



RETURN TO TENNIS TOOLKIT

COVID-19 Return to Tennis Guidelines

TENNIS VICTORIA

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Introduction

From 22 June 2020, COVID-19 restrictions in the State of Victoria have been eased such that tennis can be delivered more or less as it was Pre-COVID-19, with physical distancing and hygiene protocols integrated as a 'new normal' for the foreseeable future. There are also one or two things still not allowed such as large social gatherings and large groups of spectators.

What is the purpose of this document?

The Tennis Victoria **Return to Tennis Guidelines** have been updated to provide a simple list of things which must be adhered to in the normal run of play. For clarity, the Guidelines also highlight some things which are still NOT permitted due to COVID-19 State-wide restrictions.

When do these Guidelines come into effect?

This version of the Guidelines comes into effect **22 June 2020** and is provided in advance to help tennis clubs, associations, councils, coaches and operators to prepare. This version includes updates as per updated restrictions issues from [DHHS Restricted Activities Directions 10](#).

Following the State Government announcement on **30 July 2020**, from 11.59pm 2 August 2020, face coverings will be mandatory for all of Victoria. This means participants 12 years and older must wear a face covering, unless an exemption applies. If you are doing strenuous physical exercise you do not need to wear a face covering but you must carry one with you. Strenuous exercise can include playing tennis.

Who are these Guidelines for?

These guidelines may be useful for both those **people responsible for delivering tennis**, and for **players of the sport**. People responsible for running tennis clubs/centres/associations and/or coaching should read these guidelines in conjunction with the Tennis Victoria [Return to Tennis Checklist](#) and the [Return to Community Tennis Competition Checklist](#).

What else do I need to know?

Whilst we have tried to capture everything you need to know in this document, this remains an evolving situation. Please continue to refer to the [Tennis Victoria website](#) regularly for further updates.



Essential Information

Please stay at home if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days or have even mild flu-like symptoms. If you are in a [high risk health](#) category please do not take unnecessary risks.

Safety and Hygiene

The following must be adhered to at all times and in all situations:

- As a general rule, **Get in. Play. Get out.**
- Maintain 1.5 metres physical distancing at all times.
- No more than 1 person per 4m² while attending / taking part in a tennis activity.
- No handshakes or High Fives, try tapping racquets instead.
- Wash/sterilise your hands before and after you play
- Avoid touching your face while playing.
- Bring your own, full, water bottle and don't share.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow
- Be aware of what surfaces you touch and ensure you clean them after play.
- If possible, leave gates ajar during opening hours so players do not need to use handles or keypads to enter.
- Ensure coaching activity can be conducted with adequate spacing (not more than 1 person per 4m²).
- Participants 12 years and older must wear a face covering, unless an exemption applies. If you are doing strenuous physical exercise you do not need to wear a face covering but you must carry one with you. Strenuous exercise can include playing tennis.

Tennis activities that ARE permitted from 22 June 2020

- **Outdoor tennis** in multiple groups of up to 20 whilst physical distancing.
- **Indoor tennis** with a maximum 20 people per space or zone, with up to 10 people per group. To be considered a zone, the area must be for the exclusive use of a group and be no less than 200 square metres. For example, a large indoor court could be separated into two zones for different groups at each end. Signage must be displayed at the entry to each indoor zone or indoor space outlining the maximum number of people allowed at a single time.
- **Competition** is permitted. Anyone responsible for running tennis competitions should refer to and implement the [Return to Community Tennis Competition Checklist](#). Anyone playing competition is asked to observe the following:
 - Maintain physical distancing at all times.
 - Use hand sanitiser before and after matches.
 - Change ends using opposite sides of the net.
 - One player to keep score either via mobile device or scorecard.
 - Avoid the use of courtside chairs/benches. If used, please sanitise after use.
 - One person to use a court bagger for the entirety of the match. Sanitise the handle after use.

Every club playing competition should publish their COVID-19 management guidelines for competitors to review prior to playing at the venue. As a player, it is your responsibility to ensure you abide by each club's guidelines.

- **Spectators** are allowed if the venue is big enough. Spectators must be physical distancing (1.5m apart and only 1 person per 4m²) and in groups of 10 or less. Groups of 10 people, must be well spaced out from another group of 10 people. Most tennis venues in Victoria will not be able to accommodate this safely so Tennis Victoria recommends that only people



core to playing or coaching should be at the venue. This includes at least one parent/guardian of younger children who must have line of sight of their child for the duration of the tennis activity, to comply with Child Safety guidelines.

Venues

- Change rooms and showers can be open.
- Clubrooms can now open for indoor and outdoor tennis clubs applying the 4m2 rule to each enclosed space. Signage must be displayed at the entry to each indoor space outlining the maximum number of people allowed at a single time.
- Restaurants or cafes within tennis venues must adhere to [Victorian Government restrictions on restaurants and cafes.](#)
- Display signage about handwashing and hygiene techniques at strategic points like gate entry, on the side of all courts, entrances to toilets and by all sinks.
- Have regular cleaning protocols in place for equipment and facilities.

Contact tracing

- It is essential that all venues keep a record of everyone who enters. For competitions, the Match Centre competition management system (or equivalent software) will assist with this process.
 - Name
 - Phone number
 - Date and time of attendance

Tennis and tennis related activities that are NOT permitted at this time:

- After play social events for more than 20 people and/or where physical distancing can not be supported.
- Large spectator groups of more than 20 people and/or where physical distancing can not be supported.

Other Considerations

You may want to encourage facility users to download the COVIDSafe app to assist with participant tracking in the case of a positive COVID-19 test result of a participant.

At all times, sport and recreation organisations must respond to the directives of Public Health Authorities. Localised outbreaks may require sporting organisations to again restrict activity and those organisations must be ready to respond accordingly. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a sporting or recreation club or organisation will result in a standard public health response, which could include quarantine of an individual or large group, and close contacts, for the required period.