



RSL (Victoria) Billiards & Snooker Association

COVID-19 Guidelines - as at 28 July 2021

The following guidelines have been prepared for the assistance of members of this Association. These guidelines are broadly based on the VBSA's most recent discussions with Victorian Government authorities, via Sports & Recreation Victoria. As the situation is expected to change over time, revised guidelines will be published when necessary.

On 25 May 2021, the Executive suspended competition play when Government authorities confirmed that snooker and billiards players were again required to wear fitted face masks during play. Before making that decision, we were mindful that many players had previously expressed concerns that playing while wearing a mask is extremely uncomfortable and they would prefer to not play under such conditions. Further, during early 2021, the simple of reminding players to properly wear masks often caused unwarranted animosity.

On 25 June 2021, we decided that the season should remain suspended when the Government's modified rules did not vary the conditions for wearing face masks. We hoped that this would be a short-term situation but further modification of the COVID-19 restrictions from 9 July 2021 suggests that the rule about wearing masks whilst enjoying our sport may be with us for a protracted period. The VBSA is continuing its efforts to persuade authorities to change this provision.

The Executive remains aware that many members find it uncomfortable to wear a face mask during play. However, in the interests of preserving our members' interest in our sport, we determined that our 2021 Snooker season would resume on 15 July 2021 and be completed on a revised schedule published on our webpage. Although play resumed on 15 July, a subsequent 10 day COVID lockdown forced further interruption to our schedule. Following easing of restrictions from 28 July 2021, North Zone will again resume scheduled matches on 29 July and Bayside Zone will again resume matches on 5 August.

The following guidelines MUST be observed by all members during competition play:

ROOM OCCUPANCY

- ❖ *Home captain, in liaison with venue manager, to manage overall adherence to Guidelines, including provision of wipes, sanitiser, QR code registration, room capacities, monitoring adherence.*
- ❖ *Both captains to check and agree before start of play.*
- ❖ *Occupants **must** form part of the minimum number of people needed to play. **Spectators are not permitted** unless to supervise dependants.*

MASKS

- ❖ ***Fitted face masks must be properly worn** unless you have a lawful reason to not do so, or unless you are physically engaged in drinking.*

EQUIPMENT & SANITISATION

- ❖ *Only the Referee to touch the balls. When possible, players use only cue tip to position cue ball.*
- ❖ *Short rests – one exclusively per player, to be allocated to that player (not left on hooks). If two rests not available, same rule as "Other rests".*
- ❖ *Other rests – only the player to touch rest. Sanitise rest and hands after use.*
- ❖ *After the match, referee to sanitise short rests, table rails and clean all balls. Reset table.*

SUPPERS

- ❖ *Provision of suppers is at the discretion of the clubs, although sharing of food platters, for example, is **NOT** recommended.*

RIDE SHARE

- ❖ *Face masks are mandatory when in ride share vehicles (e.g. group travel between clubs).*

Any queries on the above should be referred directly to your Zone Delegate in the first instance.