



Canberra Bridge Club

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN – FACE-TO-FACE BRIDGE SESSIONS

Preamble

The CBC Committee has developed this COVID-19 Safety Plan to ensure that face-to-face bridge sessions are as safe as possible for all participants, and to meet CBC's responsibilities as a business and as an employer. It draws from the ACT Government's guidelines for COVID-19 Safety Plans, as well as the Australian Bridge Federation's COVID-19 guide for the resumption of bridge club sessions.

The health and safety of members, staff and visitors remain our top priority.

This Safety Plan will be revisited and updated as necessary. An amendment history appears at the end of the document.

Responsibilities of members and staff

Players and staff will play a critical role in the successful resumption of face-to-face bridge sessions at CBC.

All players and staff agree to comply with the protocols outlined in this Safety Plan on each occasion when they enter the clubrooms.

Protocols

Ensuring physical distancing

As CBC is using the Check In CBR app which registers patron contact details, CBC can have one person per two square metres of usable indoor space:

- The Barry Turner Room (the main lower room) can have a maximum of 158 people.
- The Olive Lott Room (the upstairs room) can have a maximum of 88 people.
- The main entrance area is not conducive to physical distancing.
- Players should minimise the duration of their stay in the entrance area. Players arriving and departing as quickly as possible will require the co-operation of all.

Players and staff are to observe a 1.5 metre distance between themselves and others as much as possible. This includes in the carpark and throughout the building including the entrance area and bathrooms. Groups congregating, eg, at the entrance and other doorways, must be avoided.

When to stay at home

All players and staff are not to be present at the clubrooms if:

- they have a fever, are unwell, or have recently returned from overseas or a COVID-affected area or venue as identified by the ACT or relevant state/territory government; or
- they have been in contact, or suspect they may have been in contact, in the past two weeks with someone who has COVID-19 or a similar illness.

Players and staff should stay up-to-date with areas of COVID-19 concern, including requirements for 14 days quarantining and a negative COVID-19 test result, as indicated at covid19.act.gov.au, and observe all ACT Government advice.

Access to and egress from the clubrooms

If there are a number of people waiting at the entrance to the building before a session starts, players are requested to stay away from the entrance until it is clear for them to enter the clubrooms.

At the end of the session, players are requested to leave the premises immediately, refraining from congregating with other members.

Players' agreement to conditions

Upon entry to the club, players and staff may be asked to confirm that they are well, and that they have read the COVID-19 protocols listed on the CBC website and outlined in this Safety Plan, and whether they are prepared to abide by them.

The club may decline permission for the player to play in the session if they are not prepared to abide by the protocols.

Patron details in case contact tracing required

It is mandatory for anyone aged 16 years or older to register their attendance at the clubrooms with the Check In CBR app. This ACT Government requirement applies to all members, staff and others attending the clubrooms at any time.

Individuals attending the clubrooms are strongly encouraged to install the Check In CBR app on their phone/tablet and use the app (by hovering their device's camera over CBC's QR code) on arrival. CBC's QR code is displayed throughout the clubrooms.

If you are unable to use the app, please ask another person to check you in via the app's business profile on your behalf. If visiting with a close friend or relative, they can check you in via the app as a guest.

Masks and gloves [amended 1 July 2021]

Individuals attending the clubrooms must observe any ACT Government requirement to wear masks, and wear the mask correctly. If no such requirement is in place, and you are healthy, you do not need to wear a face mask. That said, some players or staff may choose to wear a mask.

The club will deny entry to anyone who arrives wearing a face mask and who also has any potential risk of COVID-19 (eg, is unwell, has recently returned from overseas or a COVID-affected area or venue as identified by the ACT or relevant state/territory government, or is a possible contact). It is not correct nor acceptable in such situations to believe that the mask will reduce the risk to others.

Some players may wish to wear disposable gloves. However, gloves would need to be safely removed and disposed of regularly during the session. Gloves may also make it more difficult to hold the cards. It is, in a practical sense, better to use hand sanitiser regularly.

Some activities performed by staff will require the wearing of disposable gloves.

Paying table fees

CBCPay has been introduced in order to provide a secure long-term non-cash payment system at CBC. Members deposit money online into the CBC bank account, and the appropriate table fee is automatically deducted from their CBCPay balance each time they play bridge at the club. Special arrangements can be made for those few members who do not use direct deposit.

Play at the table

Players are asked to bring and use their own pens.

Each player will use one bidding box throughout the session. Bidding boxes will be at each player's initial table.

One player only (North or South) will operate and handle the bridgemate. North/South will show each score to one of the East-West pair, it is not sufficient to read out the score. East/West will verbally confirm the score obtained, and the North/South player will accept the score on the bridgemate on behalf of the East-West pair.

