

Guidance for Tennis Venues in England

COVID-19: RETURN TO PLAY

Version 6 – Published 2 December 2020 (updated 5th January 2021)

(Including guidance for all four tiers of local restrictions)



TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN

COVID-19 **SECURE** 'PLAY SAFE' GUIDELINES - RETURN TO PLAY

UPDATE: NATIONAL LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 4 January 2021, unfortunately the Government requires all indoor and outdoor tennis courts to close.

There are two exemptions where courts are permitted to open:

- **Outdoor courts are permitted to open for organised disability tennis activity. The LTA will publish updated guidance for open court disability tennis venues on our COVID-19 page.**
- **Elite tennis players are permitted to continue training and competition in line with strict protocols and Government guidance.**

For more information and updates, visit the [LTA's COVID-19 page](#).

These COVID-19 guidelines apply to England only. They have been produced in line with Government announcements following the initial easing of lockdown and recent implementation of regional tiered restrictions (including the addition of Tier 4 restrictions), and the new Government guidance for [grassroots sports guidance for the public and sport providers](#) published on 1 December, as well as the previous guidance for [providers of out of school settings](#) as published on the Gov.uk website.

The guidance in this document is divided into the following sections:

- Section 1: Venue Management
- Section 2: Venue Facilities
- Section 3: Venue Activity & Users
- Section 4: Permitted Tennis Activity by Tier
- Section 5: Additional Guidelines for Disability Tennis

Alongside these guidelines, venues should read any updated information published by [Sport England](#).

Guidelines for playing tennis in Scotland can be read [here](#) and for Wales, [here](#).



Please note, this guidance is for non-professional tennis – elite tennis is subject to separate and additional strict protocols, and can continue in line with those across all tiers.

LOCAL RESTRICTIONS

This document now covers guidelines for tennis activity across all tiers of the [different tiers of local restrictions](#) that were introduced by the Government from 2 December and the addition of Tier 4 restrictions from 20 December. A summary of the four tiers can be viewed on the LTA website via the link below, and you can see which areas of the country fall under which tier on the [Government website](#) or via the [postcode checker](#).

- [VIEW SUMMARY GRID: Tennis Activity By Tier](#)

INTRODUCTION

We know tennis venues are keen to provide a full range of opportunities for your members in a safe and appropriate manner and in line with Government restrictions. By its very nature, tennis is an activity whereby close person to person contact can be avoided, with the Government saying tennis is a good example of an activity that can be undertaken in a way compliant with social distancing restrictions.

Based on our continued discussions with Government, the LTA has developed this updated set of practical guidelines for venues to follow so that tennis can be played in England, where the local environment allows.

We will be indicating any key additions and updates to these guidelines for future versions of this document with **[NEW]** and **[UPDATED]** on the following pages.

These guidelines apply to both tennis and padel, and outline adaptations and considerations so that tennis activity can be enjoyed in a way that is in line with Government advice and helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include measures to maintain hygiene and minimise unnecessary interactions with others.

As restrictions evolve, the LTA's guidance, in line with Government legislation and guidance, will focus on ensuring that venues and coaches can provide COVID-19 secure environments, recognising the different operating contexts that organisations face.

Tennis venues across the country are all different and operate in different local contexts. Making an assessment of whether a safe exercise environment can be provided depends on a range of factors, which apply differently at each venue. It is the responsibility of each tennis provider, coach and facility to make that assessment based on their local environment.

These guidelines complement the guidelines for players, coaches, and officials/competition organisers, and all elements of the guidelines should be considered to ensure activity can be delivered safely.

Should you have any questions, [please refer to the FAQs on the LTA website](#). You can also read the [FAQs on the Sport England website](#), as well as access their broader [coronavirus support information and guidance](#) for sport and physical activity.

