



Return To Play Guidelines

About these guidelines

The new COVID guidelines for May 2021 have been developed in conjunction with VicSport in an attempt to strike a balance between allowing our snooker and billiards players to enjoy as normal an experience as possible, whilst still maintaining a COVID safe environment for all.

Room Capacities

It is the responsibility of each venue to know and clearly display room capacities. As of today (May 23rd 2021) the limit is 1 person per 2 m² however venues should be mindful of changes to these restrictions.

About the QR Codes

The VBSA understands that the requirement for each snooker/billiards room to provide their own QR code may seem excessive, however this is a direct request from the VicSport COVID officers and must be adhered to.

We have generated QR codes for each venue, which can be downloaded below. If you don't see a poster for your venue please contact secretary@vbsa.or.au and one will be produced for you:

VBSA QR Code Posters

Clubs that are exclusively snooker/billiards venues that wish to use the VBSA generated poster as their sole check-in poster are free to do so.

Referee Duties

The division of referee duties is a recommendation from the VBSA to limit pedestrian traffic through the snooker/billiards room. This should be discussed and agreed prior to the commencement of play and should teams wish to utilise the standard method, and providing it can be done in a COVID Safe manner, they are free to do so.

Conflicts with Venue rules

Should any VBSA rule conflict with **more stringent** venue rules (e.g. rests not to be shared) then the venue rule shall be adhered to by all players.

Good luck, high scoring and we look forward to further relaxation of these rules as we move further from the current pandemic situation.

Regards

Jon Moss
VBSA Secretary



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General and Before Play

- Spectators are welcomed back however room capacities must be strictly observed and spectators may be asked to vacate the room in favour of team members.
- All players and spectators are required to check in to the snooker/billiards room using the VBSA QR Code supplied by the home team captain. Players should also use the venue QR codes to check into the venue.
- Masks should be carried at all times however are only required when social distancing is not possible.
- All surfaces should be wiped down prior to commencement of the evening's play. This includes balls, rests, tables edges, pockets and empire rails, scoreboards, etc
It is the responsibility of the home captain to liaise with the venue to provide satisfactory cleaning supplies
- Hand sanitiser must be made available by the venue/home team for use during the evening.

Post-Match

- Players are currently not required to shake hands with teammates and opposition team members.
- It is at the discretion of the venue if supper is to be provided, as long as it can be achieved in a COVID Safe manner.
- Home team to clean balls, equipment, tables, etc appropriately at the completion of play.



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During Play

- To minimise movement of players through the snooker/billiards room it is recommended that matches be refereed in the following manner.

Snooker

Match 1

Home Referee – Frames 1 & 2

Away Referee – Frame 3

Match 2

Away Referee – Frame 1

Home Referee – Frames 2 & 3

Billiards

Round 1

Home Referee – First 50 mins

Away Referee – Last 30 mins

Round 2

Away Referee – First 30 mins

Home Referee – Last 50 mins

We believe that this strikes the best balance between minimising the movement of people through the playing area, whilst not putting undue pressure on the home referee. Their refereeing duties greatly exceed the away player and this will allow them a break either directly before or directly after their match.

- Only Referees to touch the balls during play – with the exception of the cue ball when in hand. This includes emptying pockets and resetting tables between snooker frames.
- Referees should sanitise their hands before and after carrying out their duties.
- Short rests may be used as normal – i.e. shared between players. Referees should refrain from handling rests.
- Other/long rests. Where possible, only the player to touch equipment.
- Between matches/rounds the home team member should wipe down equipment, balls and the table.