

# Guidance for Tennis Venues in England

COVID-19: RETURN TO PLAY

Version 9 – Published 14 May 2021

STEP 3 GUIDANCE



TENNIS  
FOR BRITAIN

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

These COVID-19 guidelines apply to England only. They have been produced in line with the Government roadmap for the easing of lockdown restrictions, and specifically the guidance for [grassroots sports guidance for the public and sport providers](#), guidance for [providers of grassroots sport and sport facilities](#), and guidance for [organised sports events](#), as published on the Gov.uk website.

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

- Introduction
- Section 1: Venue Management
- Section 2: Venue Facilities
- Section 3: Venue Activity & Users
- Section 4: Permitted Tennis Activity (covering Step 3 from 17 May)
- Section 5: Provisional Tennis Activity Roadmap (Step 4)
- Section 6: Additional Guidelines for Disability Tennis

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

Guidelines for playing tennis in Scotland and Wales can be read at [lta.org.uk/coronavirus](http://lta.org.uk/coronavirus).

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 indoors and outdoors.

### SUMMARY GRID

To accompany this document, we have also produced a simple summary grid that clearly outlines permitted tennis activity for each step of the roadmap in England, which can be viewed and downloaded via the link below:

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

## 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 a safe and naturally socially distant activity to take part in during the pandemic, whereby close person to person contact can be avoided.

Based on our continued discussions with Government, the LTA has developed this updated set of practical guidelines to follow so that tennis can be played in England. These guidelines reflect the new restrictions set out in the Government's roadmap for easing lockdown, but the protocols and procedures included remain broadly the same as for previous restrictions.

As we move forward with the roadmap, 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 COVID-19 secure environments and in a way that helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include measures to maintain hygiene and minimise unnecessary interactions with others.

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](#).

## 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 (see 'Risk Assessment' section below) and follow specific processes for running larger group activity such as club nights or coached sessions (see 'Activity Action Plans' section below)
- 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](#)
- **[UPDATED]** These guidelines cover activity under Step 3 of the Government roadmap – where guidelines and regulations apply only to Step 3 these come in to effect from 17 May 2021 (this is made clear where relevant) – although provisional dates for moving to future steps of the roadmap have been set, be aware these are subject to review and confirmation one week in advance
- Guidelines will continue to be updated as we progress through the steps of the Government's roadmap – the LTA remains in discussions with Government, so we recommend you check the official LTA position at [lta.org.uk/coronavirus](http://lta.org.uk/coronavirus) on a regular basis to stay abreast of the latest information and guidelines
- Any measures venues put in place to enable tennis activity to resume should be capable of being flexed or changed quickly should restrictions change

### RISK ASSESSMENTS

- A thorough risk assessment should be undertaken by venues (or updated if one previously done), and appropriate measures put in place to mitigate against risk and ensure participants, staff and volunteers are protected.
- Risk assessments should be completed in line with [guidance from the Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#)
- A risk assessment template is available from the COVID-19 section of the venue [Resource Library](#) on the LTA website

### ACTIVITY ACTION PLANS

- Where a venue or coach wishes to utilise exemptions that permit formally organised activity to take place in larger numbers than would otherwise be possible under the social contact limits (such as coached sessions, club nights and competitions), providers should use their risk assessment to develop an action plan for safe participation, to be distributed to all relevant personnel, including coaches and welfare officers
- The action plan should set out the transmission risk of the relevant activity, and demonstrate mitigations, plans to operate, and any adaptations required. It should also consider how compliance with infection control measures will be achieved, and where relevant set out how information to support NHS Test and Trace will be collected

- **[NEW]** For indoor tennis facilities, consideration should also be given to the Government's capacity restrictions for indoor facilities, which should be limited by providing a minimum of 100 sq ft per person.
- A template event delivery plan that can be used by venues organising club nights can be downloaded from the [LTA's Venue Resource Library](#)

## NHS TEST & TRACE

- If someone who has played at your venue develops symptoms of COVID-19 ([as outlined on the NHS website](#)), 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 indoor sports facilities or hospitality where this is permitted, **it a mandatory requirement** have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data – this can be via the NHS app (see below). Organisations with settings in [designated sectors](#) must:
  - ask every customer or visitor (over the age of 16) to provide details including their name and contact number (this can be done via the NHS app) – further guidance on information to collect is provided on the [Government website](#)
  - keep a record of all staff working on your 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)
  - ensure you manage this information in line with data protection regulations
- Hospitality venues have additional requirements and must also take reasonable steps to refuse entry to anyone who refuses to participate.
- 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