SECTION 1: VENUE MANAGEMENT

GENERAL

- Ensure your club committee oversees and maintains the implementation of measures and any updates to them. Venues are advised to take time in implementing these updated guidelines
- All activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing and hygiene at all times
- Venues must consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection/transmission. A thorough risk assessment should be undertaken (or updated if one previously done), and appropriate measures put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are protected. A risk assessment template is available from the COVID-19 section of the venue [Resource Library](#) on the LTA website. For larger group activity, venues should consider transmission risk based on three variables: droplet transmission and aerosol generation; fomite transmission; and population
- As a COVID-19 secure venue, all venues should have in place a process for how they would handle a case of someone testing positive. Venues should refer to the Test & Trace section below, and can find information on [how to approach cleaning for such instances on the Government website](#)
- Guidelines will continue to be updated as we progress through the different phases of Government measures - the LTA remains in discussions with Government, so we recommend you check the official LTA position at lta.org.uk/coronavirus on a regular basis to stay abreast of the latest recommendations
- Any measures venues put in place to enable tennis activity to resume need to be capable of being flexed or changed quickly if tighter social distancing is reintroduced in the future or when the restrictions are further relaxed.
- This guidance contains information for both outdoor tennis venues and indoor tennis venues across all tiers

NHS TEST & TRACE

- If someone who has played at your venue develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should be directed to follow the Government's 'test and trace' guidelines, which can be read on the [Gov.uk](#) website
- For some types of venue, including those providing hospitality or indoor sports facilities, **it a mandatory requirement** have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data – this can be via the NHS app (see below).
Organisations in [designated sectors](#) must:
 - ask at least one member of every party of customers or visitors (up to 6 people) to provide their name and contact details
 - keep a record of all staff working on their premises and shift times on a given day and their contact details
 - keep these records of customers, visitors and staff for 21 days and provide data to NHS Test and Trace if requested
 - display an official NHS QR code poster, so that customers and visitors can 'check in' using this option as an alternative to providing their contact details (see below)
 - adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation
- Further guidance on maintaining records of staff, customer and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace can be [read on the Government website](#)

- Please note, it is down to NHS Test and Trace to make decisions on close contacts. However, it is our understanding is that if all those attending a venue to take part tennis activity adhere to the LTA Covid-19 Secure guidelines and maintain social distancing at all times, then it would not be anticipated that they would be classified as a close contact of another venue user who subsequently tests positive

NHS COVID-19 APP

- Venues that provide indoor tennis facilities or offer hospitality must download and display an official QR code poster for visitors to scan with the NHS app
- Any other tennis venue that has an indoor space where people congregate is also encouraged to create a QR code poster for the entrance to that venue. By supporting the official NHS QR code poster system, you'll be protecting your visitors and your business.
- **To create a coronavirus NHS QE code for your venue [visit the Government website](#)** – if you need help, [see this guide on how to create your poster](#)
- When displaying posters, venues should ensure that enough are on display and located appropriately to allow visits to scan in without queues forming – [see the NHS' tips for displaying your posters](#)
- Be aware that for venues that are required to collect data, you will still need to offer a manual option for recording visitors' contact details, for people who do not have a smartphone or do not want to use the NHS COVID-19 app, or who do not wish to show you their venue check-in history
- If you have a locker room or communal area where people may leave their phones, then you can [display this poster](#) to advise them to pause the contact tracing on their app
- Further help and guidance is available on the NHS website, including [FAQs for venues](#), guidance posters for the public on how to download the app on [iOS](#) and [Android](#), and [how to use the QR code poster to scan in to a venue](#)

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Venues should be fully aware of the latest Government advice on staying alert and safe (social distancing) which can be read [here](#)
- Venues should encourage players not to congregate on or around the court before and after play
- Attendees should be advised to limit their interactions with anyone outside of the group they are attending the venue with (e.g. players on another court or in a different coaching group), and they should continue to maintain social distancing from those that they do not live with or are in a support bubble with

HYGIENE

- Make hand sanitizers or wipes available for use at entrance/exit to venue/courts and buildings where possible (Hand sanitiser stations can be sourced from the LTA Buying Group - see <https://www.ltabuyinggroup.co.uk>)
- Official 'Hands, Face, Space' posters and other resources venues are available for venues to [download from the Government website](#)
- Clean all common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) regularly, wearing any personal protective equipment that would usually be used – it is not necessary to wear any PPE or clothing over and above what would usually be used

- Details on how to approach cleaning after an individual with symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19, has left the setting or area is provided on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
- Further guidance on maintaining hygiene at your venue is [available on the Government website](#)

