



RETURN TO TENNIS TOOLKIT

COVID-19 Return to Tennis Guidelines

TENNIS VICTORIA

PUBLISHED: 12 May 2020





How to Use the Return to Tennis Guidelines

Last updated 12 May 2020

The **Return to Tennis guidelines** are designed to support anyone involved in delivering or playing tennis to do so within current Federal and State COVID-19 Restrictions. Tennis has an important role to play in helping people be active in this new phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic, as long as Government restrictions are adhered to and public health and safety is considered a top priority. We hope these guidelines, read in conjunction with our Return to Play Checklist and other resources, will help you get back to playing tennis as safely as possible if you choose to.

This is an evolving situation, please refer to the [Tennis Victoria website](#) regularly for the latest recommendations and guidance on dealing with COVID-19 for tennis in Victoria.

On 11 May, the Victorian State Government announced it will gradually ease restrictions while under a State of Emergency from Tuesday 12 May at 11:59pm. As a result, tennis can return in a limited way.

The directions of the Victorian State Government as relevant to tennis are that sport and exercise activities can resume if:

- you can keep your distance (at least 1.5 metres apart),
- you are not doing your activities indoors and
- you can do them with a maximum of 10 people

What does this mean for tennis in Victoria?

- Gatherings of no more than 10
 - Singles or doubles
 - Small group coaching. Consider that the parent/guardian of younger children may want to have line of sight of activity, in line with the Victorian Childsafe Standards.
 - In larger venues where you may want to have multiple small groups please use common sense to ensure groups of players are spaced out across the venue.
- Clubhouses/rooms to remain closed.
- Toilets can be made available as long as hygiene protocols can be followed
- If your toilets are in the clubhouse/rooms you can open the clubhouse but only for the purpose of using the toilets. No gatherings in the clubhouse.
- Social distancing must be practiced at all times

[Click here](#) to view the Victorian Government Sport, cultural and recreational activities restrictions.

Tennis clubs, associations, coaches, operators and local councils across Victoria operate in many different ways and within different surroundings and communities. Therefore, making an assessment of whether tennis can be provided safely will be dependent on a range of factors, varying across each council area and specific to each venue. It is the responsibility of each council, coach, club and operator to work together to make this assessment based on individual circumstances.

Finally, 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.

Tennis Victoria's Return to Tennis Toolkit, of which these Guidelines are a part, is designed to assist with making these decisions and supporting the return to tennis.

Return to Tennis Guidelines

To keep the tennis and the wider community safe, we must all take responsibility to minimise the effects and spread of COVID-19

Before you play

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 consider whether you should be administering or playing tennis at any time during this period, please do not take unnecessary risks.

Attending tennis activities

- Only people core to playing or coaching should be at the venue
- This includes at least one parent/guardian of younger children who must be present for the duration of the tennis activity, to comply with relevant Child Safety guidelines. All of these people must be able to observe social distancing at all times (see section below)
- Everyone, regardless of their role, must arrive and leave as close as possible to when they need to at the venue

Social distancing

- Keep 1.5 metres away from other people and no more than 1 person per 4m² while attending / taking part in a tennis activity.
- Remember no handshakes or High Fives, try tapping racquets instead.

Behaviours

To protect against infection, you should:

- Wash/sterilise your hands before and after you play
- Avoid touching your face while playing.
- Not share water bottles and bring your own bottle, already full.
- Bring your own hand sanitiser
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow
- Be aware of what surfaces you touch and ensure you clean them after play.

Tennis activities

- Outdoor tennis activity that can be conducted in small groups of no more than 10 while social distancing.
- Stagger programs and booking times to create a buffer between sessions for people to enter and leave the venue.
- Full training on court, singles or doubles
- There should be no off-court gatherings. Get in, play and get out.
- If possible, leave gates ajar during opening hours so players do not need to use handles or keypads to enter.
- Consider restricting balls to a particular group, court or day of the week. One idea is to label them with a permanent marker



Coaching

- Ensure coaching activity can be conducted in small groups (not more than 10 people including parents of juniors and coaches in total) and with adequate spacing (not more than 1 person per 4m²).
- Do not let the student handle any coaching equipment - coach to pick up balls and feed drills. Visit bounce.tennis.com.au for further resources.

Clean environment

Providing a clean environment in which to play tennis is critical at this time. Display signage about handwashing and hygiene techniques at strategic points like gate entry and on the side of all courts.

- Clean all communal tennis equipment ie. nets, court bagger, gate handles etc.

Venues

- Clubhouses/rooms are to remain closed, except for use of toilets.
- Have cleaning protocols in place for equipment and facilities.
- No socialising or group meals.
- Closure of café, canteen and bar facilities. Unless professionally operated in which case activities are to be restricted to take away service only – no cash payments.

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.