



## Nottingham Croquet Club

**Rules for play during the covid-19 crisis.** Third edition – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Following UK government restrictions due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the club was closed for the first part of this season. Government announcements on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May provided a partial relaxation of the restrictions on activity in public spaces, including certain outdoor non-team sports.

The committee considered the Government advice and that of the Croquet Association, and play at the club resumed on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 subject to a range of limitations and protocols communicated in an earlier edition of this document. Following changes to guidance, this document was revised on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 and **16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**. The limitations and protocols are intended to keep our activities legal and responsible and to keep everyone safe. The pavilion has extra supplies, signage and modified layout to support the more stringent cleansing measures now required.

### **A: Access and Booking**

1. First and foremost, **do not come to the club** if you or someone in your household is experiencing any symptoms of a cold or flu, in particular a cough or high temperature or loss of taste or smell, or any symptoms listed at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>. Use the NHS website or helpline and seek advice. For your own protection, follow all current government advice with regard to self-isolation and shielding.
2. Only members who have paid a subscription are permitted to play. Potential new members may attend one free taster session, alone or in a single household group, supervised by a member. Their name should be on the online lawn booking and contact details shared with the club secretary, Ellen Gee.
3. You must have booked a lawn on the club's new online booking system before you arrive at the club. If you are having any difficulty using the system then you can book by contacting Rob Edlin-White or Beatrice McGlen, at least a day in advance. A link to the online system and guidance for its use are provided on the club website at <http://www.nottinghamcroquet.org.uk/lawnbooking>.
4. When booking, please show consideration for other members and lawn maintenance staff by choosing slots as described on the lawn booking page of the club website.
5. A maximum of 6 people are permitted on each lawn in a coaching group (including the coach) and a maximum of 4 people are allowed to play on one lawn, unless you all belong to one household. The name of every person playing must be on the booking.
6. Guests, visitors and spectators are now allowed but must not form a gathering of more than the maximum permitted size (currently 6). If they are members their names should be recorded on the lawn booking system for the nearest lawn. If they are not members, please try to obtain contact details, and add them to the lawn booking system as soon as possible.

### **B: Preparation**

7. Please arrive and depart as close to your booking time as possible. Do not stay at the club to socialise.
8. Our normal car park is closed and locked. The car parks by the Djanogly Lakeside pavilion (5 minutes' walk east of the club) are recommended. After 4:30 and at weekends the university campus parking is unrestricted. The layby remains for deliveries and blue badge holders only. There may be one or two places in the entrance to the hockey club but these should be used only by those who cannot walk as far as the Lakeside, and entrances must not be blocked. Bicycle racks are provided by the main gate.
9. Bring your own mallet. If you leave your mallet at the club it should be clearly labelled with your name (not just initials). If you do not own a mallet then you can select a club mallet and clearly label this with your name on a band around the shaft. Do not use a mallet with someone else's name on it. If a shared mallet is the only option, wash the shaft before and after use.
10. Arrive dressed for the game if at all possible. If you need to change footwear, do it outside.
11. If you wish to eat and drink, please bring your own supplies and consume them outside.

### **C: Arrival and setup**

12. All required equipment will be stored in the East pavilion. The padlock has the same 4 digit code as last year – please ask if you don't know it. There should be no need to access the West pavilion.
13. The park staff may have left the normal gate to the East lawns locked, to discourage unwelcome visitors, in which case use the side gate. The code for the padlock is the same as above.
14. The pavilion is to be used only for hand washing, equipment storage, and any necessary toilet usage, **not** for socialising, eating, changing, cooking, using the bar or lockers, sheltering from weather etc. Please vacate it as promptly as possible after essential activities.
15. Avoid using the toilets if possible. If you use them, wash your hands before and after, and also sanitise anything you have touched (flush handle, door handles etc).
16. On entering the pavilion please wash your hands and then use one of the wipes on the manager's table to clean the padlock, door handles and anything else you have touched, then wash your hands again.
17. Fill the bucket for your lawn with sufficient soapy water (use washing up liquid) to cover the balls, and take it with a cloth and the trolley to your lawn. Clean the trolley handles, balls, hoops and peg using the cloth and soapy water. There will be no corner flags or corner pegs.
18. Set up your lawn then wash your hands again. When setting up or taking in the equipment, only one player should touch any hoop, ball or centre peg.
19. If you need to use a club chair, clean it before and after use. Use the park benches or hut benches where available, or bring your own camping seat. Seats should not be shared.

### **D: Play**

20. During play, and at all times, remain at least 2 metres from your opponent (and anyone else). Observe the Government's social distancing guidelines assiduously, including when going to and from the lawn and in and around the pavilion. Consequently, do not shake hands before or after a game.
21. Use your feet rather than hands to position balls where you can do with sufficient precision. Clips are now allowed if suitably cleaned. Please do not leave the club's expensive metal clips under water for longer than necessary to clean them as they may corrode; preferably use clothes pegs instead. Beware of clothes pegs springing off to eye level if you attempt to run a hoop hard – remove them first if at risk.
22. Players should be their own referees and acknowledge faults and errors if they occur.
23. Some of the stop boards may not be in place. If you regularly hit the ball hard then please book one of the West lawns (6-8). If you anticipate a ball going off a boundary where it may go missing, please ask your opponent to try to stop it by foot or mallet. If you do lose a ball then immediately mark where you think you lost it and if you cannot then find it please let the club secretary know with a detailed description of where you last saw it.
24. Do not move stop boards by hand; if your backswing is hampered by one, either move and return it by foot or claim relief (i.e. agree a minimally sufficient ball movement with your opponent).

### **E: After play**

25. After play, use the cloth and bucket of soapy water to clean everything that you have touched i.e. all the balls, hoop tops, peg. Return equipment to the proper place in the pavilion, empty the bucket (do not leave balls underwater) and finally clean trolley and bucket handles. Wring out the cloth and hang it over the edge of the bucket. Wash your hands again before leaving.
26. Take all rubbish and personal belongings home with you. Do not leave anything in the pavilion or in any indoor or outdoor bins.
27. **If you start to feel unwell with a COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>) or if you have a positive COVID-19 test at any time after playing at the club please let the club secretary, Ellen Gee, know immediately for contact tracing purposes.**

## Summary of changes in third edition:

Main changes:

- Preamble - updated to reflect that this is a new edition
- A1 - Symptoms updated and link added
- A2 - Updated to allow free taster sessions
- A6 - Visitors are allowed - if casual drop-ins try to obtain & record contact details
- B9 – If use of shared club mallets is inevitable (e.g. beginner coaching) the shafts must be washed before and after use
- C14 - Added "please vacate" sentence
- D21 - Clips are now allowed - and some guidance
- D24 - Stop boards can be moved by foot
- E25 - Wash trolley and bucket handles in the pavilion after last touching them
- E27 - Link to NHS website for current COVID-19 symptoms

There were also some minor rewordings to add clarity or emphasis.