FACE COVERINGS

- Face coverings are required in most indoor settings. However, while this does not include gyms, leisure centres and other sport facilities, when not engaging in sport and physical activity visitors are encouraged to wear masks in enclosed public areas where possible and practical
- For indoor bars and restaurants, attendees will be required to wear [face coverings](#) except when seated at a table to eat or drink

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Ensure usual access to first aid and emergency equipment is maintained
- Injuries should still be treated, as participant safety is of the utmost importance. Physios and other medical personnel should take care to protect themselves and others through rigorous cleaning and personal hygiene, including increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting equipment and surfaces. Wearing face coverings is recommended for both medics and patients, where this is possible and practical
- After contact with an injured participant, physios and other medical personnel should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact or the minimum social distancing was maintained. They should also avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose
- Physios and medical personnel should keep a record of each participant they have come into contact with, for test and trace purposes. Records should be kept for 21 days and then destroyed. Those working at a sport event should familiarise themselves with the guidance for first responders, in case of emergency situations.
- Guidance on delivering first aid during the coronavirus pandemic is available on the [St John Ambulance website](#)
- Further information for those who may need to act as a 'first responder' role in a sports setting is available on the [Government website](#)

BOOKINGS & PAYMENT

- Operate online booking for courts and sessions where at all possible, or alternatively use phone bookings
- It is no longer necessary to implement a buffer period between court/session booking slots, but venues should ensure appropriate signage is in place to guide safe entrance and exit to courts, with markings to facilitate social distancing around pinch points (e.g. court gates) and an area for people to wait safely for previous users leave the court
- Take any payments online, and avoid handling cash where possible
- Online bookings can be facilitated through ClubSpark, which is free for all LTA Registered Venues, and via a free online national booking platform - LTA Rally - which makes it easy for players to find, book and pay for courts from their mobile phone. Email rally@lta.org.uk for more information on how to sign up to ClubSpark or LTA Rally

SECTION 2: VENUE FACILITIES

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

- Ensure nets are maintained at the appropriate height to avoid players having to adjust them, and remove net winders
- If your courts require dragging (e.g. clay) or drying after rain, venues are advised to have a nominated person to do this or make disposable gloves and spray available for players to use
- Remove any other unnecessary equipment and items from courts, and ensure appropriate cleaning measures are in place items that remain in place. Equipment such as benches may be returned if necessary to provide support to participants, but regular and appropriate cleaning must be undertaken.

INDOOR FACILITIES

INDOOR ACCESS

- **[UPDATED]** Clubhouses and pavilions can be opened for public across Tiers 1-3, including where possible in line with wider tiered restrictions, to serve food and drink (subject to tier guidance – see additional guidance below on catering)
- **[NEW]** For Tier 4 areas, general indoor access for the public is not permitted, but they can be opened to provide access to outdoor courts, use toilet facilities (see below) or access floodlights
- Venues providing such indoor access should ensure clear signage is in place so people can find their destination quickly, putting in place queue management or one-way flow measures where appropriate, and limiting the number of customers in the building (both overall and in any particular congestion areas)
- Attendees using indoor facilities must adhere to gathering limits for that tier while indoors, and maintain social distancing
- **[UPDATED]** Bad weather shelter: players should where possible use an umbrella or if they drove, return to their car. Where necessary however, subject to gathering limits and social distancing being adhered to, indoor facilities can be used to shelter from bad weather in areas where indoor facilities are permitted to open. Venues should put in place plans as to how attendees can do this safely
- Further guidance for the reopening of clubhouses and pavilions is [provided on the Government website](#)

CHANGING ROOMS, TOILETS & SHOWERS

- **[UPDATED]** Toilets, can be opened across all tiers
- **[UPDATED]** Other indoor facilities such changing rooms (other than toilets) and gyms should be closed in Tier 4 areas. They can however be opened (subject to specific guidelines) in Tier 1-3 areas
- Where toilet facilities are opened, particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them
- Ensure soap and water is provided where any toilets are open
- While changing rooms and showering facilities can be opened in Tier 1-3 areas, their use should in general be minimised where possible, with venues

encouraging attendees to arrive at the facility in sports kit, and where possible to travel home to change/shower

- Changing/shower facilities however must be made available for participants with disabilities or special needs
- Any attendees who do use changing facilities should minimise the time they spend in the changing area

