



**COVID-19**

# TENNIS CANADA ISSUES TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLUB ADMINISTRATORS, COACHES AND ANYONE ORGANIZING TENNIS ACTIVITIES

In light of a gradual return to playing tennis across the country, Tennis Canada is issuing its recommendations for club administrators, coaches and anyone organizing tennis-related activities.

With a situation that evolves each day and differs in different provinces, regions and municipalities, Tennis Canada believes that it is the responsibility of the people organizing tennis-related activities to evaluate the possibility of providing a safe environment for players. Here are a few measures and precautions to take before organizing a tennis activity.

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## ORGANIZING A TENNIS ACTIVITY IN YOUR FACILITY

- > The activity must always comply with the social distancing measures and recommendations issued by federal and provincial government authorities, including the arrival and departure of players.
- > Limit your activities to court rentals, private lessons or lessons with small groups.
- > Make sure to stagger booking times between different court rentals to create a buffer between sessions and avoid an overlap of players on the court.
- > When possible, online reservations and payments are recommended. Otherwise, payments using a card are strongly recommended.
- > Limit all occasions for gatherings by making all communal or public areas in your facility inaccessible.
- > Limit yourself to the minimum number of employees required to operate.
- > Communicate all hygiene measures in advance to all your clients.
- > Provide your employees with masks, gloves and all other protective items and ensure that each member of your staff washes their hands regularly.
- > Keep a record of all clients who come in, so that you can contact them if needed, for example, if an infected person should use your facility.
- > Ask players under the age of 18 for a written consent from a parent/guardian authorizing them to participate in their tennis session.

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## ENCOURAGE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- > Encourage clients to respect social distancing of 2 metres, recommended by government authorities.
- > If possible, use only every second court.
- > Ask players to remain on the same side of the court and avoid changing ends.
- > Put in place measures to limit contact between clients and employees.
- > Recommend that only one parent/guardian accompany a junior player.



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## PROVIDE A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Clubs and sporting facilities must have operational security procedures in place during the crisis related to COVID-19. These procedures must also be well displayed and communicated to all users.

- > Delimit closed areas or the ones where a maximum number of people is required.
- > Use markings on the ground to indicate proper distancing from employees, for example at the reception.
- > Frequently clean all surfaces, including counters, door handles, benches, toilets, etc.
- > All chairs and tables in communal areas must be inaccessible or removed to avoid all gatherings.
- > All doors accessible to the public must remain open to avoid contact with door handles.
- > All score cards must be removed.
- > Soap or hand sanitizer must be made available to all clients in various locations throughout the facility.
- > Regularly remind and encourage clients to wash their hands and adopt proper hygiene practices.
- > Limit access to the locker rooms as much as possible.
- > Only accept payments by card.
- > Close all water fountains and ask that all players bring their own refreshments.

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## COACHING

- > To ensure social distancing, group lessons should be limited to a maximum of four players per court.
- > As much as possible, coaches must try to remain on the same court and adjust their schedules in order to stay on-site for the minimum amount of time required.
- > Position players in designated and well spaced-out stations.
- > Exercises that require continuous play are recommended, as opposed to ones that require the use of an entire basket of balls.
- > Limit the use of equipment such as cones and targets.
- > Do not let players manipulate the practice equipment. Coaches should take charge of picking up the balls.
- > Encourage players to use their racquet or their foot to push balls back.

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## TENNIS BALLS

- > Exercise caution with tennis balls and ask players to avoid touching them. While there is still no evidence as to whether the virus can live on a tennis ball, we do know that contamination through respiratory droplets from one infected person to another can potentially survive on surfaces for up to three days.
- > Try to restrict balls to one particular group, court or even day of the week. We invite you to identify them with a marker.
- > Immediately replace all balls if a player is suspected to have been infected by COVID-19.
- > Consider spraying tennis balls with a disinfectant spray after a session. The use of new balls on a regular basis is strongly recommended.

