RETURN TO COMPETITIONS
MAY 2020



RETURN TO COMPETITIONS



MODIFIED TOURNAMENT FORMATS

Before attending a tennis venue or playing tennis, you should consider your individual situation noting that the COVID-19 virus can spread very quickly and result in very serious medical complications in some people. Like any activities, there are some inherent risks involved and by participating you are accepting those risks.

Please note that the below competition recommendations are to be used in conjunction with the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory. Please contact the tennis body in your state or territory, if you have any questions regarding the current restrictions in your area.

COVIDSAFE APP

Tennis encourages all participants to download the COVIDSafe app to help speed up the process of identifying anyone who has been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. Learn more: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app.

BEFORE YOU PLAY

You must stay at home if you:

- Have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have been overseas or exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have flu-like symptoms
- Or are in a high risk health category.

WILL THERE BE ANY AUSTRALIAN RANKING POINTS ON MODIFIED TOURNAMENTS?

No, these events will not have AR points attributed to them, but they could be used to calculate an updated rating for a player, either on the UTR or TA Rating software platforms.

WHAT IS THE AIM OF HOLDING A MODIFIED TOURNAMENT?

These tournaments allow clubs an opportunity to re-engage people back into competitive matches and modified tournament tennis after a long break due to COVID-19 and allow Tournament Organisers/Clubs to run modified tournaments before being able to return to an environment where they can run tournaments without restrictions on numbers and social distancing.

THE TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS WITHIN THIS MODIFIED CLASSIFICATION CAN BE

- Rating Tournaments (UTR or TA Rating)
- Fast4 or Short-Set Tournaments
- Match-Play focused tournaments (e.g. round-robin draw types)
- Time-based Scoring format tournaments
- Modified Club Championships.

HOW TO RUN A MODIFIED TOURNAMENT?

After advertising and registering participants, below are the recommended principles for running a modified tournament:

- The standard rules of tennis apply, with the organiser to set the format
- Formats will include singles only
- Doubles or mixed doubles only an option if social distancing rules are lifted
- Player numbers can vary depending on the size of the venue, availability of courts and whatever governmental restrictions allow at that time for the venue
- Designate the number of days and times for the tournament to take place
- Accept registrations from individual players only
- Pre-schedule the full tournament to allow management of number of people on site.

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RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC MODIFIED TOURNAMENT RULES

- Tournament coordinators/venues should review the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to their state or territory and implement any required rules to ensure player/spectator safety
- Consider a time-based scoring format to allow for groups of people to come and leave the venue in blocks. This will allow for social distancing at the venue. Allow a 15-minutes buffer in between each time block to allow for cleaning and disinfecting
- Encourage social distancing at the venue by marking viewing areas around the court where individuals (both spectators and players) can sit or stand
- Restrict the number of additional people accompanying a player to a maximum of 1 person or whatever the governmental restrictions allow for the venue at the time
- Ensure no other programs are being held on-site at the time of the tournament (e.g. no coaching on other courts or social play programs) or that they are factored into the maximum governmental restrictions for the venue at the time
- After matches tennis balls should be returned to a safe, designated area
- Any player towels should be placed in separate locations and these areas and any player chairs should be disinfected between matches
- Players to cross the net at change of ends on opposite sides as determined at the pre-match meeting
- Reduced number of change of ends, i.e. only every third game
- All personnel associated with the event (players, umpires, other staff) will follow strict social distancing guidelines throughout the entire event (before, during and after play)
- Players will wash hands/disinfect hands and equipment/water bottles prior to going on court
- Players will not share any equipment, food, drinks or towels and will use only new named and numbered balls
- Each player brings their own individual drinks, supplies, towel and food.

HOW MANY PLAYERS CAN COMPETE?

Provided you are adhering to the current COVID-19 Government regulations and COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory, you may sign up as many players as you can accommodate.

WHO PROVIDES TENNIS BALLS FOR MATCHES?

Venue competition organisers supply tennis balls. New balls be provided for all matches.

There is currently no specific evidence that tennis balls can spread COVID-19. We do know that the SARS-Cov-2 virus that causes COVID-19 can survive on hard surfaces for up to 3 days following respiratory droplet contamination. Therefore, you should:

- Make sure you wash or sanitise your hands before and after coming off the court
- Not touch your face after touching a ball, ball tin or basket or any other shared tennis equipment
- Sanitise hands at regular intervals to avoid inadvertently touching your face with contaminated hands
- Before and after training, clean all shared tennis gear with alcohol-based disinfectant including ball tins, any shared racquets, coaching gear such as target cones
- Avoid using unnecessary equipment such as drop down lines.