INDOOR COURTS

- Indoor courts and bubble courts, and other indoor facilities such as changing rooms and gyms are able to open in Tiers 1-3 (with permitted activity varying by tier) – **subject to specific guidance detailed on the [Government website](#). This guidance should be read in full and any necessary measures implemented before any indoor facility is opened**
- For indoor tennis activity, particular care should be taken in the production of a detailed risk assessment, to take into account the venue-specific considerations around indoor courts, access points and surrounding areas

COURT ACCESS

- Ensure measures are in place to minimise encounters between people, including in car parks and at entrances
- Court users should be advised to clean their hands with hand sanitiser after touching shared surfaces such as gates. Where safe and appropriate, doors and court gates could be left open during playing hours
- Consider different entry and exit routes to the courts/venue where possible, and ensure this is clearly marked
- Consider marking two metre distances at appropriate points, such as the entry gates to courts

EQUIPMENT

- Players are advised to bring their own equipment, and where possible players and coaches should limit sharing of equipment. If necessary, use of communal rackets can be done subject to thorough cleaning measures between uses
- Any coaching equipment used (e.g. cones) should be cleaned and wiped down afterwards

CATERING & RETAIL

- **[UPDATED]** Bars, cafes and restaurants, including any food or drink facilities inside a clubhouse, can open subject to the guidance for that tier (takeaway service only in Tier 3 and Tier 4 areas) – **this should only be done in accordance with the [latest guidance on the Government website](#) for this, which should read in full**
- For venues providing hospitality, it is now a mandatory requirement have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data, and display a QR code poster. See 'NHS Test & Trace section above for more details
- Consider mandating contactless or card payment, to avoid handling cash
- [Face coverings](#) should now be worn by both staff and customers in indoor retail and hospitality environments at all times, except when seated at a table to eat or drink
- Venues should make customers aware of, and encourage compliance with, limits on gatherings (for example, on arrival or at booking)

- **In tier 1:** tennis venues selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
 - provide table service only, for premises that serve alcohol
 - close between 11pm and 5am
 - stop taking orders after 10pm
 - ensure attendees are aware of the limit of groups not larger than 6 people, indoors or outdoors
- **In tier 2:** tennis venues selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
 - close, unless operating as restaurants. Venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
 - provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol
 - close between 11pm and 5am
 - stop taking orders after 10pm
 - ensure attendees are aware of the limit of attending only with others they live with or who are in their support bubble, indoors, and of groups not being larger than 6 people, outdoors
- **In tier 3 and tier 4:** bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants at tennis venues should be closed for on site consumption
- Hot and cold food and drink may also be served on a takeaway basis across all tiers. Venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- Further information is also provided on the [Food Standards Agency website](#)
- Retail units at a venue can be opened in accordance with [relevant guidance on the Government website](#)
- The Government has published details on a temporary VAT cut to supplies relating to hospitality. If you're a VAT registered business, you should be able to temporarily reduce the rate of VAT on supplies relating to hospitality, with more detail published in the [Government's guidance](#)

SECTION 3: VENUE ACTIVITY & USERS

PRE-ATTENDANCE SYMPTOM CHECK

- Anyone attending a venue (including players, coaches, staff and any other visitors), should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms [using the information on the NHS website](#) before leaving home.
- No-one should leave home to participate in tennis if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of COVID -19, currently recognised as any of the following:
 - A high temperature
 - A new, continuous cough
 - A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste
- Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow [NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation](#)

TENNIS ACTIVITY

- Permitted tennis activity varies by tier, with what is allowed and group numbers also varying depending on if the activity is informal social play or organised group activity, if it is outdoors or indoors and if it is for a group with an exemption
- Full details of tennis activity by tier is provided in Section 4, with an overview provided in the [LTA's summary grid](#)

