



RETURN TO PLAY – GUIDANCE FOR SERVES VENUES

A. RE-OPENING YOUR VENUE

If not already open, please ensure you follow the appropriate Government guidance for re-opening your venue, whether it be a place of worship, community centre or sports activity centre.

B. RESUMPTION OF TENNIS ACTIVITY

Tennis is a sport that lends itself well to being able to be played safely during coronavirus restrictions, and was one of the first sports given the go-ahead by the Government to restart during lockdown. With tennis courts in communities across the country since seeing a surge in use, we are keen to support any SERVES venue in restarting your own tennis activity safely as soon as you feel able to do so.

Detailed guidance for tennis venues, coaches and players is provided on the official LTA website at www.lta.org.uk/coronavirus, but we have developed the following simple summary of the key things SERVES venues should do and consider in order to help you resume your tennis activity.

1. Undertake a risk assessment

- Venues must consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection/transmission. A thorough risk assessment should be undertaken before restarting SERVES activity, and appropriate measures put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are protected
- To help you do this, a risk assessment template is available from the COVID-19 section of the venue [Resource Library](#) on the LTA website

2. Limit group sizes where necessary

- The maximum number of children that can be involved in any one SERVES tennis session is currently:
 - **England:** 15
 - **Scotland:** No limit
 - **Wales:** 24
- These are maximum group size limits – depending on the space you have available you may need to reduce sizes further

3. No one should attend if they have COVID-19 symptoms

- No-one should attend SERVES tennis sessions 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
- If someone who has attended 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

4. Clean all shared equipment before and after use

- Communal rackets can be used by participants, but should be cleaned between uses
- Any coaching equipment used (e.g. cones) should be wiped down and cleaned rigorously afterwards
- If you require additional equipment to help you deliver sessions safely, please get in touch with the LTA

5. Maintain social distancing

- Volunteers and staff should ensure they maintain social distancing (called physical distancing in Scotland) from both each other and participants at all times – this should be a minimum distance of 2 metres, or 1 metre plus mitigations (such as wearing masks)
- The rules for children are different in each country:
 - **England:** All children should maintain social distancing when taking part in SERVES activity
 - **Scotland:** There is no requirement to maintain physical distancing when taking part in SERVES activity outdoors, but those aged 12 and over should still maintain physical distancing before and after the session and also for activity indoors. Those 11 and under do not need to maintain physical distancing at any time
 - **Wales:** If the session is outdoors, children aged under 11 do not need to comply with distancing – however, caution must be exhibited at all times to still minimise close contact. They should still maintain social distancing when taking part in SERVES activity indoors, and those aged 11 and over should still maintain social distancing both indoors and outdoors
- To help maintain social distancing when delivering SERVES activity, consider putting simple markers on the floor using tape to identify where people should stand

6. Encourage good hand hygiene

- Encourage all participants, staff and volunteers to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after the session
- If anyone needs to sneeze or cough, they should do so into a tissue or upper sleeve
- Encourage and remind all participants to try to avoid touching their face

7. Keep a temporary record of attendees

- To support NHS Test and Trace, venues should keep a temporary record of all staff, volunteers and participants who attend SERVES sessions for 21 days, in a way that is manageable, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed

8. Communicate the measures you have in place

- So that members/participants/parents can be confident of returning to take part in SERVES tennis activity, organisations will need to communicate clearly and regularly setting out what you are doing to manage risk and deliver the activity safely.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Should you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with your National Partner/ LTA Regional Team or alternatively you can email community@lta.org.uk.

Please note, if your venue is in an area with enhanced local restrictions then different rules on what activity can take place. You should therefore check your local council website regularly and keep up to date with local news.

We hope you enjoy helping to get your community back to playing tennis through SERVES!