DO YOU NEED TO EMPLOY OFFICIALS FOR A MODIFIED TOURNAMENT?

A Referee and Court Supervisors are to be used. On top of normal duties, they monitor the adherence to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory When available, Chair umpires are recommended, but not required, for semi-finals and final matches. The relevant state/territory Officiating Development Coordinator can assist with engaging officials for the tournament.

ARE THERE ANY SAFEGUARD REQUIREMENTS REGARDING PLAYER'S HEALTH OR CLUBROOM/COURT ACCESS RESTRICTIONS?

Please refer to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory.

SOFTWARE SET-UP REQUIREMENTS

- The Tournament Planner software (TP) program can be used to set-up and run tournaments. Rating events can be operated using the UTR online tournament portal.

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- For TP all participants will sign up for a Tennis Australia Tournament account and enter online through this system.
- The local state or territory Tennis body representative can assist with TP set-up requirements.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PROMOTE A MODIFIED TOURNAMENT?

Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your media and promotional opportunities.

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CHALLENGE LADDERS

Before attending a tennis venue or playing tennis, you should consider your individual situation noting that the COVID-19 virus can spread very quickly and result in very serious medical complications in some people. Like any activities, there are some inherent risks involved and by participating you are accepting those risks.

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COVIDSAFE APP

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BEFORE YOU PLAY

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CHALLENGE LADDERS

Challenge Ladders provide greater flexibility to players, as they can play as much or as little as they like during the season. Set your participants starting positions on the Challenge Ladder and let the participants contact each other to organise matches, as they vie to move their way up the ladder by challenging each other to claim to top spot at the seasons end.

HOW TO RUN A CHALLENGE LADDER

After advertising and registering the participants for your Challenge Ladder competition, below are the recommended principles to run your competition:

- A challenge ladder may be a combined or split gender competition
- Participants are initially placed into a ladder style setup from top to bottom (Ideally this is created using ratings)
- If you have a vast variance in standard of play, you may look at creating multiple divisions. (Each division does require enough participants to ensure all players can receive high quality matches however)
- Participants then challenge another player to a match (recommended a limit of no more than 3 places higher or lower than their current ladder position)
- If the lower placed player wins the match, the lower player takes the higher players place on the ladder, while the originally higher placed player moves down on place on the ladder. If the higher placed player wins, nothing changes
- Players are to agree to a match time with their opponent and book a court themselves to complete the match (Club to provide court booking process to players for the competition)
- The standard rules of Tennis will apply to the match, and the format will be set by the organiser (restricted to singles matches only)
- It is recommended court hire at your club for challenge ladders is free of charge & the price is included in the registration fee for the competition
- A final date that the challenge matches must be completed should be set (a recommended timeframe is an 8-10 week season).

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RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

The following are recommended rules that you may implement for your Challenge Ladder competition:

- A minimum number of required matches be set to ensure all players accept a minimum number of matches to compete in
- Matches must be completed within seven days of the challenge being accepted
- The winner of the match is responsible for submitting the score within 24 hours of the commencement of the match.

HOW ARE TENNIS BALLS PROVIDED FOR MATCHES?

Tennis balls to be provided by either of the below arrangements, depending on your club's capacities:

- Tennis club to provide NEW Tennis Balls for every challenge match scheduled
- The challenger is responsible to providing tennis balls (In good condition) for the match.

CLUBROOM/COURT ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Please refer to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory.

LEAGUE MANAGER/MATCH CENTRE SETUP

- It is recommended that League Manager/Match Centre is used to setup and run your Challenge Ladder
- It is recommended that all participants are signed up for a Tennis account, and register for the Challenge Ladder online through the Match Centre portal
- Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your League Manager setup requirements.

ARE THERE ANY PRIVACY ISSUES WHEN DISTRIBUTING PLAYER INFORMATION SO THEY CAN CONTACT EACH OTHER?

- It is recommended that players use Match Centre to contact opponents through the platform directly
- Clubs should NOT distribute any player information publicly, unless they have collected the appropriate consent.
- If you have any questions regarding player consent or distribution of personal information, please talk to your relative Tennis Body in your State or Territory.