TRAVEL

- Detailed information on travel is provided in the LTA Guidance for Players, however, venues should be aware of the following key points:
 - For all tiers, travel within an area to take part in recreational tennis activity is permitted
 - **[NEW]** For tier 4 areas: players should not travel into or out of tier 4 areas to play tennis
 - For tier 3 areas: players are advised not to travel into or out of tier 3 areas, including for playing tennis, unless this is necessary to enable individual exercise (or exercise for people from the same household or support bubble). Where this is necessary, or for example to access the venue a player is a member of, players should only travel a short distance and stay as local as possible
 - For tier 3 areas: travel is also permitted into or out of the area where it is necessary to enable sport for disabled people, sport for educational purposes, or supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s, to take place, but should still be minimised where possible
 - For tier 3 areas: travel is permitted into or out of the area for work or education purposes (e.g. coaches, elite athletes, officials)

EXEMPTIONS

- **[UPDATED]** Exemptions are in place for some groups to permit additional indoor tennis activity in Tier 2 and Tier 3, and additional outdoor tennis activity in Tier 4 (see Section 2), with these groups defined as follows:
 - **Disabled people:** Sport for people with disabilities has exemptions from legal gathering limits. This means that where activity is permitted, people with disabilities can take part in sport in any number

- **Under 18's:** Supervised activity for children (including outside school) has exemptions from legal gathering limits, but permitted activity is subject to Department of Education guidance limiting group sizes to 15. This includes all organised supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s. In a change from the pre-lockdown guidance, **this now includes young people who were 17 at the start of the academic year, even if they turn 18 during the remainder of that academic year**
- **Education:** Sport for the purpose of education also has exemptions. This means that school sport such as PE, and curriculum-related sport for students in further and higher education (e.g. a student studying a sport course being able to practice), are exempt from legal gathering limits. However, for those who do not fall under the exemption below, this does not cover extra-curricular sport (such as playing for a college team) so these activities can only take place within the guidance set out above

COACHING

- It is important that both recreational play and coaching activity takes place. Venues should continue to liaise with their coach(es) to ensure an approach to activity is agreed that is feasible to deliver safely, and how coaches can be supported to deliver lessons and group sessions

SUPERVISION & SPECTATING

- Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) is required, or a carer for a disabled player, it is permitted across all tiers, but should be off court and ideally be limited to one per player where possible
- Rules for legal gathering limits vary by tier, but supporters, parents, and other spectators must adhere to legal gathering limits whilst attending events
- **It is important that spectators adhere to these limits; in addition to being legal requirements punishable by fines, those violating the measures are endangering public safety and undermining the case for safe sport to be allowed to take place**
- If spectators do not follow these legal requirements, the club or provider can ask them to leave or not to attend again. Where there are serious or consistent issues with spectators, the sport's national governing body may consider sanctions including suspending the relevant sport provider from running any leagues, matches, training sessions or other events or activities until this has been addressed
- There is an additional risk of infection where people are shouting or singing in close proximity to others (particularly indoors and when face-to face). Spectators should minimise shouting or raising their voices
- Consider marking out specific boxes/areas for this purpose

COMMUNICATION

- Communicate with your members/customers clearly and regularly, making them aware in advance of them attending of the measures you are putting in place at your venue, and guidelines they are asked to follow
- Venues should make members/customers aware that undertaking any activity, including tennis, has the potential for increased risk of transmission of COVID-19, and advise attendees to read the [Government's guidance on staying safe outside your home](#)

- Ensure signage on guidelines for maintaining social distancing and promoting hygiene measures is clearly displayed (and ensure these remain up to date as restrictions change)
- Posters that can be used to aid communication will be available from the COVID-19 section of the [LTA Resource Library](#)

AGMS & OTHER MEETINGS

- Meetings, including AGMs, that involve people beyond venue committee members in Tier 2-4 areas, or that involve more than six people beyond venue committee members in Tier 1, should not currently take place physically
- Venues should read the [detailed guidance for AGMs](#) produced by the LTA and Brabners and can be downloaded from the COVID-19 section of the [LTA's Venue Resource Library](#), which outlines steps venues need to take before holding a virtual AGM or hybrid AGM
- Venue committee meetings can be considered as work, and so can take place physically if required. However, venues should continue to host these meetings online wherever possible

SECTION 4: TENNIS ACTIVITY BY TIER

SUMMARY GRID

- [VIEW SUMMARY GRID: Tennis Activity By Tier](#)

TIER 1 (MEDIUM)

Find out if your area is in this tier on the [Government website](#) or by using the [postcode checker](#).