- You should create and display a QR code if you're:
  - a business or community organisation with a physical location that's open to the public
  - an event which is taking place in a physical location
- This does not apply to all facilities (for example, outdoor sport facilities in public places where it is not possible or practical to collect information from all spectators). However, any other tennis venue that has an indoor space where people congregate (once restrictions allow later in the roadmap) 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](#)
- If you've more than one venue, you need to create a separate QR code for each location. You can add multiple locations in the service
- 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
- Where indoor facilities are open, 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 protecting yourself and others (including social distancing and hygiene) which can be read [here](#)
- Venues should take steps to ensure any social interaction when not participating is in line with social contact restrictions (for Step 3 this is groups of 30 outdoors, and the rule of six indoors)
- 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

## GROUP SESSIONS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN (UPDATED)

- **[UPDATED]** The maximum number of people permitted in a formally organised group activity for adults (such as club nights or coached sessions) should be determined by the coach/venue, in accordance with your risk assessment and activity action plan. The [LTA's recommended coach to player ratios should also be considered](#).
- **[NEW]** The previous guidance for children to be limited to groups of no more than 15 no longer applies, and children will be able to take part in any number. However, when considering appropriate group sizes, it remains important to take into account recommended occupancy levels of a venue, and levels of ventilation.
- **[NEW]** For indoor facilities, the Government's position is that the maximum occupancy of an indoor facility should be limited by providing a minimum of 100sqft per person.
- Depending on your risk assessment, programmes that might ordinarily be delivered in larger groups such as Cardio Tennis, may need some adaptations to ensure social distancing can be maintained, depending on considerations around venue and other general guidance
- See Section 4 of this document for more details on organised group activity

## 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 will be 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](#)
- Further guidance on maintaining hygiene at your venue is [available on the Government website](#)

## FACE COVERINGS

- Face coverings are required in most indoor settings, although this does not include gyms, leisure centres and other sport facilities
- Where individuals access indoor facilities, they should still be encouraged to wear masks in enclosed public areas where possible and practical (when not engaging in sport and physical activity)
- **[UPDATED]** Where indoor bars, restaurants and clubhouse facilities are open, 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.
- Further information for those who may need to act as a 'first responder' role in a sports setting is available on the [Government website](#)
- Additional guidance on delivering first aid during the coronavirus pandemic is available on the [St John Ambulance website](#)

## BOOKINGS & PAYMENT

- Operate online booking for courts and sessions where at all possible, or alternatively use phone bookings

- It is not necessary to implement a buffer period between court/session booking slots (unless a venue chooses to do so because of their particular environment), 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 the LTA's 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](mailto:rally@lta.org.uk) for more information on how to sign up to ClubSpark or LTA Rally



## SECTION 2: VENUE FACILITIES

### OUTDOOR FACILITIES

- Where possible 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 hand sanitiser 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 can remain in place if necessary to provide support to participants, but regular and appropriate cleaning must be undertaken

### INDOOR FACILITIES

#### INDOOR ACCESS **[UPDATED]**

- Clubhouses and pavilions may be re-opened, subject to a risk assessment
- Venues providing 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)

#### CHANGING ROOMS, TOILETS & SHOWERS

- Toilets can be accessed
- Attendees should continue to be asked to arrive changed and to shower at home where possible
- Changing rooms and showers can open for use by the public but their use should be minimised (in particular however, access should be made available for people with disabilities or special needs)
- Where toilet and changing facilities are opened, particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them – you should inform customers that these are areas of increased risk and they should minimise time spent inside
- Ensure soap and water is provided where any toilets are open

#### INDOOR COURTS

- **[UPDATED]** Indoor courts and bubble courts can open and be used in line with the Step 3 restrictions from 17 May (see Section 4)
- **[UPDATED]** Where indoor tennis facilities do open, 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, including consideration of maximum occupancy of the indoor facility, limited by providing a minimum of 100sqft per person in line with Government requirements

**CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES [NEW]**

- Clubhouse facilities are permitted to open from 17 May, subject to a detailed risk assessment taking into account venue-specific considerations, and including a safe maximum occupancy level.
- Venues should ensure that individuals only use these facilities in line with social contact restrictions of six individuals or two households indoors. Multiple groups of six may use clubhouse facilities at once if a venue's risk assessment permits, but must not mix.

