RETURN TO PLAY

Guidelines for BOWLING in CANADA
(Fivepin, Tenpin, Duckpin & Candlepin)

A Resource for Bowling Centre Operators, League Executives and Volunteers
What an unprecedented year in our lives!

Little did we know as we began the bowling season last September just how much change was in store for the business and sport of bowling. No aspect of society has been immune to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, so we are not alone in our struggles to learn, prepare and pick up where we left off.

With uncertainty around every corner, and no crystal ball in sight, we can only roll up our sleeves and get to work on creating the safest possible environment. Each of us working together to ensure Canadians have the ability to get back to enjoying the sport and recreation we love, and do so as safely as possible.

The path forward requires that every stakeholder play a key role in ensuring safety for all. We must heed the advice of Health Authorities and our levels of Government... we must consider that each of us has the ability to help protect the other in relatively simple ways such as washing our hands well and regularly, or wearing facial coverings, etc.

There IS a path forward and we ALL must play our roles in bringing bowling back to Canadians.

We hope this guide provides some insight and ideas as well as peace of mind knowing that if we work together we CAN return to play safely and get our lives back to somewhat normal.

A considerable amount of work has gone into developing the resources included here to get us back on the lanes. I want to thank Bowl Canada’s Board of Directors, Relaunch Committee and Staff for all their efforts on behalf of us all.

I wish you all a successful and safe reintroduction to league bowling and all the wonderful benefits that brings.

Yours in bowling,

Rod Hennessey,
President, Bowl Canada
Contents

The Bowling Community 4
About Return To Play 5
Background on Covid-19 6
Developing a Plan
  Committee 7
  Facility Preparedness 7
  Health Authorities 7
  League/Competition Formats 8
  Customer Cooperation 8 - 9
Youth Bowl Canada leagues 10
Club 55 & Sunshine Bowlers leagues 11
What to do if (Managing an outbreak at your centre) 11

APPENDICES

Appendix A: About the Coronavirus Disease (info-graphic) 12 - 13
Appendix C: Recommended League Formats Under The Covid-19 Pandemic 19 - 23
Appendix D: Customer Cooperation poster 24 - 25
Appendix E: Return To Play UPDATES (external document)
The Bowling Community

Bowl Canada is a national non-profit association which supports bowling centres and bowling leagues across Canada, providing:

- Programs for bowling centre operators
- Youth leagues (Youth Bowl Canada programs for fivepin and tenpin)
- Seniors Leagues (Club 55 program)
- Physically and Mentally Challenged Leagues (Sunshine Bowlers Program)
- Championships and events for both competitive and social youth, adult and senior leagues

Bowl Canada and its network of local Bowling Centres and Provincial Associations are committed to:

- The health & well-being of our customers and the thousands of staff and volunteers who serve them
- Meeting or exceeding the safety restrictions of local, provincial and federal health authorities
- The health & well-being of our athletes beyond league/house level, once such competitions are allowed to resume
- The health & well-being of our supporters and fans
- Unequivocal cooperation with the federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments and Health Authorities
- Flexibility to customize return to play plans in any jurisdiction as needed to meet regional requirements

Bowling is a sport played in roughly 500 dedicated Bowling and entertainment facilities across Canada, with approximately 350,000 registered league bowlers. Here’s a snapshot of the Canadian Bowling community:

- Bowling is a non-contact and “No Sweat” sport
- A normal team game is typically under 1 hour in length with anywhere from 6-10 people on a pair of lanes (and occasionally up to 12 for 6 player teams)
- Typical league sessions have teams competing in 3 games
- The average Bowl Canada member bowling centre has 14 lanes and is a facility of roughly 17,000 sq ft
- The average 14 lane centre would typically accommodate up to 84 athletes/customers on the bowling lanes specifically (at 6 to a lane, and not including patron use of other aspects of the centre such as the arcade, lounge, etc.). Without restrictions that is one customer per 200 sq ft. Under current restrictions (in some provinces 50 people maximum), that is one customer for every 340 sq ft
- While the average bowling centre in Canada is 14 lanes, bowling centres across Canada vary greatly in size (from 4 lanes to 60+ lanes) and each centre’s physical layout is non-standard
- Various restrictions (based on provincial discretion) exist with regards to customer traffic at the time of writing this document. Leagues and bowling centres must adhere to their applicable limits as set by government and Health Authorities, and plan accordingly.

