

COVID – 19 Safety Plan for Re-opening of the TBA

The TBA will do its best to provide a safe environment in which its members can return to playing face to face bridge in accordance with Tasmanian Government regulations.

The provision of such an environment is based on the guidelines provided by the Tasmanian Department of Justice and WorkSafe Tasmanian in its COVID-19 Safety Plan Version 2.0 18 May 2020.

There are six minimum standards prescribed in the Work Health and Safety Regulations.

These are :

- Cleaning and Hygiene
- Restrictions on Entry to the TBA
- Physical Distancing at the TBA
- Instruction, Training and Supervision of Policy
- Managing Risks to Health and Safety at the TBA
- Responding to an Incident of COVID-19 at the TBA.

Cleaning and Hygiene

The TBA is cleaned daily from Monday to Friday, with additional cleaning on the weekend if there are special events scheduled.

In addition to the regular cleaning schedule, the cleaners will :

1. sanitise all handles on a daily basis as part of their normal cleaning tasks. Cleaning will be done in accordance with the published COVID19 cleaning guidelines which have been provided to our cleaners.
2. Wipe down the member's keyboard and photocopier with a disinfectant towel

Directors should wipe down the keyboard of the Director's computer and the TBA mobile phone at the completion of their session.

Dealers should wipe down the dealing machine and dealing room keyboard before and after use.

The TBA will affix relevant posters with regard to hand washing in the bathrooms, kitchen and entry points to the TBA clubroom.

Members will be asked to wipe down the hard surfaces of their chairs with antiseptic wipes at the end of the Wednesday and Thursday morning sessions.

Restrictions on Entry to the TBA

All members will be required to provide an undertaking that they will not attend the club if they feeling unwell or are required to isolate or quarantine. These undertakings will be maintained at the TBA and will need to be updated on an annual basis. At the beginning of each session, the Director will check with participants that they have completed the COVID-19 Safety Plan Undertaking Form.

The session Director, or a designated volunteer will measure the temperature of everyone intending to participate in the session, prior to them being permitted to play.

The Director may deny permission to play to anyone displaying symptoms such as infectious coughing, sneezing or fever.

All members will be required to sanitise their hands on their way into the club, prior to being granted permission to participate in that session.

If a Director is required to isolate or quarantine, they will be replaced by another director not subject to those requirements. A session may be cancelled at late notice if it cannot be suitably staffed.

It should be noted that participation in a TBA session is always voluntary.

Physical Distancing at the TBA

The size of our club room means that we can accommodate up to 50 people under the 4 square metre rule. Sessions will consequently need to be reduced to that level of participation whilst COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

If we join 4 tables together, and chairs are positioned 30 cm from the table, this will give a safe distance of at least 1.5m between the North or South and East/West players. This will limit the number of tables to twelve, but means that 48 people could play rather than none. Our bidding boxes will mean that bids are visible from the greater distance, but it will be an inconvenient arrangement.

We will retain a 1.5m measuring stick at the club for use when necessary in situating furniture.

Large Sessions

On Monday nights and Thursday mornings we recommend player registration in case there is large demand for these sessions. We will conduct a parallel online session for those unable to be accommodated at the TBA or for those who choose to stay at home.

Wednesday Supervised Section

The Wednesday morning supervised section will be changed from Wednesday morning 10.00am to an online session run by Sue Falkingham on Wednesday afternoons commencing at 1.15pm.

Crossover Sessions

On Thursdays, when there is a crossover between the morning and afternoon attendees, a one way traffic movement will be instituted, whereby the morning session will be asked to exit through the rear emergency door. It would assist safe physical distancing if people tried not to return to their cars after they have arrived whilst others are entering the building.

Coffee Preparation

Members will need to exercise common sense with regard to physical distancing in the coffee preparation area and maintain 1.5m separation as much as possible. It should be noted that where physical distancing cannot be maintained in this area, close proximity is likely to be minimal and fleeting.

Training, Instruction and Ongoing Policy Communication

This policy has been devised in consultation and with guidance from TBA Members, Directors, the ABF and published Tasmanian Government guidelines. This policy will be emailed to all members prior to the TBA re-opening, posted on our web site and displayed in hard copy on the club noticeboard.

Prior to re-opening there will be a Director's training session to ensure that Directors are informed of their rights and responsibilities around the risks of COVID-19.

Posters reminding TBA members about safe physical distancing will be displayed at the Club.

Managing Risks to Health and Safety

There is no requirement for any Director or TBA Member to attend the club if they are feeling unwell. In fact, all Directors and TBA Members will be required to sign an undertaking that they will NOT attend the club if they are feeling unwell or are subject to isolation or quarantine requirements.

Risks of Transmission of COVID-19 at the TBA

1. Shared Cups and Glasses

Our domestic dishwasher, is not adequate to properly disinfect crockery and cutlery under the current circumstances. Consequently, whilst COVID-19 restrictions apply (or until we purchase a commercial dishwasher), players should bring their own water bottles and coffee mugs. These should be taken home at the end of the session for washing at home.

2. Shared Cards, Boards and Bidding Boxes

During a session, cards and boards are passed from one table to another. If COVID-19 virus is present at the TBA it will be easily spread via boards and cards. All boards and cards are virus free at this stage and can be kept that way by everyone sanitising their hands prior to the commencement of any session. This is why the emphasis has been placed on the sanitising of hands and why sanitising is mandatory prior to the participation in any session. In addition, hand sanitiser will be available on every side table, enabling additional hand sanitising to be carried out at will.

Moving pairs will take their bidding boxes with them when they change tables and retain them for the entire session.

A second set of bidding boxes will be available on the side tables for use in sessions which closely follow each other.

Director's will note the date that the set of boards has been used on the hand record prior to replacement in the dealing room.

This will minimise the possibility of transmission of the virus via cards, bidding boxes or boards.

3. Handling of cash

Whilst COVID-19 restrictions apply, players are encouraged to purchase cashless vouchers or bring the correct table money with them. This will minimise the risk of infection spread via the giving of change. Directors are reminded to sanitise their hands after cash handling, or use disposable gloves to handle the table money collection.

4. Borrowed equipment

Whilst COVID-19 restrictions apply, members will not be able to borrow books and equipment. Member can still purchase books and DVDs from the shared bookshelf, but these can only be recirculated via the donation quarantine tub. Similarly, any donations of books and DVDs should be via the quarantine tub, where they will be rested prior to going on the shelf.

Contact tracing

We have the additional benefit of highly effective contact tracing via the Pianola and CS2 applications which record and retain the names of all people who attended a session.

Responding to an incident of COVID19 at the TBA

Should there be an incident of COVID-19 at the TBA, the TBA will immediately cease operations for a minimum period of 21 days to enable cleaning, contact tracing and quarantining to occur.

Should there be an incident of COVID-19 at the TBA, the TBA will immediately contact the Tasmanian Department of Health and provide our contact tracing information to them.

Should there be an incident of COVID-19 at the TBA, the TBA will abide by any recommendations or instructions given to them by the Tasmanian Dept of health.

In an abundance of caution, the TBA Management Committee may decide to close the Club again in the case of evidence of any uncontained community transmission of COVID19.

Review Process

In order to ensure that the TBA's COVID-19 Safety Plan continues to meet minimum requirements for risk management at the TBA, the plan will be reviewed monthly as part of the TBA Management Committee meeting.

Approvals

This COVID-19 safety Plan approved by the TBA Management Committee on June 20th 2020 for implementation prior to the re-opening of the TBA.