

Restarting New Age Kurling

Kurling is a sport where close contact with others can be avoided. Great Britain Kurling Association (GBKA) has developed a set of practical guidelines for clubs to follow so that restricted Kurling can take place during lockdown where the local environment allows.

Proposal

The choice to return to Kurling at this time is one that needs to be made locally by clubs after considering their own circumstances. There are many clubs who are keen to return to Kurling as soon as possible, but we appreciate there will be those that have genuine concerns, or their local environment will make Kurling safely impossible at this stage. It is the responsibility of each club to make their own assessment based on their local environment and circumstances.

We therefore ask you to read and consider the information below carefully before making a decision to return to Kurling as safely as possible during this current phase. Please do not feel pressured to open your club until you are confident you can do so safely, by following both the GBKA Kurling guidelines and the current government advice.

Stay Alert

The clear Government message is that we can all help to control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:

- ❖ Limit contact with other people
- ❖ Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible).
- ❖ Wash your hands regularly
- ❖ Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

At all times, clubs need to remain flexible and have the ability to communicate changes to their members quickly. Clubs must respond quickly if there is an increase in the virus locally, nationally or if any club members or visitors to the Kurling venue test positive for coronavirus.

Access to the Venue

Access to the venue should be arranged with the hirer. Familiarise yourself with any one-way systems in place and arrangement for the use of toilets/washrooms.

Seven steps to re-opening

Reopening is possible if the club has:

1. Gained consensus across the club
 - a) Discussed with volunteers and members to ensure agreement regarding restarting
 - b) Briefed safeguarding or welfare officers as appropriate.
 - c) Educated members and volunteers regarding additional rules, e.g. social distancing, rules for collecting stones and targets.

2. Communicate the guidance to members:
 - a) Guidance notes to be distributed across the club membership
 - b) Completed Risk Assessment Template
 - c) Understood and implemented the example of court layout
 - d) Understood the process of implementing a suitable Booking system.
3. Confirmed access and permission to use a venue for Kurling.
4. Undertaken a risk assessment of the court(s) and ability to re-open and manage members.
5. Implemented guidance on the moving of targets.
6. Provided sufficient facilities for hand washing and/or sanitisation.
7. Implemented a booking system for track and trace. Record those attending each session as well as their contact details.

Provision of support

Members should use their own equipment if possible (or equipment that is loaned to them by the club) and is kept exclusively by the member for a period of time.

Where this is not possible and is deemed a barrier to participation, members and volunteers need to do everything practical to minimise the risk of transmission.

These include:

- The frequent cleaning of objects, equipment and surfaces that are regularly touched, ensuring there is adequate disposal arrangements for waste.
- Sanitisation of all equipment after every use, before being used by someone from a different household.
- Wash/sanitise your hands thoroughly before and after using, handling or cleaning equipment.

Management of Stones

For Club Kurling stones one person wearing either woollen or plastic gloves should remove the sets of stones from the bags and place on the floor at opposite end to the targets. That same person should be responsible for cleaning and storing the stones at the end of the session, this will reduce the risk of contamination.

During play, only handle the stones you have chosen for the game. After a match, if stones are subsequently to be used by another player during the session then they should be sanitised between matches.

For members with their own stones or stones borrowed from the club they should be the only person to handle these stones.

Management of Targets

A volunteer or member should be the sole person touching the target (which he/she would set up at the beginning and at end of the session) thereby minimising the risk of cross-contamination. Target faces would be held centrally (in a sealed, clean environment). Each volunteer to have hand sanitiser.

The target should be set up so that play is conducted in a carousel format, down the length of one court and back up on the opposite court, the targets are not moved but stay in place throughout play.

If it is necessary to adjust a target then do so using your shoe not your hand. If you cannot use your foot or pusher then request another player to make the adjustment with their shoe.

Management of Pushers and Ramps

If there are not enough pushers or ramps to allow members to retain their pusher or ramp from session to session pushers and ramps should be treated as below:

- Sanitisation the pusher or ramp after every use, before being used by someone from a different household.
- Encourage washing or sanitise hands thoroughly before and after using, handling or cleaning equipment.
- Members are not to share pushers or ramps during a session unless with a member from the same household.

Ideally, each player should retain their own pusher or ramp, unless with a household member, partner for the whole of the session. The pusher or ramp should be sanitised after each session.

Spectators

To allow a 2-meter social distance area around the playing areas spectators should not be encouraged. Only players should remain in Kurling venue during play and keep the ends of the court free to allow free movement of players around the court. This may change as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Provision of sanitisation facilities

A table to be placed in the Kurling venue 2 metres behind the kurling delivery box with dispensers of hand sanitising fluid. Waste to be dealt with as instructed by the venue provider.

Notifying members

Announce the restart of the Kurling group by phone or email, setting out the procedures and rules to ensure Covid-19 compliance and the smooth and safe running of the session.

Either send members these guidelines or discuss them prior to a session starting. It might be a good idea to have a walk-through session with those people who will be organising a session so that you are familiar with what needs to be done.

Restrict the number of players at each session by using an advanced booking system such as Google pages, ensuring there is adequate disposal arrangements for waste.

Advise members that their attendance and contact details will be recorded for each session to ensure tracing can be undertaken should there be a case of Covid-19.