- 4 -
About Return to Play

This document has been developed to assist bowling centres and bowling enthusiasts across Canada in getting set up to safely return to enjoying the recreation and sport we all love. It has been developed with the assistance of various sources, including input from Bowl Canada’s Board of Directors as well as from the Bowl Canada’s Covid-19 Relaunch Committee. The goal of this document is to assist bowling centres in;

- Creating and maintaining a safe environment in the bowling centre
- Getting bowling leagues back to play safely with all stakeholders involved
- Developing a plan to safely and quickly deal with potential outbreaks

While the guidelines in this document are provided to all Canadian bowling centres, there is no one-size-fits-all method of getting our sport safely back on track for all of Canada. It is up to each bowling centre proprietor to determine the best options to be used at their centre, based on; physical layout of bowling centre, size of leagues, space in concourse, etc., all while keeping the requirements established by local health and government authorities top of mind.

It is recommended that bowling centre proprietors;

- Keep the safety of customers and staff top of mind at all times
- Follow the authority of applicable government and health agencies at all levels (Municipal - Provincial/Territorial - Federal) and ensure any applicable restrictions, etc. are reflected in the plan being developed
- Consult with league executives as to foreseeable challenges, bowler preferences, bowler concerns, etc.
- Utilize the Bowl Canada Best Practices document as a guide to operate and maintain the facility in as safe a state as possible to allow for successfully safe resumption of play/competition
- Utilize other tools provided by Bowl Canada to maintain a safe and informed atmosphere, such as contact tracing forms, safety signage, documentation of league attendance, etc.
- Be prepared to adapt to evolving guidelines and restrictions from respective authorities.
- Use this document as a guide to develop a personalized Return-To-Play plan for the bowling centre.

As restrictions from governments and health authorities lessen, it is important to recognize that Canadians in general remain concerned about the potential threat of Covid-19 at all times. Similarly, Bowl Canada recommends that bowling centres and league executives/organizers be equally on guard and ensure the safest environment possible as bowlers return to play.

The safety of all customers and staff must always be the first filter in the decision making process while Covid-19 remains a threat.
Background - About Covid-19

COVID-19 is transmitted via liquid droplets when a person coughs or sneezes but also potentially when they are talking in very close proximity to another person. The virus in these droplets then can enter the body of another person when that person breathes in the droplets or when the droplets touch the eyes, nose or throat of that person.

This requires you to be in close contact (less than the so-called physical distancing of three to six feet). This is referred to as ‘droplet’ transmission and is believed to be the primary way COVID-19 is transmitted.

COVID-19 can also be transmitted through droplets in the environment if someone touches a contaminated area then touches their face without cleaning their hands. The virus does not enter the body through skin, it enters through the eyes, nose or mouth when the person touches their face. Unfortunately, human beings touch their faces very often throughout the day, much more than they realize. This is why regular handwashing and cleaning of high-touch surfaces is so important.

Droplet transmission is much more likely when in close contact in an indoor setting, such as a bowling centre. This is why it is crucial to develop a comprehensive plan and have all stakeholders (athletes, centre management and staff, parents and families, etc.) contribute to the plan’s successful implementation.

See Appendix A for an info-graphic on Covid-19 from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

NOTE: Bowl Canada makes no claim to be experts on pandemics. All Federal, Provincial and local Government and Public Health Authority information, guidelines and directives supersede this information. We have created this set of guidelines to inform the bowling community as to how Bowl Canada is responding to Covid-19 and to provide recommendations as to what we believe is the best course of action for local bowling centres across the country and their staff and customer base.
Committee

Create an ad hoc committee to oversee development, and roll out, of your Return to Play plan. The committee could/should include;

- Senior management
- Staff representing all sectors of the bowling centres operations (Front counter, restaurant/lounge, pro shop, maintenance, etc.)
- Select representatives from your adult leagues, YBC Program Director, Club 55 Coordinator, and Sunshine Coordinator.

If you choose to utilize only Management/Staff to build the plan, have the plan reviewed by the league representatives listed to gain their perspective and input. Their experience with their respective groups may be quite informative (ie: Program Directors tend to have a great handle on parental buy-in and concerns, etc.).

Facility Preparedness

A Return To Play plan must begin with preparing the bowling centre to ensure as safe an environment as possible for those returning to the lanes.

Bowl Canada has developed a document titled “BEST PRACTICES: Operational Considerations During the Covid-19 Pandemic” (Appendix B). Bowl Canada member centres have been encouraged to utilize this Best Practices document to prepare and get up to speed on a number of items, including;

- Signage requirements for messaging and relating of safety policies, etc.
- Maintenance guides to ensure disinfecting protocols are stepped up and virus spread opportunities are minimized
- Workplace Safety to ensure centre staff are knowledgeable about procedures aimed to keep themselves and all customers safe while enjoying the facility
- Bowling Operations to control entry points, provide cashless payments, ensure barriers are in place, etc.