OUTDOOR TENNIS

INFORMAL SOCIAL PLAY

- Both singles play and doubles play is permitted with people from outside of your household, as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible – meaning that four people from different households can play doubles
- **For informal social play, group size is limited to a maximum of six people by law.** This means you can play tennis providing you only meet up with no more than 5 other people from different households and observe social distancing guidelines
- People should not go to a tennis venue socially in groups of more than six
- For padel, doubles play is also permitted but extra care is advised and it should only be done so where players are confident they can maintain 2 metres apart

1:1 COACHING

- Permitted in line with the LTA's Covid-19 Secure guidance for coaching activity

ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Organised outdoor tennis activity for larger groups, including coached sessions, club nights and competitions is exempt from legal gathering limits and so is permitted by the Government as an [exception to the limit of six](#), provided that venues, coaching providers and event organisers follow LTA COVID-19 secure guidelines
- Organised group activity is defined as being activity organised by a national governing body, club, registered instructor/coach, business or charity, where in all cases organiser must conduct a risk assessment and take all reasonable steps to limit transmission of the coronavirus by reference to that risk assessment and all relevant COVID-19 Secure guidance. Further details are provided on the [Government website](#)
- Larger group sessions may need to utilise multiple full-size courts in order to maintain social distancing, depending on the local environment and risk assessment. Where space and number of courts available is limited, then based on your risk assessment only smaller group sessions may be possible. Coaches should refer to the [LTA's recommended coach:player ratios](#) for more specific guidance

- For outdoors activity, the LTA recommends no more than 12 players on one full-size tennis court and surrounding areas at any one time, in order to ensure social distancing can be maintained at all times. Most tennis sessions will have far fewer than this number per court, but a scenario where this might apply is red stage tennis for children
- Whilst Government guidance does not state an upper limit for sport and physical activity participation events for adults, for those venues that have taken steps to ensure they are COVID-19 secure, we recommend that all venues very carefully consider the maximum capacity that they can operate at safely and whilst ensuring social distancing can be maintained at all times. All venues should produce detailed risk assessments and event delivery plans taking into account these factors
- For children, organised coach sessions should be limited to groups of no more than 15 children (plus coach(es), in line with guidance from the Department of Education on out of school settings
- Participants must not mingle in groups of more than six before and after the activity, while maintaining social distancing with those from another household at all times. If an organiser is not able to ensure this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then such events should not take place
- Attendees must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit
- Depending on your risk assessment, some activity that might ordinarily be delivered in larger groups (such as Cardio Tennis), might still need to continue in smaller groups for now, to ensure the safety of participants
- A template event delivery plan that can be used by venues organising club nights can be downloaded from lta.org.uk/coronavirus

COMPETITIONS

- Singles & doubles competitions are permitted for both juniors and adults
- LTA approved competitions (Grade 2 to 6), team competitions (such as Club/County Fixtures) and recreational competition can be played as long as they adhere to the LTA's Return to Competition guidance. Please note competitions may be limited in draw size depending on a range of factors including the COVID-19 secure capacity of the venue
- Off-court, individuals should limit their social interaction with others and not socialise in groups of more than six
- More detailed guidance on the 'Return to Competition' for officials and competition organisers can be read at lta.org.uk/coronavirus

INDOOR TENNIS

INFORMAL SOCIAL PLAY

- Permitted as per Tier 1 outdoors

1:1 COACHING

- Permitted as per Tier 1 outdoors

ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Organised indoor group tennis activity for adults (including coached sessions and club nights held indoors) can still take place in larger numbers in COVID-

19 secure venues, however, participants should be organised into sub-groups of no more than six people per court (excluding coaches) and these sub-groups should not mix

- There is an exemption for activity for disabled people and tennis for education purposes, which can take place in any number, and organised group indoor activity for U18's which can continue in line with the limits for outdoors (max group of 15)
- Participants must not mingle in groups of more than six before and after the activity, while maintaining social distancing with those from another household at all times. If an organiser is not able to ensure this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then such events should not take place
- Attendees must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit

COMPETITIONS

- While restrictions on indoor sporting activity have been imposed, **organised indoor singles and doubles competition at COVID-19 secure venues can continue to take place for larger draw numbers**, given activity on court for individual matches is under six people (this also means activity such as Club/County fixtures can continue to be held indoors)
- Off-court, individuals should limit their social interaction with others and not socialise in groups of more than six

TIER 2 (HIGH)

Find out if your area is in this tier on the [Government website](#) or by using the [postcode checker](#).