WHAT SAFEGUARDS DO I NEED TO HAVE IN PLACE REGARDING PLAYER HEALTH?

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INTERNAL FLEX SINGLES

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BEFORE YOU PLAY

You must stay at home if you:

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INTERNAL FLEX SINGLES COMPETITION

Internal Flex Singles Competitions can provide greater flexibility to players, as they determine when their matches take place each week/throughout the season.

HOW TO RUN A FLEX SINGLES COMPETITION

After advertising and registering the participants for your Internal Flex Singles Competition, below are the recommended principles to run your competition:

- Registered participants should be graded into appropriate divisions (based off ratings)
- Create your competition fixture (remembering each round will take place over the course of one week or all matches can be completed within a set date range)
- Finals/playoff rounds should be included (if played)
- Players to organise with their opponent when the match will take place that week (the scheduled match must take place within the designated window)
- Player listed as the home player is responsible for booking a court for the match
- Venues may need to limit the number of courts available per night as per the mass gathering restrictions at that time
- The season length can be determined by the club running the competition
- The standard rules of Tennis will apply to the match, and the format will be set by the organiser (restricted to singles matches only)

RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

The following are recommended rules that you may implement for your Flex Singles competition:

- The winner of the match is responsible for submitting the score within 24 hours of the commencement of the match
- If a match is not completed due to an agreed time not being reached, each player receives 0 points (players would receive ladder points for a win or a draw however).

HOW MANY PLAYERS CAN I SIGN UP TO MY COMPETITION?

Provided you are adhering to the current COVID-19 Government regulations and COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory, you may sign up as many players as you can accommodate.

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HOW ARE TENNIS BALLS PROVIDED FOR MATCHES?

Tennis balls to be provided by either of the below arrangements, depending on your club's capacities:

- Tennis club to provide NEW Tennis Balls for every challenge match scheduled
- The challenger is responsible to providing tennis balls (In good condition) for the match.

CLUBROOM/COURT ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Please refer to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory.

LEAGUE MANAGER/MATCH CENTRE SETUP

- It is recommended that League Manager/Match Centre is used to setup and run your competition
- It is recommended that all participants are signed up for a Tennis account, and register for the competition online through the Match Centre portal
- Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your League Manager setup requirements.

ARE THERE ANY PRIVACY ISSUES WHEN DISTRIBUTING PLAYER INFORMATION SO THEY CAN CONTACT EACH OTHER?

- It is recommended that players use Match Centre to contact opponents through the platform directly
- Clubs should NOT distribute any player information publicly, unless they have collected the appropriate consent.
- If you have any questions regarding player consent or distribution of personal information, please talk to your relative Tennis Body in your State or Territory.

WHAT SAFEGUARDS DO I NEED TO HAVE IN PLACE REGARDING PLAYER HEALTH?

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INTERNAL SOCIAL SINGLES/DOUBLES

Before attending a tennis venue or playing tennis, you should consider your individual situation noting that the COVID-19 virus can spread very quickly and result in very serious medical complications in some people. Like any activities, there are some inherent risks involved and by participating you are accepting those risks.

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BEFORE YOU PLAY

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INTERNAL SOCIAL SINGLES/DOUBLES COMPETITION

Internal Social Singles/Doubles Competitions are run at a designated time of the week and is open to players to drop in on a weekly basis. Internal Social Singles/Doubles Competitions allow players to enjoy good quality matches on a weekly basis, without having to commit week in week out.

HOW TO RUN AN INTERNAL SOCIAL SINGLES/DOUBLES COMPETITION

After advertising and registering the participants for your Internal Social Singles/Doubles Competition, below are the recommended principles to run your competition:

- Set a designated day/time each week the competition is to take place and finish by
- Timed sets generated on the day (other formats can be played if desired)
- Singles or doubles, depending on the current restrictions in place
- Sets/pairing to be generated based of player ratings to ensure good quality matches
- Players do not have to participate each week
- Players must register with the comp organiser prior to arrival (depending on social distancing restrictions, this may have to be capped).

RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

The following are recommended rules that you may implement for your Internal Social Singles/Doubles Competition:

- Players to play with/against different players where possible for each set, they play during the session
- No advantage deuce, receiver's choice (allowing more players to serve more often, if using timed sets).