Health Authorities

The decision to re-open for play can only be made where allowed by local/provincial health authorities. Once a centre is allowed to open, it must do so under the conditions prescribed by the authority. Guidelines and restrictions vary by region and bowling centres must determine what their local requirements are and adhere to them as set. These may include; Wearing of face masks, physical distancing, barrier placement, maximum occupancy in the facility, contact tracing, etc. For a list of all Provincial/Territorial and Regional Health Authorities, click the link below....

Developing a Return to Play Plan

☐ Adopt the right competition format(s) for your centre & leagues

Bowl Canada has developed a document titled “RECOMMENDED LEAGUE FORMATS During the Covid-19 Pandemic” (Appendix C). Bowl Canada member centres have been encouraged to utilize this document to set the structure of league play once recommenced. The document includes 7 options under which league bowling may safely resume. Some options will only be applicable once restrictions loosen up as the pandemic wanes. When selecting formats for your leagues, keep in mind;

- Formats may need to be revised as your applicable restrictions/requirements evolve in either direction
- Formats may need to be different for each league depending on many factors. Note that the title above says “formats”—this is purposely plural as different leagues may require differing formats based on their size, demographics, etc.
- As we all know, older Canadians are at greater risk in the pandemic. Club 55 leagues may need special considerations, such as fewer people per shift, or even restricted hours at the centre for seniors only, etc.
- YBC Leagues may need to restrict/limit parent attendance to comply with customer maximums as set by health authorities
- Likewise, Sunshine Leagues (& “Special O” Leagues) may need to restrict or limit attendance as well AND may require dedicated times at the centre if league members are high risk.

☐ Athlete / Customer Cooperation & Safety Tips

Bowling centres are the social, sporting and recreational hubs of nearly every community across Canada. The lifeblood of any bowling centre is the customer, be they elite league bowlers or first time casual players, and everyone in between. Part of a re-opening plan will involve communicating with the centre’s customer groups. This is a priority.

Bowl Canada suggests ensuring good lines of communication with league organizers. Whether they are part of your Return To Play committee or simply involved in reviewing plans to provide input... when it comes to setting up leagues and preparing for their return to your safe environment, they are a big stakeholder in your season and bowling centres would benefit from working with them to ensure all are on board with your plans and invested in ensuring the plan’s success. We must be respectful of their needs and concerns if we hope to get bowling back on track. Whether through one-on-one conversation, or via a survey, or via social media, request their perspective and take the information gleaned to heart.

Additionally, once your plan is rolled out and leagues, as well as casual players, are back on the lanes, ensure that they understand their role in maintaining a safe environment and that their cooperation is key to safety for all.

The following are some real-life best practices which you may wish to include in social media posts and/or on posters in centre;
Developing a Return to Play Plan

Customer Cooperation

All customers are asked to cooperate with management in ensuring your experience on the lanes is both safe and fun for all. Customers are asked to;

- If you are feeling unwell, regardless of the symptoms, stay home.
- Use facial coverings (masks) if they are either recommended or mandated in your region.
- Disinfect your hands prior to entering the centre and wash your hands well and regularly.
- Arrive no more than 5 minutes before your scheduled time, and leave promptly when you are finished. If a waiting area has been dedicated, please follow management directions and maintain physical distancing.
- Practice physical distancing by staying a minimum of two metres away from each other at all times.
- Follow all rules and protocols as posted throughout the bowling centre.
- Where coaches are utilized, they should maintain physical distancing practices, and should not share equipment with participants. Coaches must adhere to all return to play protocols.
- Use your own bowling balls if you have them. If you do not own your own bowling balls please follow the posted safety protocols for using house balls where available.
- Bring your own towel if desired, and do not share it with other customers.
- Do not share equipment.
- Do not high five or otherwise make direct contact.
- Do not visit with other people; stick to your assigned lane and maintain physical distancing.
- Do not bring visitors with you to your scheduled bowling time slot.
- Do not loiter in the parking lot before or after you have finished bowling.