OUTDOOR TENNIS

- **Restrictions for playing tennis in Tier 2 outdoors are the same as for Tier 1 outdoors.**

INDOOR TENNIS

INFORMAL SOCIAL PLAY

- Singles play permitted for adults
- Doubles permitted for two households playing against each other (no mixing between households)
- Singles & doubles for disabled people and supervised activity for U18s permitted

1:1 COACHING

- Permitted for a coach with one household/bubble
- It is also permitted for a coach to oversee two players from different households on opposite sides of the net playing singles
- A coach can oversee multiple sets of two adult players playing singles across several courts, as long as the players do not interact

ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY

- The majority of organised indoor group tennis activity for adults cannot take place
- **[NEW]** Adults can however take part as an individual in an exercise class indoors, but only if they take place in a way that ensures participants avoid any inadvertent physical contact and proximity so that individuals stay separate and distinct from those from other households throughout the entirety of the activity, as well as before and after. Where that cannot be ensured, these activities should not go ahead
- **[NEW]** Tennis exercise classes are therefore permitted to take place for adults indoors in Tier 2 on this basis. Cardio tennis, for example, is specifically recognised as a group fitness exercise version of tennis and so sessions for adults can take place indoors, but only on the proviso that they are adapted to be coach to player interaction only with no rally based drills taking place between players, and measures are put in place to ensure no inadvertent physical contact or proximity
- There is an exemption for all organised indoor group tennis activity for disabled people and tennis for education purposes, which can take place in any number, and organised indoor group activity for U18's which can continue in line with the limits for outdoors (max group of 15)
- Participants in these groups must still not mingle before and after the activity, while maintaining social distancing with those from another household at all times. If an organiser is not able to ensure this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then such events should not take place.
- Attendees must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit

COMPETITIONS

- While restrictions on indoor sporting activity have been imposed, organised indoor singles competition (not doubles) at COVID-19 secure venues can continue to take place for larger draw numbers, given activity for individual matches is limited to two people on court
- Singles and doubles competitions can take place for disabled people and U18s
- Off-court, individuals should not socialise with anyone outside of their own household or bubble

TIER 3 (VERY HIGH)

Find out if your area is in this tier on the [Government website](#) or by using the [postcode checker](#).

OUTDOOR TENNIS

- **Restrictions for playing tennis in Tier 3 outdoors are the same as for Tier 1 outdoors, but participants should be aware there are additional restrictions limiting travel in to and out of Tier 3 areas**

INDOOR TENNIS

INFORMAL SOCIAL PLAY

- Not permitted for adults other than those from the same household / bubble only
- Singles & doubles for disabled people and supervised activity for U18s permitted

1:1 COACHING

- Permitted for a coach with one household/bubble

ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Organised indoor group tennis activity for adults cannot take place
- There is an exemption for activity for disabled people and tennis for education purposes, which can take place in any number, and organised group indoor activity for U18's which can continue in line with the limits for outdoors (max group of 15)
- Participants in these groups must still not mingle in groups of more than six before and after the activity, while maintaining social distancing with those from another household at all times. If an organiser is not able to ensure this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then such events should not take place.
- Attendees must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit

COMPETITIONS

- Organised competition for adults cannot take place
- Singles and doubles competitions can take place for disabled people and U18s
- Off-court, individuals should not socialise with anyone outside of their own household or bubble

TIER 4 (STAY AT HOME) **[NEW]**

Find out if your area is in this tier on the [Government website](#) or by using the [postcode checker](#).

