on one lane for the entirety of a game. Additionally, bowlers will be allowed to use isopropyl alcohol, more commonly known as rubbing alcohol, to clean their bowling ball during competition.

As bowling centres around the country reopen, the BTBA intends to give proprietors and league directors the most flexibility possible to resume bowling within the Government and their local guidelines. Our goal is to facilitate sport bowling again in a way that meets the need locally, and the BTBA is ready to quickly consider and activate additional changes that may be required.

Effective immediately, the BTBA has temporarily waived League Playing Rules 106a and 106b, which state two lanes must be used for competition and bowlers must alternate lanes – bowling five frames on each lane of the pair.

We have also waived the requirement that both lanes must be used for a bowler to be eligible for awards recognition. The temporary waiver allows competitions to use one lane for the entirety of a game and allows recognition of scores bowled on a single lane for High Score Awards.

The BTBA will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and can rescind the waiver of Rules 106a and 106b at any time.

COVID-19: Return to Sport Bowling

Sanction Application Declaration

To be completed by the League Secretary

I, as secretary of the
..... (league name), hereby
confirm that I have **read** and **understood** the COVID-19 Return to Sport Bowling document,
as set out by the British Tenpin Bowling Association and hereby confirm that we have
discussed the matter with the local centre manager and are all agreed that we will be able to
adhere to the Government and Centre guidelines.

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

To be completed by the Centre Manager

I, as the Centre Manager of
..... (centre name), hereby
confirm that I have **read** and **understood** the COVID-19 Return to Sport Bowling document,
as set out by the British Tenpin Bowling Association and hereby confirm that we have
discussed the matter with the league secretary and are all agreed that we will be able to
adhere to the Government and Centre guidelines.

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

Please scan and email this document to admin@btba.org.uk.

Note: Sanction will not be granted until the GoMembership Sanction has been requested, all
players are current members of the BTBA and this document has been completed.