See Appendix D for a printable poster of these rules to hang in the centre.
Youth Bowl Canada Leagues

YBC Program Directors and proprietors should ensure they are familiar with these Return To Play guidelines. Additionally, the following points will help in ensuring the safest environment possible for young bowlers and families. Prior to the league’s kick off, hold a meeting with all volunteers and representatives of bowling centre management to review the guidelines and restrictions of your local Health Authorities as well as any guidelines as set by your bowling centre and this Return To Play document. Take the required steps to ensure all participants, families and volunteers know to:

- not attend if unwell (including any signs/symptoms of cold, flu, COVID-19 or other illness) or if exposed to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
- avoid physical greetings (such as hand shaking)
- avoid high fives
- cough/sneeze into elbow
- not share personal bowling equipment or personal items such as cell phones, etc.
- not loiter before or after league sessions in order to minimize contact
- ensure correct conduct of personal hygiene principles such as sanitizing, hand washing, etc.

Program Directors and Proprietors should;

- at all times follow the guidelines and restrictions as set by government and local Health Authorities. These vary by region. Get to know your local requirements using the link to your local Health Authorities found on page 7 of this Return To Play guide
- ensure access to hand sanitizer, tissues, antibacterial wipes, etc.
- retain personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies for use should a participant become unwell
- where possible, group athletes into smaller teams using more shifts as required. In conjunction with management, use the Recommended League Formats document (Appendix C) to select/plan format and shifts ensuring physical distancing is maintained throughout in your selected format
- assign coaches to act as safety supervisors and report to Program Director should anyone not be following guidelines or restrictions. Program Director to address issue with participant/family in conjunction with management
- coaches must ensure no physical contact (distancing) and no contact with bowler equipment
- where facial masks are required, ensure they are used by all. Currently it is expected that every jurisdiction allows the masks to come off while delivering a ball, but to be replaced once the bowler’s turn is complete. If not required in your area, use of masks remains recommended practice
- limit or minimize family attendance, and ensure distancing, etc.
- complete attendance at each session (Appendix C)
- sanitize shared equipment before, during and after league use
Seniors and athletes with a disability are in (or may likely be in) the high risk category. These leagues should follow and adapt the measures listed under the YBC section (previous page) and keep in mind the following:

- As high risk bowlers, consideration should be given to allotting them exclusive use of the facility where possible to ensure they have limited exposure and remain in a league bubble
- Regular reinforcement of guidelines, etc. may help keep everyone on track with following guidelines
- For Special O leagues specifically, familiarize yourself with Special O’s Return To Play guidelines and adhere to their requirements and suggestions

What to do if…. (How to manage an outbreak)

There are tools available to assist with managing an outbreak of Covid-19 and limiting the spread of the virus;

- Bowl Canada has developed Contact Tracing Forms which may come in extremely handy and be requested by Health Authorities should you experience an outbreak. These forms, primarily aimed at tracking open play customers, assist agencies in tracking down those who have been, or potentially have been, exposed at your centre so that they can isolate and wait out the potential contamination.
- For leagues, simple use of attendance logging will assist in maintaining accurate records of potential exposure to your regular customers.
- The Government of Canada has developed an App that assists with noting who you’ve come in contact with should they, or you, get infected. League bowlers should be encouraged to download the App as well as staff. The App can be downloaded at https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html?utm_campaign=gc-hc-sc-2021-0024-10653701173&utm_medium=search&utm_source=google-ads-104719809029&utm_content=text-en-451610636598&utm_term=covid%20application

With mitigation in place, there is still the reality that Covid-19 is very contagious. Should you find one of your employees or league bowlers has contracted the virus, bowling centre management should immediately contact their local Health Authorities to advise them of the outbreak and follow their instructions as to next steps. Any delay may further the outbreak and could be seen as negligence on behalf of the business.
ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

WHAT IT IS

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some can infect animals, and some can infect humans. COVID-19 is a new disease caused by the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019. COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020.

Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have little to no symptoms. Symptoms of COVID-19 are often similar to other illnesses.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of COVID-19 can:
- take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus
- be very mild or more serious
- vary from person to person

PREVENTION

The best way to prevent the spread of infections is to:
- practice physical distancing at all times
- stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others
- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are sick
- when coughing or sneezing:
  - cover your mouth and nose with your arm or tissues to reduce the spread of germs
  - immediately dispose of any tissues you have used into the garbage as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as toys, electronic devices and doorknobs
- wear a non-medical mask or face covering (i.e. constructed to completely cover the nose and mouth without gaping, and secured to the head by ties or ear loops) to protect the people and surfaces around you

SPREAD

Coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person through:
- respiratory droplets when you cough or sneeze
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- touching something with the virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands

These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or through water.

