

TENNIS AND COVID-19 IN NSW – FAQs

Updated as at 11 November 2021

New South Wales is moving through the stages of its roadmap out of lockdown and the restrictions on movement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions since 11 October 2021 differentiate between a 'general area' and a 'stay at home area'. The Tennis NSW COVID FAQs have been updated with general questions that affect both areas, and specific questions that are different based on the current restrictions applying to your LGA. Use the NSW Government ['Rule Finder'](#) site to confirm your restriction levels before using these FAQs.

We encourage our members to locate and read the latest Public Health Order on the COVID-related [legislation webpage](#) and to seek independent advice regarding the particular circumstances for your venue or business.

| FAQ | General area | Stay at home area |
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| Q. Are we allowed to play tennis under the current Government restrictions? | A. Yes. From 11 October 2021, provisions are in place for two levels of restrictions ' <i>general area</i> ' and a ' <i>stay at home area</i> ' in New South Wales. As at 11 October, the current Public Health Order does not provide for any areas in NSW that are classified as a 'Stay At Home Area'. Therefore, the restrictions are consistent across all of New South Wales as a 'General Area'. These restrictions inform the Tennis NSW guidance in relation to tennis activities under the Public Health Order. Tennis NSW has developed a matrix to guide its members as to suggested tennis activity under the current Public Health Orders within the varying levels of restrictions. Refer to the Return to Tennis Guide . | |
| Q. Is coaching permitted? | A. Yes. Suggested coaching activity differs depending on the current level of restrictions of your LGA. Please refer to our Return to Tennis Guide . | |
| Q. Do I still need a work permit? | A. No. Work permits are no longer required from Monday 11 October 2021. | |

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| Q. Are Tennis NSW sanctioned tournaments and competitions still going ahead? | <p>A.Tennis NSW will be resuming tournaments in December 2021. Given the changes to the Public Health Order, Tournaments starting prior to December 15 will only be open to vaccinated players above the age of 16 or junior players under the age of 16 who have vaccinated parents. Please continue to check the https://www.tennis.com.au/tournaments website for entry details.</p> <p>Tennis NSW has cancelled all tournaments across NSW until 1 November 2021. Tennis NSW is working through the relaxing of restrictions to consider whether competitive play under restrictions may occur in a general area.</p> <p>Tennis NSW has put together a tournament calendar that outlines what tournaments are currently scheduled, with events that are impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, Tennis NSW has committed to making a decision regarding the rescheduling and reallocation of impacted tournaments by no later than 14 days prior to the event. For more information regarding tournaments please head to our website.</p> | |
| Q. Do I need to wear a mask while playing tennis? | Mask wearing is no longer required in outdoor settings (except for front-of-house hospitality staff). Masks must still be worn in all indoor settings for all persons aged 12 and over. | Tennis NSW suggests that anyone in a stay at home area wears a mask when outside their residence unless engaging in physical exercise, or you fall within one of the permitted exemptions. You should check the current Public Health Order for exemptions that may apply to your circumstances. |

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| <p>Q. Can we facilitate local competition?</p> | <p>Exercise and outdoor gatherings for sport are limited depending on the number of people attending the event.</p> <p>For groups of up to 1,000 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All attendees aged 16 years or over must be fully vaccinated • Children are included in the total attendee count <p>While the requirements for COVID-19 Safety Plans are no longer mandated for events of up to 1,000 people, Tennis NSW continues to recommend that its members ensure the following steps are in place for any local competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A COVID-19 Safety Plan is in place • You comply with the plan and make it available to your community • A copy of the plan be kept at the venue • Take reasonable steps to ensure an unvaccinated adult does not participate in your events other than for singles play or doubles play with all members of the same household <p>Tennis NSW strongly advises that any form of local competition should be conducted on the basis of a 'play-and-go' policy, and not encourage any gathering of players either before or after matches.</p> | <p>Tennis NSW suggests that any form of local competition should not occur in a stay at home area at this time.</p> |
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| Q. Do parents of children I coach need to be vaccinated? | <p><u>Tennis NSW strongly encourages all our tennis community, including players, parents and spectators, to get vaccinated.</u></p> | |
| | <p>A. The Public Health Order states that a person must not attend an outdoor public gathering if they are an unvaccinated adult. This is a person aged 16 years and over.</p> <p>Further, children under the age of 16 years do not need to be vaccinated to participate in an outdoor public gathering. However, if they attend a venue that is defined as a major recreational facility* they must be accompanied by a vaccinated adult.</p> <p><i>* A major recreational facility is defined as a building or place used for large-scale sporting or recreation activities that are attended by large numbers of people whether regularly or periodically, and includes sports stadiums.</i></p> | <p>A. The Public Health Order states that a person must not attend an outdoor public gathering of 3 – 5 participants (aged over 13 years) if they are an unvaccinated adult (unless they are all members of the same household).</p> <p>The restrictions on outdoor public gatherings of up to 5 persons in stay at home areas does not include children aged 12 years or under.</p> |
| Q. Are we required to check the vaccination status of individuals playing tennis at our venue? | <p>A. Tennis NSW's guidance in relation remains that we consider our members should take all reasonable steps to ensure that tennis players are fully vaccinated when participating in gatherings of more than 2 people. We remind our community that operators have a responsibility to provide a safe venue and therefore our guidance is as follows:</p> | |