**COURT ACCESS**

- Ensure measures are in place to minimise encounters between people, including in car parks and at gates/doorways, with entry, exit and parking arrangements that ensure social distancing can be maintained
- Use clear signage and consider pedestrian flow systems or different entry and exit routes to the courts/venue where possible
- Consider marking two metre distances at appropriate points, such as the entry gates to courts
- 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

**EQUIPMENT**

- Players are still 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
- There is no requirement for players to use their own individual tennis balls (this was an initial precautionary measure put in place at the start of the pandemic and is no longer a recommended measure, in line with the latest [research](#)). It is recommended that the focus be put on other preventative measures such as maintaining hand hygiene.
- Any coaching equipment used (e.g. cones) should be cleaned and wiped down afterwards
- Water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared under any circumstances

**CATERING & RETAIL [UPDATED]**

- **[NEW]** From 17 May, both indoor and outdoor hospitality areas at venues (such as cafes, restaurants and bars) can open to the public subject to social contact restrictions (rule of six indoors, groups of 30 outdoors).
- At any premises serving alcohol, customers will be required to order, be served and eat/drink while seated (i.e. table service only)
- **[UPDATED]** Further detailed information is also provided in the [Government's guidance](#) for restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services, and on the [Food Standards Agency website](#)
- Retail units are permitted to open in accordance with [relevant guidance on the Government website](#)

## 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, and this should be clearly communicated to venue members, users and staff via venue communication channels
- 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](#) and follow the steps for [Test and Trace](#)

### TENNIS ACTIVITY

- **[UPDATED]** Permitted tennis activity under Step 3 of the roadmap from 17 May is outlined in Section 4 of this document, with what is allowed and group numbers varying depending on if the activity is informal social play or organised group activity, and if it is for a group with an exemption
- A summary of permitted tennis activity is also provided in the [LTA's summary grid](#)

### TRAVEL

- Travel to take part in recreational tennis activity is permitted
- **[NEW]** Car sharing is permitted in line with the [Government's safer travel guidance](#).
- **[UPDATED]** Travel to and from Wales and Scotland is permitted (be aware there are different restrictions for playing tennis in Wales and Scotland).
- **[UPDATED]** Overnight stays away from home are now permitted in accommodation including hotels, B&Bs, self-contained accommodation, and other people's homes, in groups of up to 6 people or two households.
- Further information is provided in the Government guidance for [safer travel](#)

### 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

- **[UPDATED]** Spectators are permitted to view events on both public and private land in Step 3, but need to adhere to social distancing rules. Spectators need to adhere to social gathering limits (groups of 30 outdoors and six people/two households indoors).

- **[NEW]** Spectators are allowed indoors, but the total number of all participants, coaches, officials and spectators must be aligned with the maximum occupancy permitted by the particular venue.

## COMMUNICATION

- Communicate with your members/customers clearly and regularly, making them aware in advance of their attendance of the measures you are putting in place at your venue, and guidelines they are asked to follow. You should include reminders on social distancing and best practice for hygiene
- 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 how to stop the spread of Covid-19](#)
- Ensure signage for 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 are available from the COVID-19 section of the [LTA Resource Library](#)

## AGMS & OTHER MEETINGS

- **[UPDATED]** Meetings, including AGMs, that involve people beyond venue committee members should only take place in line with social contact restrictions (rule of six indoors, groups of 30 outdoors).
- 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 that involve volunteers in official roles can be considered as work, and so can take place physically if required subject to social distancing and other measures. However, venues are advised to continue to host these meetings online wherever possible

## SECTION 4: PERMITTED TENNIS ACTIVITY

This section details permitted tennis activity from 17 May 2021 under Step 3 of the Government's roadmap for the easing of lockdown restrictions in England.

Further detail on provisional permitted activity under Step 4 of the roadmap is provided in Section 5 of this document. An overview of this information is also provided in our summary grid:

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

### STEP 3: FROM 17 MAY

#### 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 30 people by law.**
- People should not go to a tennis venue socially in groups of more than 30
- Social distancing should be maintained between people who do not live together or share a support bubble
- For padel, doubles play is 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](#) provided that venues, coaching providers and event organisers follow LTA COVID-19 secure guidelines
- In all cases the organiser must conduct a risk assessment and complete an activity action plan (see Section 1), and take all reasonable steps to limit transmission of the coronavirus by reference to that risk assessment and all relevant LTA COVID-19 Secure guidance.
- **Organised group activity is defined as being activity formally organised by a national governing body, club, qualified instructor/coach, club, business or charity and follows the LTA's sport-specific guidance for tennis**
- If the sport is not organised by one of these groups (for example, some friends getting together to play) or the LTA's guidance is not being followed (for example, no risk assessment has been done or recommended measures

being ignored), this is considered by the Government to be informal or self-organised sport and so it not exempt from the legal outdoor gathering limit of 30.

- **[UPDATED] For adults and children**, the venue/coach will decide the safe and appropriate group size limit depending on their environment and risk assessment for that activity, but the LTA advises activity should be in line with [recommended coach to player ratios](#). Group coaching for children can now take part in any number, subject to a risk assessment for the specific venue.
- Participants should adhere to social distancing with those from another household when not actively participating
- The exemption to permit large group numbers for sport only applies to the activity itself. Social interaction among group participants before and after any group tennis activity outdoors should only take place in separate and distinct groups consisting of up to 30 people in line with the social contact limits, while maintaining social distancing at all times
- If an organiser is not able to ensure this (including when arriving at or leaving activity or socialising) then such events should not take place. **Failure to adhere to this could result in the exemption for larger numbers for group sport being removed.**
- Attendees should 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

- Singles & doubles competitions are permitted for both juniors and adults
- LTA approved competitions, 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
- Draw sizes will be determined by the event organisers in line with their risk assessment and event delivery plan as per what is safe and appropriate for the event and 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 30 people.

