

Re -Opening for Live bridge in the Covid Era

When Public Health regulations permit indoor gatherings of larger numbers of people bridge clubs may be able to re-open provided they can minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection for their attendees.

While the NIBU do not intend running face-to-face competitions in the near future it is up to individual clubs to decide for themselves.

The Emergency Management Committee and Council **suggest** the following protective measures **could** be implemented . The list is not exhaustive. Clubs should carry out their own risk assessment.

1. Each club should appoint a COVID officer responsible for managing the club's approach, communicating it to members, and dealing with any issues that arise.
2. Only club members can play, and all attendees must be fully vaccinated
3. Perspex table screens should be used where possible (these are available through the CBAI)
4. Players should wear face masks on entry and exit, and when moving around but not at the table if screens are being used
5. Playing rooms should be well ventilated - this may not mean WIDE open windows but sufficiently open to ensure circulation of air
6. Tables should be spaced out to ensure that players are suitable distanced, and players should avoid congregating in communal areas
7. Equipment should not be shared amongst the players - where possible - sharing cards is unavoidable for most clubs, but players should use one bidding box throughout and only North should touch the boards and scoring equipment
8. Players should sanitise their hands regularly, using an alcohol-based sanitiser
9. Any member infected by, or showing symptoms COVID-19, or who has been in close contact with a suspected case, should NOT attend live bridge under any circumstances
10. Boards should be left untouched for 72 hours after play before reusing

Each club should review these recommendations in light of their own specific circumstances.

Ultimately, it is the club that is responsible for the safety of its members and to decide for themselves when to re-open.