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| | <p>Doubles play, group coaching, school camps and local competition should be conducted with the Club / Venue Operator taking steps to verify the vaccination status of anyone wishing to play.</p> <p>Additionally, operators should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement all relevant COVID protocols including having a COVID-19 Safety plan, COVID-19 check-in stations; • implement the 1 person per 2sqm rule (outdoor courts only). • All play at the venue should be on a 'Play and Go' basis and the Club / Venue should not permit any post-competition gatherings at their venue. | <p>Doubles play should be conducted with the Club / Venue Operator taking steps to verify the vaccination status of anyone wishing to play.</p> <p>Additionally, operators should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement all relevant COVID protocols including having a COVID-19 Safety plan, COVID-19 check-in stations; • implement the 1 person per 4sqm rule (outdoor courts only); • All play at the venue should be on a 'Play and Go' basis and the Club / Venue should not permit any post-competition gatherings at their venue. |
| | <p>Clubs should also note that we are aware that the NSW Police have interpreted the current Public Health Order differently in different parts of the State and should therefore be prepared to provide evidence of how they are effectively implementing and monitoring the vaccination status of those using their venue should they be asked to.</p> <p>We believe that in the spirit of the Public Health Order then it is reasonable for a Club / Venue Operator to ask for evidence of a person's vaccination status prior to play commencing.</p> | |

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| | <p>Because Tennis NSW believes that many of our members across the State will be unable to meet the above requirements, any Club / Venue wishing to implement appropriate processes should conduct their own risk analysis and make a decision based on their own circumstances and resources.</p> <p>Tennis NSW have received confirmation from the NSW Government that the responsibility for proof of vaccination lies within the individual, please refer to letter from Minister Ward here. However, our advice remains that our clubs and venues should take all reasonable steps to monitor and capture the vaccination status of those using the venues.</p> | |
| Q. Is there a position on requirements for coaching, court hire or competition participants to be fully vaccinated moving forward? | A. The NSW Government updated the 'Roadmap' which now suggests that as of 15 December 2021, or when NSW reaches the 95% fully vaccinated target, both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons are permitted to engage in group activities. | |
| Q. What if someone refuses to provide evidence of their vaccination status? | <p>A. It will be a matter for a Club / Venue Operator to set its own terms and conditions of entry to the venue. Clubs and Operators should seek independent advice as to whether they wish to set provision of vaccination status as a condition of entry and whether that is appropriate for its membership and/or community.</p> <p>The Tennis NSW Board will be considering its policy position on vaccination status as a condition of entry to sanctioned tournaments and competitions when competitive play reopens and will advise members when this position is finalised.</p> | |

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| Q. Are there specific requirements for indoor courts / centres? | A. Indoor courts and centres are subject to further restrictions including a maximum of 20 people per activity and observing density limits of 1 person per | A. Indoor tennis courts and centres are not permitted to be operational in a stay at home area. |

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| | 2 square metres. Masks must also be worn indoors other than when exercising. | |
| Q. When will we be able to resume 'normal' operations? | A. The NSW Government Roadmap indicates that as of 15 December 2021, or when NSW reaches the 95% vaccination targets, all persons, regardless of vaccination status, will be able to engage in activity, including community sport. | A. At this stage, Tennis NSW does not know whether stay at home areas will continue to be defined under the Public Health Order from 15 December 2021. |
| Q. Are we required to keep details of visitors to our venue? | A. Yes. Any occupier of premises must keep records of contact details of visitors for a minimum period of 4 weeks and make those details available if requested to do so within 4 hours of the request. | |
| Q. I want to hold a COVID-19 Safe Outdoor Public Gathering. What should I do? (More than 1000 attendees) | <p>A. Ensure that you are familiar with the current Public Health Order and the relevant provisions that relate to COVID-19 Safe Outdoor Public Gathering. These include, but are not necessarily limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place • Ensuring compliance with the plan • Making the plan available to a police officer or other authorised person on request • Keeping a copy of the plan must be kept at the venue <p>It is important to note that the operator or venue of a COVID-19 Safety Plan is under a positive</p> | |

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| | <p>obligation to ensure that no unvaccinated adults attend the event. Tennis NSW strongly recommends that any member considering operating such a gathering has sufficient systems to support the checking and recording of the vaccination status of every person that attends the event.</p> <p>For more information on how to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan, refer to the NSW Health website.</p> | |
| <p>Q. Can I travel for tennis activity?</p> | <p>Fully vaccinated people may travel around NSW and participate in tennis activities.</p> <p>There are rules in place for non-vaccinated people in addition to the prohibition from attending most tennis activities, including restrictions around travel in vehicles. We encourage those who are required to comply with these rules to familiarise themselves with the information available on the NSW Health's website in relation to travel restrictions.</p> <p>Please also note that travel restrictions remain in place between Greater Sydney and regional NSW until 1 November 2021. The Office of Sport has advised in respect of regional travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel between Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains, Wollongong, Shellharbour and the Central Coast LGAs) and Regional NSW will not be permitted until 1 November. • Greater Sydney residents can travel anywhere within Greater Sydney (including Central | |

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| | <p>Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour local government areas), but cannot enter regional NSW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in regional NSW are allowed to travel, but can't enter Greater Sydney. • Travel between Greater Sydney for and the regions is allowed for work, medical and compassionate grounds. • You can't travel between Greater Sydney and regional NSW for holidays, recreation or exercise, even if it's just a day trip. | |
| Q. Where can I get more help with COVID compliance? | A. An excellent toolkit for businesses is available on the NSW Government's website that contains information and guidance for businesses to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. | |

Tennis NSW reiterates that the advice provided within this document is general and does not replace independent legal advice. Conditions are subject to change and we encourage clubs, coaches and operators to seek independent advice if you have concerns regarding your specific circumstances.

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