HOW MANY PLAYERS CAN I SIGN UP TO MY COMPETITION?

Provided you are adhering to the current COVID-19 Government regulations and COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory, you may sign up as many players as you can accommodate.

HOW ARE TENNIS BALLS PROVIDED FOR MATCHES?

Tennis balls to be provided by either of the below arrangements, depending on your club's capacities:

- Tennis club to provide NEW Tennis Balls for every challenge match scheduled
- The challenger is responsible to providing tennis balls (In good condition) for the match.

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CLUBROOM/COURT ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Please refer to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory.

LEAGUE MANAGER/MATCH CENTRE SETUP

- It is recommended that League Manager/Match Centre is used to setup and run your competition
- It is recommended that all participants are signed up for a Tennis account, and register for the competition online through the Match Centre portal
- Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your League Manager setup requirements.

ARE THERE ANY PRIVACY ISSUES WHEN DISTRIBUTING PLAYER INFORMATION SO THEY CAN CONTACT EACH OTHER?

- It is recommended that players use Match Centre to contact opponents through the platform directly
- Clubs should NOT distribute any player information publicly, unless they have collected the appropriate consent.
- If you have any questions regarding player consent or distribution of personal information, please talk to your relative Tennis Body in your State or Territory.

WHAT SAFEGUARDS DO I NEED TO HAVE IN PLACE REGARDING PLAYER HEALTH?

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ZONED SINGLES/DOUBLES

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- Have flu-like symptoms
- Or are in a high risk health category.

ZONED SINGLES/DOUBLES COMPETITION

Zoned Singles/Doubles Competitions can be played with relaxed social distancing, but when local travel restrictions remain in place.

HOW TO RUN A ZONED SINGLES/DOUBLES COMPETITION

After advertising and registering the participants for your Zoned Social Singles/Doubles Competition, below are the recommended principles to run your competition:

- The standard rules of Tennis will apply to the match, and the format will be set by the organiser
- Format can be singles or doubles (depending on current social distancing restrictions)
- Designated day/time set for the competition to take place
- Season length should be set by the club running the league (recommended 8-10 weeks, including playoffs)
- Competition may be a combined or split gender competition
- Grading of players/doubles pairings based of player ratings
- Schedule the entire fixture including any finals/playoffs.

RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

League coordinators/venues should review the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to their state or territory and implement any rules they deem required to ensure player/spectator safety.

HOW MANY PLAYERS CAN I SIGN UP TO MY COMPETITION?

Provided you are adhering to the current COVID-19 Government regulations and COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory, you may sign up as many players as you can accommodate.

IS THERE A LIMIT ON HOW FAR PLAYERS CAN TRAVEL?

Travel restrictions will be determined by the current government restrictions in place. Please refer to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory.

ARE THERE ANY TEMPORARY RULES?

League Coordinators/Clubs should refer to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory and implement any temporary rules required. These should be clearly communicated to your playing group.

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HOW ARE TENNIS BALLS PROVIDED FOR MATCHES?

Tennis balls to be provided by either of the below arrangements, depending on your club's capacities:

- Tennis club to provide NEW Tennis Balls for every challenge match scheduled
- The challenger is responsible to providing tennis balls (In good condition) for the match.

CLUBROOM/COURT ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

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LEAGUE MANAGER/MATCH CENTRE SETUP

- It is recommended that League Manager/Match Centre is used to setup and run your competition
- It is recommended that all participants are signed up for a Tennis account, and register for the competition online through the Match Centre portal
- Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your League Manager setup requirements.

ARE THERE ANY PRIVACY ISSUES WHEN DISTRIBUTING PLAYER INFORMATION SO THEY CAN CONTACT EACH OTHER?

- It is recommended that players use Match Centre to contact opponents through the platform directly
- Clubs should NOT distribute any player information publicly, unless they have collected the appropriate consent.
- If you have any questions regarding player consent or distribution of personal information, please talk to your relative Tennis Body in your State or Territory.

WHAT SAFEGUARDS DO I NEED TO HAVE IN PLACE REGARDING PLAYER HEALTH?

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INTERNAL TEAM

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INTERNAL TEAM COMPETITION

Internal Team Competitions allow players to enjoy a team based competition and environment, while minimising the travel time associated with interclub competitions.