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If you have symptoms of COVID-19:
- stay home (isolate) to avoid spreading it to others
  - if you live with others, stay in a separate room or keep a 2-metre distance
- call ahead before you visit a health care professional or call your local public health authority
  - tell them your symptoms and follow their instructions
- if you need immediate medical attention, call 911 and tell them your symptoms

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS:

1-833-784-4397 canada.ca/coronavirus
Best Practices

Operational Considerations under the Covid-19 Pandemic (2020)
# Best Practices & Operational Considerations
## DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Bowling Centres in Canada are prepared to meet and exceed all current Public Health regulations through the following Recommended Best Practices as outlined below. Additional actions will be addressed as mandated. Bowling centres shall decide on which identified options (where noted) best fit their business model, facility layout, etc. and proceed accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REFERENCE NO.</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>PROCEDURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIGN-001</td>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>Signage to be placed in ENTRYWAY(s) indicating; 1) STOP; No entry for those displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or for any who have been outside of Canada within last 14 days 2) Physical Distancing in effect (2 m) 3) Cover coughs/sneezes (into elbow) 4) Recommend customers wear masks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN-002</td>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>Signage to be placed in CONCOURSE &amp; BOWLER AREAS; 1) Reminder; Physical Distancing in effect 2) Floor decals (or markings) for flow and spacing of customers in line 3) Do not wander into areas designated for other customers 4) Cover coughs/sneezes (into elbow crook)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN-003</td>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>Signage to be placed in RESTROOMS; 1) Reminder; Physical Distancing in effect 2) Wash hands well and for a minimum of 20 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN-004</td>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>Signage to be placed at SERVICE COUNTERS (Check In, F &amp; B); 1) Reminder; Physical Distancing in effect, follow floor markings 2) Cashless payment preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN-005</td>
<td>Signage / Audio</td>
<td>PA systems may be used to regularly reinforce safety procedures at the bowling centre that are outlined on Signage.</td>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAIN-001</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Place hand sanitizer stations at Entryways and in common areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN-002</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>CLEANING AND SANITATION: Using Health Canada, CSA or UL approved products, increase frequency throughout the day of sanitation, cleaning and disinfecting of all common area locations and touchpoints such as (but not limited to); counter surfaces, tables, public restrooms, POS systems, credit card terminals (after each use), door handles, telephones, pens, seating, scoring system buttons, ball returns, etc. Log sheets are recommended for tracking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN-003</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Remove lids on trash cans and recycle bins for non-touch access.</td>
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<tr>
<td>REFERENCE NO.</td>
<td>DEPARTMENT</td>
<td>PROCEDURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAIN-004</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Designate water fountains and coolers as “out of service” (cover or disconnect if possible) and offer bottled water only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN-005</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Arcade Games and Kiosks will be regularly and thoroughly cleaned, paying special attention to joysticks, buttons, prize slots and card readers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAFF-001</td>
<td>Workplace Safety / Staff</td>
<td>Educate staff on all changes to operations in light of Covid-19, and remind them that they, too, must adhere to guidelines for Physical Distancing, Washing, etc. as posted. Keep them updated as requirements evolve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAFF-002</td>
<td>Workplace Safety / Staff</td>
<td>Institute policy requiring staff to report exposure to Covid-19, whether symptomatic or not. Remove from schedule at once.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAFF-003</td>
<td>Workplace Safety / Staff</td>
<td>Provide staff with personal protection equipment as desired or required (masks &amp; gloves).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| STAFF-004    | Workplace Safety / Staff | • Work Stations (control counter, bar service, or food service) worked by one staff person to be disinfected prior to another staff person working that station (change of shift).  
• Where multiple staff members share a work station, the area must be cleaned regularly throughout the day and physical distancing to be maintained as much as possible. |  |
| STAFF-005    | Workplace Safety / Staff | Bowling centers may wish to (or be required to) install plexiglass or acrylic barriers at all service counters to ensure the staff member and guests remain physically distanced. Physical distancing floor markings should be installed to remind guests of in-center protocols and ensure proper customer flow. |  |
| STAFF-006    | Workplace Safety / Staff | Where possible, assign staff to consistent work crews/shifts so as to avoid cross-contamination. |  |
| BWOP-001     | Bowling Operations  | Preferred payment options to be touchless, cashless, or pre-paid.          |  |
| BWOP-002     | Bowling Operations  | Reservations are recommended. Line up distancing markers to be placed outside facility as required for walk-in traffic. |  |
| BWOP-003     | Bowling Operations  | Control / limit entry to one entryway where possible in order to best control messaging and ensure any occupancy limits set by public health agencies are observed. Where possible, prop open door to avoid customer touches on handles. |  |
| BWOP-004     | Bowling Operations  | Upon customer entry, bowling centres may choose to;                        |  |
|               |                     | • Have customers visit Front Counter for service (Physical Distancing decals/markers to control spacing and direction of flow, and barriers should be in place to protect customers/staff).  
• Have staff direct customers to their designated lane and explain system for receiving bowling shoes, balls and explain use of scoring system. In this scenario, staff will assist from an appropriate physical distance. |  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BWOP-005</th>
<th>Bowling Operations</th>
<th>Bowling balls, rental shoes and bowler area to be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Bowling balls and shoes may be left in a drop zone as decided by management, or left on the lanes for pick up by staff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BWOP-006 | Bowling Operations | **LANE ASSIGNMENTS; (updated October 2020)**  
**For NON-LEAGUE play,** bowling centres must assign lanes in a way which provides an unused lane between each group of customers in order to ensure physical distancing. The exception to this rule is where non-permeable barriers (where approved by local health authorities) are in place between one lane/settee and the next. Approved non-permeable barriers replace the need for a lane/settee to go unused to ensure distancing is maintained.  