## OPEN DAYS & EVENTS

- Venues can host organised outdoor events such as open days, in line with the Government guidance permitting [smaller outdoor events](#) such as fetes, car boot sales, and fairgrounds to take place
- An event can take place if all three of the following conditions are met:
  - a) The event takes place outdoors
  - b) Attendees are expected to arrive and leave the event in a staggered manner throughout the day
  - c) It does not involve attendees converging on and congregating in a site for a specific discrete performance or activity, such as a theatre or music performance
- Venues should have a risk assessment and activity action plan in place for staging any such event
- People should not attend an event in a group of larger than 30 people

## INDOOR TENNIS

### INFORMAL SOCIAL PLAY

- **[UPDATED]** Permitted from 17 May for up to six players from different households, or two households.
- 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
- People should not go to an indoor tennis facility socially in groups of more than 6 people.

### 1:1 COACHING

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

### ORGANISED GROUP ACTIVITY

- **[NEW]** Permitted for adults and children, and does not need to comply with the rule of six, if formally organised by a qualified instructor, club, national governing body, company or charity and follow LTA Covid-19 Secure guidance, including having a risk assessment and activity action plan in place
- **[NEW] For adults and children**, the venue/coach will decide the safe and appropriate group size limit depending on their environment and risk assessment for that activity, but the LTA advises activity should be in line with [recommended coach to player ratios](#). Group coaching for children can now take part in any number, subject to a risk assessment for the specific venue. The maximum occupancy of each indoor facility should be limited by providing a minimum of 100 sqft per person, in line with Government guidance.
- **Organised group activity is defined as being activity formally organised by a national governing body, club, qualified instructor/coach, club, business or charity and follows the LTA's sport-specific guidance for tennis**
- If the sport is not organised by one of these groups (for example, some friends getting together to play) or the LTA's guidance is not being followed (for example, no risk assessment has been done or recommended measures being ignored), this is considered by the Government to be informal or self-organised sport and so it not exempt from the legal indoor gathering limit of 6.
- The exemption to permit larger group numbers for sport only applies to the activity itself. Social interaction among group participants before and after any group tennis activity indoors should only take place in separate and distinct groups consisting of up to 6 people or two households, in line with the social contact limits, while maintaining social distancing at all times

### COMPETITIONS

- **[NEW]** Permitted for adults and children.
- Draw size and participant numbers will be dependent on the capacity restrictions on indoor facilities.

## SECTION 4: PROVISIONAL TENNIS ACTIVITY ROADMAP

### STEP 4

- The Government's roadmap is based on four steps. We have summarised below the key relevant aspects of the easing of restrictions for each future step, outlining what is known to date
- Before taking each step, the Government will review the latest data on the impact of the previous step against four tests around vaccination deployment and impact, infection rates and NHS hospitalisations, and status of any new variants of the disease. They will then announce one week in advance whether restrictions will be eased as planned.
- Our summary grid provides a provisional overview of what each of the steps mean for tennis activity. The grid and this section of this document will be updated with further detail ahead of moving to the next step of the roadmap
- Where children's sport is referred to, this relates to activity for people aged under 18 on 31 August 2020. Adult sport refers to activity for anyone aged 18 or over on 31 August 2020

#### **STEP 4: No earlier than 21 June**

- Removal of limits on social contact
- Enable large events above Step 3 capacity restrictions, subject to the outcome of the scientific Events Research programme, and potentially using testing to reduce the risk of infection, subject to further evaluation



## SECTION 6: 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.

Further, detailed information on providing disability tennis activity during the coronavirus pandemic is available in our dedicated guidance document for Open Court venues.

### 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 speaking to disabled players yet to return and finding out how people are, as well as discuss what their intention is for returning to tennis
- Prior to the most recent lockdown, LTA survey data showed that while an increasing number of disabled people were returning to the court and were excited and happy to return to tennis, a large proportion said they were playing less than they have been in the past. Nearly half felt 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

- A player/coach using a tennis wheelchair for activity should ideally:
  - Be able to transfer yourself from your day chair into a tennis wheelchair
  - Have support from a person from your household or bubble that can transfer you 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
- While social distancing should be maintained where possible, in some circumstances people will need physical assistance from someone outside their household/bubble to be active. It's important players discuss this with the provider so they can consider your needs and preferences

- 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

### **VISUALLY IMPAIRED 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 indoors and 30 outdoors still applies.