



# TENNIS TOOLKIT

Community Tennis Guidelines: Metropolitan  
Melbourne

**TENNIS VICTORIA**

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## How to use the Community Tennis Guidelines: Metropolitan Melbourne

**Last updated 12 November 2020**

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

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

On Sunday 8 November, the Victorian State Government announced the easing of restrictions in Metropolitan Melbourne that came into effect at 11.59pm on Sunday 8 November. The below information is in line with the DHHS published [Restricted Activities Directions](#).

**Follow the COVIDSafe principles:** wear a face mask, don't play if you are sick or unwell, physical distancing 1.5m, cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue, good hand hygiene, outdoor activities.

**The directions of the Victorian Government for Metropolitan Melbourne as relating to tennis are:**

- Facilities and Clubhouses can now open, subject to 1 person per 8sq metre for a Clubhouse attached to a court (ie. An Indoor Venue) and 1 person per 4sq metre for a Clubhouse that stands alone from the court.
- No more than 10 participants in a group and not more than 10 in total at the outdoor facility at any one time except where a reasonable distance can be maintained at all times. A reasonable distance has been defined as 10m by State Government in the [Industry Restart Guidelines: Community Sport and Recreation](#) (Pg 2, Facility Use and Access).
  - Singles and Doubles play permitted
- Community tennis competition can restart. For the purposes of competition, you can have as many people present at the venue as required to run the competition.
- One supervisory adult is allowed on site per child. Spectators are not permitted.
- Coaches and staff or volunteers running the facility can be present. Please note, however, the Directions specifically state that these additional people must be "...only the minimum number of employees or agents (of the owner of the facility) necessary to safely operate the facility..."
- Everyone in the facility must practice physical distancing at all times by being 1.5m apart from one another.
- There are no limits on travel distance to attend a tennis competition or club.
- Indoor tennis can return with some restrictions (see below).
- Changerooms and toilets can open, clubhouses and indoor sitting areas must remain closed.
- Equipment can now be shared provided it is cleaned between users.
- Records must be kept of all members of the public using the facility. You may want to use this [QR Code](#) resource to assist with participant tracking and encourage facility users to download the [COVIDSafe app](#).
- If you operate a canteen, café, restaurant, fast food or cafeteria please refer to the [guidelines for hospitality](#) for how you may be able to operate.

- Participants 12 years and older must wear a face mask, unless an exemption applies. If you are doing strenuous physical exercise you do not need to wear a face mask but you must carry one with you. Strenuous exercise can include playing tennis.



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

## Community Tennis Guidelines: Metropolitan Melbourne

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

### Before you play

Please stay at home if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days or have mild flu-like symptoms. If you are in a [high risk health](#) category, please consider whether you should be administering or playing tennis at any time during this period, please do not take unnecessary risks.

### Attending tennis activities

- Only people core to playing, coaching or operating the venue should be onsite.
- Arrive and leave as close as possible to when you need to be there.
- In order to comply with relevant Child Safety guidelines, at least one parent/guardian should have line of sight of younger children during tennis activity.

### Physical distancing

- Keep 1.5 metres away from other people while attending a tennis activity.
- Remember no handshakes or high fives, try tapping racquets instead.

### Behaviours

To protect against infection, you should:

- Wash/sterilise your hands before and after you play.
- Avoid touching your face while playing.
- Not share water bottles and bring your own bottle, already full.
- Bring your own hand sanitiser.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow.
- Be aware of what surfaces you touch and ensure you clean them after play.
- Wear a mask when travelling to and from the venue if over the age of 12, unless an exemption applies.

### Tennis activities

- Competition play can return.
- Shorten booking times to create a buffer between sessions to ensure minimal cross over
- Advise players to not change ends
- There should be no off-court social gatherings
- Keep records of who attends your venue and their contact details, you may want to use this [QR Code for this purpose](#)



- Payments to be made online to avoid handling cash
- Leave gates ajar during opening hours so players do not need to use handles to enter

### Coaching

- Tennis lessons are permitted with no more than 10 participants in a group.
- Live ball drills and game based play is recommended over basket based
- Advise player/s to not change ends
- Maintain social distancing at all times including when giving feedback and while the player is resting
- Limit the use of coaching equipment such as target cones
- Do not let the student handle any coaching equipment - coach to pick up balls and feed drills
- Wear a face mask when travelling to and from a venue and while on court unless the face mask impacts on your ability to deliver instructions or if the activity is strenuous. You must have a face mask on you at all times.

### Clean environment

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

- Indoor tennis centres may open with restrictions.
  - For Community Sport (competition):
    - Adults not permitted to participate.
    - Indoor non-contact sport can also resume for those aged 18 years and under where a distance of 1.5 metres can be maintained for a maximum of 20 people. Spectators are limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where a child requires supervision.
  - Indoor physical recreation (coaching, casual hitting)
    - Adults:
      - Strict density quotient of 1 per 8m<sup>2</sup>.
      - Patron cap of up to 10 per space and 20 per venue with a maximum group size of 10 per session.
      - Staggered class times and time gap of 15 minutes to avoid congregation and exceeding group limits.
      - Required to have a [COVIDSafe Marshal](#) onsite.
    - Children (18 and under):
      - Non-contact activities permitted where a distance of 1.5 metres can be maintained for a maximum of 20 people.
      - Spectators are limited to one parent, guardian or carer only, where child requires supervision.
- Facilities and Clubhouses can now open, subject to 1 person per 8sq metre for a Clubhouse attached to a court (ie. An Indoor Venue) and 1 person per 4sq metre for a Clubhouse that stands alone from the court.
- Equipment can be shared provided it is cleaned between users.
- Clean all communal tennis equipment ie. nets, court bagger, gate handles etc.

At all times sport and recreation organisations must respond to the directives of Public Health Authorities. Localised outbreaks may require sporting organisations to again restrict activity and those organisations must be ready to respond accordingly. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a sporting or recreation club or organisation will result in a standard public health response, which could include quarantine of an individual or large group, and close contacts, for the required period.