Examples;  
1. A family of 9 is assigned lanes 5 & 6. If no approved barriers are in place, the bowling centre must ensure the required physical distancing is maintained between this family and other groups of customers, therefore requiring lane 4 and 7, and their respective settees, to remain unassigned while this group is on 5 & 6.  
2. If the same family on 5 & 6 were in a bowling centre with approved barriers separating every pair of lanes/settees, there would be a barrier between lanes 4 & 5, as well as between 6 & 7. In this case, lanes 4 and 7 could be assigned to customer use, assuming they were not exposed to other groups on lanes 3 & 8 respectively.  
3. If the same family on 5 & 6 were in a bowling centre with approved barriers every 4 lanes (barriers between lanes 4/5, 8/9, 12/13, etc.), then lane 7 would need to remain unassigned to ensure physical distancing for the family on lanes 5 & 6. Lane 8, however, could be assigned to a group of 6 or less. Lane 9, being on the other side of a barrier from 8, may also be used assuming space between them and the next group of customers on higher lanes. In the other direction, the family on 5 & 6 has a barrier between them and any group the centre may choose to assign to lane 4, which in turn will be subject to distancing being maintained from any groups on lanes 1 through 3.  

**For LEAGUE PLAY (& TOURNAMENT PLAY once approved); The same philosophy (as above) should be used for assigning lanes. Where distancing is required between teams, ensure an unassigned lane, or an approved non-permeable barrier, is used.**  
League & Tournament conditions/requirements vary by province in terms of allowed exposure to team mates, fellow league members, etc. Follow provincial guidelines to ensure league bowler safety and compliance with provincial and health authority regulations.  

- 17 -
For Bowling Centres serving Food & Beverage, Bowl Canada recommends following the Best Practices as posted by Restaurants Canada.

This document may be updated from time to time as local, provincial and federal recommendations and requirements evolve.

Bowl Canada would like to thank the following bowling centre owners/operators for their efforts on the Bowl Canada Re-Launch Committee:

**BOWL CANADA RE-LAUNCH COMMITTEE**

- **Ed Sousa (Chair)**  Classic Bowl, Mississauga, ON
- **Nat Berry**  Midtown Bowl, Timmins, ON
- **Ken Clarke**  Scottsdale Lanes, Surrey, BC
- **Leesa Cunningham**  Eastview Bowl, Saskatoon, SK
- **Jeff England**  NEB’s Funworld, Oshawa, ON
- **Marlena Ladoceur**  Bayshore Lanes, Midland, ON
- **Bob McKay**  Woodlawn Family Fun Centre, Guelph, ON
- **Jamie Newton**  Rossmere Lanes, Winnipeg, MB
- **Roy Rochette**  SDQ Le Riverain, Sainte-Catharine, QC

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Version 2 – Revised October 7, 2020
Recommended League Formats

During the Covid-19 Pandemic (2020)
Bowl Canada’s Re-Lauch committee was tasked with developing a Best Practices guide for bowling centre operations under the shadows of Covid-19. With that document in place and bowling centres beginning to open up in select provinces, the committee is now turning its attention towards other matters, including how league play will evolve to fit into the restrictions of the pandemic.