Hand sanitiser

Hand sanitiser will be available on each table in play during the session and via the touch-free dispenser located in the foyer near the entry to the main room. Players may use their own hand sanitiser (60% alcohol) at the clubrooms.

At the end of each round, each player is required to use hand sanitiser. Players sitting East-West need to sanitise before arrival at the next table.

No "mingling"

"Mingling" refers to unnecessary interactions between individuals. In mid-2020, police elsewhere in Australia indicated that the movement of bridge players from table to table may constitute mingling, and clubs may be liable to a significant COVID-19 fine as a result. Mingling may also occur when players and staff arrive at the club, or if standing too close to your partner or others between rounds.

It is therefore critical that players do not move between rounds until told to do so by the director. Pre-COVID-19 bridge etiquette already required that players stay seated

at the end of a round until the director instructed otherwise. COVID-19 amplifies the need for strict adherence to this requirement.

Boards

Sets of played boards will not be used again immediately. Hand sanitiser will be provided so that dealers can sanitise their hands when dealing boards.

The role of the Director

The CBC Committee has instructed each Director to conduct the session in compliance with this Safety Plan. The Director can take any reasonable steps necessary to achieve this result. This may include departure from the normal directing practices (eg, to avoid close contact with the players or cards) or to issue instructions to players to ensure compliance with the protocols. The Director has the power to allocate seating.

To minimise movement of individuals and boards during the session, the club will operate using four board rounds wherever practical.

Kitchen access

Players and staff may access the downstairs kitchen only and with restrictions. Social distancing must be maintained, with never more than one person in the kitchen. Details concerning kitchen access are outlined in the separate document.

Bathrooms, handwashing and personal hygiene

To assist players and staff, each of the front entry doors to the ladies' and gents' toilets will be "choked" open during session times. In addition, the light switches to all three facilities will remain on. This will activate lights and exhaust fans by sensor switches. Please do NOT switch these lights off upon exit. They must remain ON at all times.

We all know how important handwashing and respiratory hygiene are for the prevention of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Please wash your hands thoroughly and as regularly as you wish while at the club. Please avoid touching your face. Please practise good respiratory hygiene, eg, cough/sneeze into your elbow or directly into a tissue, then wash your hands or use hand sanitiser. If you are unwell, stay at home.

After session clean-up [minor edits 4 May 2021]

All players should contribute to the end of session clean-up, including cleaning the side tables and chairs, cleaning the outside of the bidding boxes, and a light wipe of the bridgemate (please don't spray directly onto the bridgemate). Players must dispose of their rubbish in the bins provided.

Cleaning of clubrooms

The clubrooms will be professionally cleaned regularly, including attention to touchpoint cleaning.

AMENDMENT HISTORY

7 July 2020

- Player pre-registration is no longer required but may be re-introduced if demand requires it.

1 August 2020

- The ACT Government's advice about travel to various inter-state locations, and possible restrictions on return to the ACT, is changing regularly. Players and staff must adhere to the latest ACT requirements, and stay at home if necessary.
- "Mingling" must be avoided, especially between rounds. Players must not move between rounds until told to do so by the Director.

27 August 2020

- References to temperature checks upon arrival at the club have been removed. Temperature checks will no longer occur, due to difficulties with the thermometer and following discussion with ACT Health.

23 September 2020

- Initially, visitors were discouraged from playing at CBC given their reduced familiarity with these protocols and limits on the number of players. Visitors are now welcome to play at the clubrooms. References to visitors have therefore been removed.
- Players are asked to stay away from the entrance to the building until it is clear of others.
- Bidding will now be undertaken via bidding boxes, with each player using one bidding box throughout the entire session and cleaning it at the end of the session. The clipboard method of bidding will no longer be used.
- Played boards will not be used again immediately. With the introduction of additional face-to-face sessions, the number of days before re-use will vary.

23 November 2020

- The downstairs kitchen is now open in a limited way.
- The end of session clean-up procedures have been streamlined.

7 January 2021

- CBC is now using the Check In CBR app.

6 February 2021

- Minor edits only.

23 March 2021

- References to three table configurations have been removed.
- Directors will now use their discretion to determine the appropriate time to open the building before a session.
- It is now mandatory for all patrons to use the Check In CBR app.
- CBCPay has been introduced in order to provide a secure long-term non-cash payment system at CBC.

1 July 2021

- The score on the bridgemate must be shown to East/West for confirmation, not read to them.

4 May 2021

- Minor edits only.

1 July 2021

- Individuals attending the clubrooms must observe any ACT requirement to wear masks.