HOW TO RUN AN INTERNAL TEAM COMPETITION

After advertising and registering the participants for your Internal Team Competition, below are the recommended principles to run your competition:

- Allow for both team and individual player registrations (All individual registrations should be placed into evenly balanced teams, where possible)
- The standard rules of tennis will apply to the match, and the format will be set by the organiser
- Team formats may include: singles, doubles or both
- Team player numbers can vary, it is recommended a team consists of 3-6 players
- Designated day/time is set for the competition to take place
- Season length should be set by the club/venue running the league (recommended 8-10 weeks, including playoffs)
- Competition can be mixed or single gender
- Schedule the entire fixture including any finals/playoffs.

RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

The following are recommended rules that you may implement for your Internal Team Competition:

- League coordinators/venues should review the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to their state or territory and implement any rules they deem required to ensure player/spectator safety
- Set a playing order for teams to ensure players are matched up against the most appropriate opponent for the best match (The use of player ratings is recommended)
- Award one ladder point for every game won by the team during matches.

HOW ARE TENNIS BALLS PROVIDED FOR MATCHES?

Tennis balls to be provided by either of the below arrangements, depending on your club's capacities:

- Tennis club to provide NEW Tennis Balls for every challenge match scheduled
- The challenger is responsible to providing tennis balls (In good condition) for the match.

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CLUBROOM/COURT ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

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LEAGUE MANAGER/MATCH CENTRE SETUP

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- It is recommended that all participants are signed up for a Tennis account, and register for the competition online through the Match Centre portal
- Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your League Manager setup requirements.

ARE THERE ANY PRIVACY ISSUES WHEN DISTRIBUTING PLAYER INFORMATION SO THEY CAN CONTACT EACH OTHER?

- It is recommended that players use Match Centre to contact opponents through the platform directly
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WHAT SAFEGUARDS DO I NEED TO HAVE IN PLACE REGARDING PLAYER HEALTH?

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INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

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INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

Traditional interclub competitions allow participants to compete in competitive matches, while enjoying a team environment and travel to different locations. League coordinators can now run their traditional Interclub competitions. No restrictions are in place in regards to social distancing or travel.

HOW TO RUN AN INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

After advertising and registering the participants for your Inter-Club Competition, below are the recommended principles to run your competition:

- The standard rules of tennis will apply to the match, and the format will be set by the organiser
- Team formats may include: singles, doubles or both
- Team player numbers can vary, it is recommended a team consists of 3-6 players
- Designated day/time is set for the competition to take place
- Season length should be set by the club/venue running the league (recommended 8-10 weeks, including playoffs)
- Competition can be mixed or single gender
- Where possible minimise travel time, while keeping good quality matches for players
- Registrations accepted from entire teams or individual players to then match up.

RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

- League coordinators/venues should review the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to their state or territory and implement any rules they deem required to ensure player/spectator safety
- Set a playing order for teams to ensure players are matched up against the most appropriate opponent for the best match (The use of player ratings is recommended)
- Match results to be entered within 24 hours of the commencement of the match.

CAN THIS BE FOR INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS ONLY?

An interclub competition can be setup in any format that the league organisers put in place (singles/doubles/team based/other).

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PROMOTE THIS?

Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your media and promotional opportunities.

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HOW ARE TENNIS BALLS PROVIDED FOR MATCHES?

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- Tennis club to provide NEW Tennis Balls for every challenge match scheduled
- The challenger is responsible to providing tennis balls (In good condition) for the match.

CLUBROOM/COURT ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

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LEAGUE MANAGER/MATCH CENTRE SETUP

- It is recommended that League Manager/Match Centre is used to setup and run your competition
- It is recommended that all participants are signed up for a Tennis account, and register for the competition online through the Match Centre portal
- Please contact your local state or territory Tennis body representative to discuss your League Manager setup requirements.

ARE THERE ANY PRIVACY ISSUES WHEN DISTRIBUTING PLAYER INFORMATION SO THEY CAN CONTACT EACH OTHER?

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- Clubs should NOT distribute any player information publicly, unless they have collected the appropriate consent.
- If you have any questions regarding player consent or distribution of personal information, please talk to your relative Tennis Body in your State or Territory.

WHAT SAFEGUARDS DO I NEED TO HAVE IN PLACE REGARDING PLAYER HEALTH?

Please refer to the COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines relevant to your state or territory.