OUTDOOR TENNIS

INFORMAL SOCIAL PLAY

- Singles play only permitted where players are not from the same household/bubble
- Where all players are from the same household/bubble then doubles can be played

1:1 COACHING

- Permitted in line with the LTA's Covid-19 Secure guidance for coaching activity
- There is no restriction on the number of clients a coach can see in a day

ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Group tennis activity for adults cannot take place in Tier 4 areas
- There is an exemption for organised group activity for disabled people (which can take place outdoors in any number subject to COVID-19 safe capacity for that venue), and organised group activity for U18's which can continue in line with guidance from the Department of Education on out of school settings (max group of 15)
- Organised group activity is defined as being activity organised by a national governing body, club, registered instructor/coach, business or charity, where in all cases organiser must conduct a risk assessment and take all reasonable steps to limit transmission of the coronavirus by reference to that risk assessment and all relevant COVID-19 Secure guidance
- Participants in these groups must still not mingle before and after the activity, while maintaining social distancing with those from another household at all times. If an organiser is not able to ensure this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then such events should not take place
- Attendees must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit
- Coaching activity for U18s such as Holiday Camps that have two or more groups are permitted as long as the groups are kept completely separate and the sessions are delivered independently of each other. Clear instructions should be provided to participants in advance so that they know which coach and which court to report to, if there are two or more groups

COMPETITIONS

- Organised competition for adults cannot take place
- Singles and doubles competitions can take place for disabled people and U18s
- Off-court, individuals should not socialise with anyone outside of their own household or bubble
- More detailed guidance on the 'Return to Competition' for officials and competition organisers can be read at lta.org.uk/coronavirus

INDOOR TENNIS

- **Indoor tennis activity (including social play, coaching, group activity and competitions) is not permitted in tier 4 areas**

SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR DISABILITY TENNIS

To support the resumption of the LTA's Open Court disability tennis programme, we have produced additional tennis specific guidance for inclusive and disability-specific activity.

These guidelines apply to all tiers of local restrictions.

DISABILITY TENNIS

- Although activity levels were at a record high prior to COVID-19, participation of disabled people in sport has been greatly impacted by coronavirus – venues hosting inclusive and disability-specific tennis activity is therefore particularly encouraged
- Be aware that disabled people as a group have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, and so there may be increased concern and anxiety about returning to play. Venues should consider reaching out disabled players yet to return and finding out how people are, as well as discuss what their intention is for returning to tennis
- LTA survey data shows that while an increasing number of disabled people are now returning to the court and are excited and happy to return to tennis, a large proportion say they are playing less now than they have been in the past. Nearly half feel uncertain or negative around their own safety and anxious about returning
- Venues should ensure their own guidelines are updated and clear for disabled people, and involve them in the solutions to ensure their venue is COVID safe, for everyone
- Communication is crucial, and venues should continue to promote the hygiene and coronavirus safety measures you have in place to help reassure disabled players about their return. Consider producing a virtual tour of the venue to demonstrate the coronavirus safety measures that are in place to help build confidence in these individuals attending your sessions (for people with sight loss ensure it is a video with audible cues)
- The LTA continues to work with our national partners in this area. Venues are also encouraged to read [guidelines published by Activity Alliance](#) to assist the reopening of activity in a welcoming and accessible way. Those running visually impaired tennis activity can also refer to [guidance on the British Blind Sport website](#)

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

- Player/coach using a tennis wheelchair for activity should be either:
 - Able to transfer themselves from their day chair into a tennis wheelchair
 - A person from their household or bubble can transfer the player from a day chair into a tennis wheelchair. This person should remain available throughout the session in case of an emergency or toilet break, if required support is needed
- Tennis wheelchairs owned by the venue should be sanitised pre and post activity. This should be conducted by a nominated member of staff, using appropriate PPE
- A person accessing a sports wheelchair owned by the venue should only use the tennis wheelchair that has been assigned to them, no swapping of wheelchairs mid-session should be allowed

VI TENNIS

- If verbal guiding is not appropriate, and the player doesn't have appropriate support from someone from their household/bubble, then guiding people with sight loss at tennis venues can take place as long as both the guide and visually impaired player follow the mitigations outlined below:
 - Both people to wash hands or sanitise immediately before and after guiding
 - Both people wear a face covering
 - Use a tennis racket as a guiding aid, between the player and the guider. Player to hold grip end of the racket; guider to use head end of the racket
 - Volunteers that are supporting players with sight loss should stay with the assigned player for the duration of the activity. Volunteers should not mix with other players to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus
- If players cannot travel on their own, it is advised they should be accompanied by someone from their household or bubble. Outside of the activity itself the law in relation to the 'rule of six' still applies, and so players that normally meet at a centralised point to travel to the venue with other players should ensure they do not meet in a group of larger than six people