



COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines

3 June 2020





COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines for Continued Play

Last updated 3 June 2020

We all know tennis is a unique sport with many benefits – the main one being health and wellbeing.

The **COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines for Continued Play** provide details on how outdoor courts can remain open for use to help ensure people remain active, subject to strict social distancing and hygiene practices being implemented.

Tennis clubs, coaches and operators across the country are all different and operate in different local contexts. They are also independent organisations and businesses. Making an assessment of whether a safe exercise environment can be provided also depends on a range of factors, which will apply differently at each venue – it is the responsibility of each coach, club and operator to make that assessment based on their local environment.



COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines v8

These guidelines have been developed to reduce the likelihood of spreading the COVID-19 virus through tennis. Before attending a tennis venue or playing tennis, you should consider your individual situation noting that the COVID-19 virus can spread very quickly and result in very serious medical complications in some people. Like any activities, there are some inherent risks involved and by participating you are accepting those risks.

COVIDSafe

Tennis encourages all participants to download the COVIDSafe app to help speed up the process of identifying anyone who has been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

Learn more: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app>

All clubs & coaches must maintain attendance records of people attending their venue for the purpose of contact tracing.

Under the WA Government's COVID Roadmap, each business and community facility will need to prepare a [COVID Safety Plan](#) and display a COVID Safety Plan Certificate. You will also need to ensure your COVID safety plan is available for inspection by authorized offices.

Before you play

You must stay at home if you:

- Have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have been overseas or exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have flu-like symptoms

Social distancing & Public Gatherings

Tennis holds a unique advantage as a sport which requires no direct contact between players. You should also:

- Maintain a strict limit of a minimum of 2 square metres per person.
- Ensure a maximum of 100 people per single undivided space, up to 300 patrons per venue.
- Instructors, trainers, coaches and general venue staff are not included in the 100/300 person count.
- Players, customers, patrons, participants, parents and spectators are included in the count.
- Maintain 1.5 metre separation between people who are not from the same household.
- Keep 1.5 metres away from other people while watching or attending an outdoors tennis activity and avoid close contact by moving around indoors
- Touch racquets instead of the regular pre or post match handshakes



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Personal behaviours

To protect against infection, you should:

- Wash/sterilise your hands before and after you play and avoid touching your face while playing
- Not share water bottles or towels. Bring your own full bottle and towel
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand-sanitiser when available, before and after eating, after going to the toilet, sneezing and coughing
- Cover your coughs and sneezes and dispose of any used tissue immediately
- Avoid touching your face
- Keep your distance from people who are obviously sick

Coaching

- Maintain attendance records of participants for the purposes of contact tracing
- Position your participants at well-spaced stations - Maintain a strict limit of a minimum of 2 square metres per person.
- Maintain social distancing at all times including when giving feedback and while players are resting
- Ensure thorough and regular cleaning of any equipment and high touch items
- Implement a 15-minute buffer between participants, to ensure equipment can be cleaned
- Payments to be made online via EFTPOS – avoid handling cash.

Tennis equipment

There is no specific evidence that balls can spread COVID-19. We do know that respiratory droplet contamination on hard surfaces can potentially survive for some time. Therefore, you should:

- Make sure you clean your hands before and after coming off the court
- Not touch your face after touching a ball, racquet or other shared tennis equipment
- Sanitise hands at regular intervals while on court
- Use new balls and racquet grips where possible
- Use fewer balls per session
- Replace all balls if someone with/suspected to have COVID-19 comes in contact with them
- Restrict balls to a particular person, court or day of the week. One idea is to label them with a permanent marker
- Clean all shared tennis gear before and after use with alcohol-based disinfectant including ball tins, any shared racquets, coaching gear such as target cones
- Avoid using unnecessary equipment such as drop down lines. If this type of equipment is used, they must be positioned and removed by a coach/supervisor and cleaned between use.

Organising tennis activities

- Implement a 15-minute buffer between participants, to ensure equipment can be cleaned
- Limit the number of players per court
- Promote prevention techniques and lead by example
- Implement ways to minimise contact for both participants and staff
- Plan for staff/volunteers to supervise activities
- Keep your team and your participants informed of the actions you're taking
- Keep records of who attends your activities and their contact details
- Payments to be made online or via EFTPOS – avoid handling cash



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- Leave gates ajar during opening hours so players don't need to touch handles to enter. If using Book a Court, provide sanitising facilities at the gate for cleaning each time the pin pad and gate is used, and put a notice up to this effect.

Venues

- Follow [Department of Health](#) guidelines
- As under the previous phase, outdoor sporting facilities including ovals or multi-court venues will be able to be zoned, provided a maximum cumulative limit of 300 persons per outdoor facility is maintained and there is 2sqm of space per person
- Venues with both indoor and outdoor components have a cumulative limit of 300 persons in total – which is again contingent on the 2sqm of space per person rule being met
- Clubrooms can open but must comply with gathering restrictions which require at least 2 square metres per person, up to a maximum of 100 patrons per single undivided space, up to 300 patrons per venue.
- Meals can be served as can alcoholic beverages without a meal. Patrons must be seated while consuming alcohol. Patrons should practice physical distancing by keeping 1.5 metres from patrons from other households.
- Changerooms, Toilets and shower facilities will be able to open, but should be cleaned regularly and thoroughly.
- If professionally operated café's, bars and canteens are in operation, all staff are to complete the mandatory [AHA Hospitality and Tourism COVID-19 Hygiene Course](#)
- Remove all soft furnishings such as seat cushions.

Clean environment

Providing a clean environment to play tennis in is essential. Make sure you:

- Ensure thorough and regular cleaning of common contact surfaces, 'high touch' items and shared amenities, such as handles, taps, lunch rooms, EFTPOS keypads and toilets.
- Provide soap, hand-sanitiser or wipes at all main contact points
- Clean all surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and tables, at least once a day wearing disposable gloves
- Clean any surfaces which may have blood, body fluids and/or secretions or excretions on them
- Regularly remind and encourage everyone, particularly juniors, of the need to wash hands regularly and adopt the other principles of a good hygiene strategy
- Display signage about handwashing and hygiene techniques at strategic points like all sinks, eating areas, drinking areas and on the side of court.