The following suggested league formats have been developed to provide options for bowling centres. We recommend proprietors review the options listed to decide which option(s) work best in their centre, taking into account the many restrictions in place in their region (fixed capacity rates, etc.), and the needs and desires of their league bowlers and league Executives.

With restrictions being regional, and regularly changing in some cases, the selected options at a particular centre may change as restrictions loosen up, or even tighten up again if a second wave hits. Keep this document for future reference should you need to change your system. Also, keep in mind that it will be available on Bowl Canada’s website (Covid-19 Resources Page) and may be updated as new options become available.

The league format options listed here were designed to disrupt the lives of your league bowlers as little as possible. Continue providing the same night out for league members if at all possible so as to minimize potential reasons for non-returns to league play.

The following examples are written up based on a 14 team league in a 14 lane centre (average Bowl Canada member centre size) but these options can be adopted to any league in any size centre. For these examples, let’s consider them a Tuesday night social league starting at 7:00pm.

We sincerely hope this proves helpful for your business.

Bowl Canada’s
Re-Lauch Committee
OPTION 1 - Split Night

- All teams bowl Tuesday night as usual
- Half the league (teams scheduled for lanes 1-3-5-7-9-11-13) bowl at 7:00pm as normal
- Lanes 2-4-6-8-10-12-14 remain “dark” for this first shift
- Teams use one lane (starting lane) for the night (ie; Team on Lane 1 bowls only on lane 1)
- When not bowling, bowlers are to sit on lane 1 seats and concourse behind their lane (bowlers should be asked to keep themselves spread out to ensure 6’ distancing)
- Bowlers should be done by 8:20pm or so, and asked to leave to make space for the second shift
- While switching out, bowlers area, ball returns and near concourse tables and seats to be disinfected
- Once disinfecting is done, second group of bowlers come in and begin their shift
- These teams bowl on lanes 2-4-6-8-10-12-14 with lanes 1-3-5-7-9-11-13 now going dark
- Staff or League Secretary to ensure stats are posted online so bowlers can see the evening’s results

OPTION 2 - Split Night w/Alternating Lanes

- Same as Option 1 above, only teams use both lanes of their scheduled pair
- When on lane 2, bowler etiquette ensures physical distancing will be maintained from bowlers on lane 3
- Stronger reminders may be needed to ensure social distancing than in Option 1
- Note that this format will likely have different timing from Option 1 in terms of finish times

OPTION 3 - Back to Back Nights

- Half the teams bowl Tuesday night as normal, the other half Monday or Wednesday as available
- To ensure matches are fair have head to head teams split with one on Tuesday and the other bowling on the alternate night on the same lanes (similarly conditioned)
- Teams use one lane (starting lane) for the night (ie; Team on Lane 1 bowls only on lane 1 only). In this instance, every other lane should be dark (lanes 2, 4, etc.). The other half of the league comes in on their alternate night and bowls on their starting lane only, and as was the case on Tuesday, every other lane remains dark (lanes 1, 3, 5, etc.)
- When not bowling, bowlers are to sit on starting lane seats and concourse behind their lane (bowlers should be asked to keep themselves spread out to ensure 6’ distancing)
- Bowlers should be done quite early and after disinfecting the ball returns, bowler seating/tables, immediate concourse, etc., the bowling centre can open up for Open Play, or a second league if possible. Keep in mind, you may need to double shift under this format to accommodate all leagues
- Bowling centre/League Secretary to ensure stats are posted shortly after the second night of the week’s competition so bowlers can keep interest in the results
OPTION 4 - Back to Back Nights w/ Alternating Lanes

- Same as Option 3 above, only teams use both lanes of their scheduled pair
- When on lane 2, bowler etiquette ensures physical distancing will be maintained from bowlers on lane 3
- Stronger reminders may be needed to ensure social distancing than in Option 3
- Note that this format will likely have different timing from Option 3 in terms of finish times

OPTION 5 - Head to Head (split shift)
(May be a better option for when distancing requirements are softened)

- All teams bowl Tuesday night as usual
- Teams competing with each other on the night’s schedule to bowl together on a traditional pair under traditional league format
- Teams can bowl 1 frame at a time, or PBA/Match Play style (2 frames at a time) to quicken the pace and keep bowlers crossing paths to a minimum
- Half the Team match-ups bowl in the first shift at 7:00pm (usual time) with;
  - match 1 on lanes 1-2.... Lanes 3-4 are dark
  - match 2 on lanes 5-6.... Lanes 7-8 are dark
  - match 3 on lanes 9-10.... Lanes 11-12 are dark
  - match 4 on lanes 13-14
- The remaining team match-ups bowl in the second shift, with;
  - Lanes 1-2 are dark.... match 5 on lanes 3-4
  - Lanes 5-6 are dark.... match 6 on lanes 7-8
  - Lanes 9-10 are dark.... match 7 on lanes 11-12

