



ENGLISH PARTNERSHIP FOR
SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS

EPSB Return to Play



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Covid-19 Local Restriction Tiers – Overview

The UK Government has announced that a revised local restriction tier system will be introduced from 2 December 2020. You can read more about these tiers at the [government website](#) and their implications for day to day life.

Below we outline how these tiers affect our [existing EPSB guidance](#) and the measures that we advise all snooker facilities to follow.

As with all EPSB COVID guidance we strongly advise all facilities to consult with their Local Authority and Health and Safety Executive.

Tier 1: Medium alert

National restrictions including the 'rule of 6' continue to be in place and therefore our main [facility re-opening guidance](#) continues to apply with the revision that clubs providing hospitality must close their hospitality areas between 11pm and 5am and stop taking orders after 10pm.

Snooker tables can continue to be used outside these times.

Tier 2: High alert

Our existing EPSB guidance continues to apply EXCEPT for the following points based upon government policy (**bold**):

“In tier two areas, indoor sport can take place within households, and people can take part in group activity like exercise classes as long as there is no mixing between households. People can play certain sports which do not involve close proximity or physical contact against one person from another household, such as a singles tennis match or badminton match.” Source: [Press Release](#), 23 November 2020, Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden.

Any snooker activity (match play or practice) on one table therefore must involve no more than two households.

Snooker is an indoor sport that does not involve close proximity or physical contact. Clubs must continue to follow our [EPSB's Covid-19 Guidance](#) so that the playing environment is Covid-secure.

Adult group coaching cannot take place under this guidance. However, one-to-one coaching can resume. The coaching of groups of junior and disabled players may also continue in line with previous guidance, as U18s and disabled people are exempt from these restrictions.

Tier 3: Very High alert

This is for areas with a very high or very rapidly rising level of infections, where tighter restrictions are in place.

“...indoor entertainment and tourist venues must close. This includes... snooker halls.” Source: [‘Local restriction tiers: what you need to know’](#), 23 November, Department of Health and Social Care.

Unfortunately, this means that snooker clubs in Tier 3 areas must remain closed for the time being. The EPSB continues to seek clarity from the UK government on this policy.

What level is my area?

You can check the local restriction tier in your area from 26 November 2020 at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>