

RETURN TO TENNIS COMPETITION

GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

In order to facilitate a fast and safe return to tennis, National Associations should maintain a proactive approach to promoting a return to competition. The following suggestions will help to make that return happen as soon as possible.

- Maintain regular contact with local, regional and national authorities (as appropriate and at a personal level if possible) to:
 - Ensure that the latest information on movement restrictions, particularly in relation to the organisation of sports competitions is obtained;
 - Ensure compliance with all official advice;
 - Promote tennis as a sport that can be played with social distancing and should be among the first sports permitted when movement restrictions are relaxed;
- Issue guidance for safe participation to:
 - Players;
 - Officials;
 - Clubs and event organisers;
 - Spectators;
 - Tournament staff, including medical personnel.
- Display notices clearly around venues, including at entry/exit points, gathering points and around every court.
- Display notices and advice clearly on organisation and tournament websites.
- Advise 'at-risk' groups to not participate or attend venues.
- Advise those with COVID-19 symptoms and those who have come into contact with anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to not attend venues.
- Inform the ITF when movement restrictions are relaxed and tennis can be played, whether at recreational or competition levels.
- Inform the ITF (covid19@itftennis.com) of all national-level events that are organised in your nation.

SAFETY DURING TENNIS COMPETITION

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- Pre-competition:
 - Reduce injury risk through conditioning prior;
 - Consider playing recreationally against members of your household if possible, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19;
 - Do not play if you or members of your household have any COVID-19 symptoms, have been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms, are self-isolating or are 'at-risk'.
- Implement social distancing during competition at all times, including:
 - Arrive at the venue dressed for your match shortly before your allotted start time and depart the venue immediately after the match. Do not use the locker rooms or showers;
 - Wear gloves (officials);
 - Wear masks while off-court;
 - Players and officials should maintain at least 2 metres between each other;
 - Do not shake hands with players/opponents or have any other physical/close contact before, during or after a match;
 - Each player should use his/her own set of (separately numbered) balls. Balls should be used for one match only;
 - Implement the revised ITF 'towel policy';
 - At changeovers, go around opposite sides of the net;
 - Do not sign autographs or take selfies with fans.
 - Do not share any equipment or other items (racket, water bottles, food) with teammates or opponents;
- Observe good hygiene:
 - Avoid touching surfaces where possible;
 - Wash/sanitise your hands regularly, including before and after bathroom use, and after touching surfaces;
 - Cough into a tissue and discard it immediately;
 - Don't touch your face.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of a competition, inform the Tournament Director and the ITF at (covid19@itftennis.com).

SAFETY DURING TENNIS COMPETITION

SPECTATORS

Spectators (notices to be posted in prominent locations)

- Implement social distancing:
 - Ensure that all government restrictions are followed. This may mean limiting the number of spectators or playing 'behind closed doors';
 - Require spectators to wear masks in accordance with local guidance or requirements;
 - Maintain 2 metres from other spectators in seating areas. If this is impractical, play 'behind closed doors';
 - Maintain physical separation when using toilets and purchasing items (separation distances could be marked to encourage compliance);
 - Encourage spectators to depart the venue immediately following completion of the match(es) they are interested in.

- Observe good hygiene:
 - Discourage touching surfaces where possible;
 - Encourage washing/sanitising of hands regularly, including pre- and post-bathroom use, and after touching shared surfaces;
 - Advise coughing into tissue and discarding them immediately;
 - Advise not touching their own faces.

- In case any spectator experiences COVID-19 symptoms while on-site:
 - The Tournament Director must be informed;
 - The person must be taken to an isolation room and examined by the Tournament Doctor.
 - If the Tournament Doctor suspects COVID-19, then an evacuation procedure should be implemented to ensure the safe transport of the spectator off the site and to the appropriate location;
 - Any spectator(s) seated close (within 3 metres) of that spectator should be located and informed of the suspected case and asked to leave the venue and monitor their health;
 - Relevant parts of the venue should be disinfected prior to further use.

- Advise all spectators who have COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of attending a tournament to inform the Tournament Director for appropriate follow-up.

SAFETY DURING TENNIS COMPETITION

EVENT ORGANISERS

- Assess the risks of organising competitions in your location. Only organise events when permitted by local or national authorities.
- If necessary, play 'behind closed doors' or with limited spectators to comply with restrictions on mass gatherings.
- Do not permit players, officials, staff or spectators who have had COVID-19 symptoms, or who have been in contact with someone who has had COVID-19 in the last 14 days to attend the venue.
- Advise 'at-risk' groups to not participate or attend venues;
- Plan for staff absences. Maintain all staff contact details for contact tracing.
- Split officials into two teams, each working separate days (if a member of one team is infected, then the other team works for the remainder of the event).
- Keep office windows open where possible.
- Implement social distancing:
 - Organise singles competitions only;
 - Mark out separation distances in toilets, at food outlets and other locations where people gather, including tournament offices;
 - Ensure players arrive shortly before their matches, dressed to play, and depart immediately afterwards. Do not use locker rooms or showers;
 - Separate on-court chairs by 2 metres;
 - Separate all spectators by 2 metres where possible;
- Facilitate good hygiene:
 - Clean the venue daily; regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces;
 - Provide sanitising gel at all entry/exit points;
 - Provide all players, officials and staff with masks and latex gloves;
 - Provide containers to dispose of contaminated items, tissues and used personal protective equipment. Dispose of these safely.
- Provide medical support:
 - Ensure that the on-site doctor has adequate supplies of Personal Protective Equipment, and an infra-red thermometer;
 - Provide an isolation room for suspected COVID-19 cases;
 - Check the temperature of all players, officials and staff daily; establish a procedure for dealing with on-site COVID-19 cases (isolation location; medical screening; communication flow; transport from site);
 - Report all suspected COVID-19 cases to the ITF at (covid19@itftennis.com).

SAFETY DURING TENNIS COMPETITION

TOURNAMENT STAFF (INCLUDING MEDICAL PERSONNEL)

- Implement social distancing, including:
 - Maintain 2 metres from other staff members at all times (indoors and outdoors).
- Observe good hygiene:
 - Wear masks at all times;
 - Wash/sanitise your hands regularly, including before and after bathroom use, and after touching surfaces;
 - Avoid touching surfaces where possible;
 - Disinfect your desk area regularly, including telephone and computer keyboard;
 - Cough into a tissue and discard it immediately;
 - Don't touch your face;
 - Do not share any personal items.
- Do not attend the venue if you experience COVID-19 symptoms, or if you come into contact with anyone who has symptoms. Inform the Tournament Director and seek medical advice, as appropriate.
- Medical staff:
 - Prepare isolation room for suspected COVID-19 cases;
 - Maintain adequate supplies of Personal Protective Equipment, and an infra-red thermometer;
 - Establish a procedure for dealing with on-site COVID-19 cases, to include isolation, medical screening, communication flow, transport from site;
 - Report all suspected COVID-19 cases to the ITF at (covid19@itftennis.com).