  NOTE: This format will bring twice the number of bowlers onto a pair, so traditional timing for each shift can be assumed. This means you’ll need to ensure you have time for 2 full shifts and be aware that your bowlers may not like the later night when they are on second shift
- For seating, let’s use match 1 for example, on lanes 1 and 2. Team A bowlers can sit on lane 1 seats and concourse behind their lane. Team B bowlers can sit on lane 3 seats (remember, 3 and 4 are dark) as well as in the concourse behind lane 3. In both cases, bowlers should be asked to keep themselves spread out to ensure 6’ distancing. Note, the team on lane 14 cannot sit on lane 15 if you don’t have a lane 15, so you may need to make adjustments
- While switching out shifts; bowlers area, ball returns and near concourse tables / seats to be disinfected
- Once disinfecting is done, teams on the second set of matches come in and begin their shift (if on the same night)

OPTION 6 - Head to Head (alternate nights)
(May be a better option for when distancing requirements are softened)

- Same as Option 5 above, only instead of having a second shift on the same night, move the late shift to an adjoining night if possible (Monday or Wednesday for example) so as to avoid bowlers complaints about later nights
Recommended League Formats
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

OPTION 7 - Head to Head (Full out!)
(May only be permitted as distancing requirements are minimized from current levels)

- Same as Option 5 above, only no dark lanes, and no shifts. Essentially, Option 7 is a standard League Night in which bowlers are required to spread out for limited physical distancing (to whatever the requirements are at the time) rather than sit together in the settees.

A NOTE ABOUT RESUMING LEAGUE PLAY

Early reports of re-openings across Canada indicate that it is the league bowlers who are first to return to bowling centres once reopened. These are the customers who are dedicated to the sport and anxious to return to their second home... your bowling centre.

Having said that, not all have this level of dedication. Proprietors should take a measure of how their leagues wish to re-start their experience. It is recommended that management keep in regular contact with their league executives, updating them on expected plans, anticipated challenges, etc. This will give you an opportunity to hear about their wishes and expectations, and give you a heads up on any challenges you may face getting them back up and running.

Depending upon when leagues will be able to run in your region, you may wish to guide your leagues towards restarting as follows;

- If your leagues have not finalized their 2019-20 season, proprietors may want to encourage them to, upon return to league sessions, complete the season, or go straight to 2019-20 Play-Offs. This allows leagues to have closure on last year’s efforts, and to finalize records, prize funds, league championship histories, etc. Bowlers may be hesitant about doing this, or even refuse to participate. As above, communication with your leagues in advance will guide you into setting things up to work for both the bowling centre and the league customer base. And keep in mind that each of your leagues may have a different plan in mind as to how they return to play.

- If your leagues are happy to finish off last season first, you can then decide whether or not to move into a full or condensed 2020-21 season. Again this may be best decided in conjunction with your league executives, and you may need to have a unique approach for each league.

We wish you the best of luck with resuming League Play at your centre, and hope the attached format options give your customers comfort and a sense of security about enjoying their time on the lanes.
APPENDIX D
Customer Cooperation

LET’s ALL WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

All customers are asked to cooperate with management to ensure your experience on the lanes is both safe and fun for all. Customers are asked to;

- NOT ENTER if you are feeling unwell, regardless of the symptoms
- Use facial coverings (masks) if they are either recommended or mandated in your region
- Disinfect your hands prior to entering the centre and wash your hands well and regularly
- Arrive no more than 5 minutes before your scheduled time, and leave promptly when you are finished. If a waiting area has been dedicated, please follow management directions and maintain physical distancing
- Practice physical distancing by staying a minimum of two metres away from each other at all times
- Follow all rules and protocols as posted throughout the bowling centre
- Where coaches are utilized, they should maintain physical distancing practices, and should not share equipment with participants. Coaches must adhere to all return to play protocols
- Use your own bowling balls if you have them. If you do not own your own bowling balls please follow the posted safety protocols for using house balls where available
- Bring your own towel if desired, and do not share it with other customers
- Do not share equipment
- Do not high five or otherwise make direct contact
- Do not visit with other people; stick to your assigned lane and maintain physical distancing
- Do not bring visitors with you to your scheduled bowling time slot
- Do not loiter in the parking lot before or after you have finished bowling