TENNIS VICTORIA

RETURN TO PLAY

Frequently Asked Questions: Clubs

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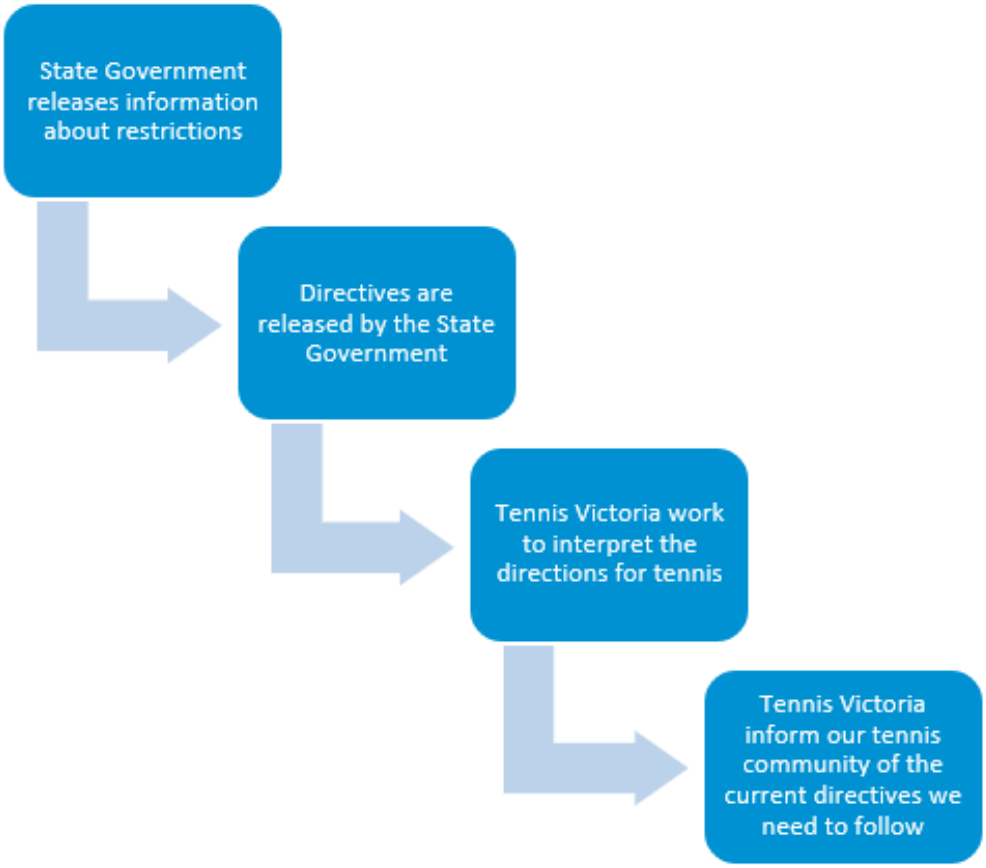
FAQS - Clubs

Victoria has reached the 80% double dose milestone! Thank you to the tennis community that have played their part to help reach this milestone. Finally, we are back as one as a state!

This FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document has been developed with the best information currently available to Tennis Victoria.



Current Tennis Victoria Guidelines
The Directions from State Government are available on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website and clarification of these Directions can also be found on the Coronavirus website. Our interpretation of the many directions for tennis are below.

Tennis as a community sport can return across Victoria for the minimum number required (singles and doubles play permitted) at indoor and outdoor facilities, which includes competitions and tournaments.

Premises/Venues/Tennis Clubs

If the premises is only open for community sport, you do not need to be fully vaccinated, or confirm vaccination status or comply with venue density limits.

If you are opening the premises for other purposes (food and beverage, retail or social functions, gym), all patrons will need to be fully vaccinated and have their check-in status verified by a COVID Check-in Marshal and comply with density limits (1 per 4sqm for indoor and 1 per 2sqm for outdoor or up to 500). Toilets are excepted.

The definition of community sport is all community sport playing activities that are authorised by the State Sporting Association. For tennis, this includes on court activities i.e. coaching, competitions, tournaments, training/social play and court hire.

Clubhouses can open:

- If the clubhouse is open for the purpose of community sport only, you do not need to be fully vaccinated, or confirm vaccination status or comply with venue density limits.
- If the clubhouse is open for other purposes (food and beverage, retail or social functions) all patrons will need to be fully vaccinated and have their check-in verified by a COVID Check-in Marshal and comply with density limits of 1 per 4sqm. Toilets are excepted.

Spectators are permitted subject to public gathering limits in the Stay Safe Directions No.28, in groups of no more than 30 (multiple groups must be spaced out).

Shared equipment must be cleaned between users.

At their discretion, some clubs may wish to introduce measures beyond the above guidelines. Tennis Victoria recognises and supports the ability of clubs to do so.

All venues / clubs are required to have up to date and accessible COVIDSafe plans.

Employers/Business Operators/Coaches

In addition to the above relating to premises, there is a requirement for employers to ensure all staff working at or in relation to a facility used for sport are either fully vaccinated or partially vaccinated (second dose due before 26 November 2021) as per the COVID-19 Vaccination Workers Directions. This requirement supplements employers' health and safety obligations and could apply to paid coaching staff and paid administrators.

Shared equipment must be cleaned between users.

All businesses are required to have up to date and accessible COVIDSafe plans.

Players/Participants/Spectators

Everyone attending a tennis club must continue to Check-in via the Service Victoria QR code app.

Face masks are required in indoor spaces only for ages 12+ (unless a medical exemption applies)

·There are no travel restrictions between Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

Shared equipment must be cleaned between users.

Players are encouraged to practice the COVIDSafe principles

COVID Safe Principles

To keep the sport of tennis as safe as possible please remember to encourage the use of COVIDSafe principles at your venue:

- Practise good hygiene and regularly and thoroughly wash your hands.
- Maintain physical distancing, keep at least 1.5 metres away from others.
- Face coverings are to be worn except if a medical exception applies. They can be removed when participating in tennis.
- If you feel unwell do not visit a tennis facility or participate in a tennis activity. Get tested at a nearby testing location. Return home immediately.
- Clearly display your venue's Service Victoria QR code and encourage all visitors to your tennis facility to check in before entry.

VENUES

How many people can play tennis at our venue?
If the premises is only open for community sport, you do not need to comply with venue density limits as community sport can return across Victoria for the minimum number required (singles and doubles play permitted) at indoor and outdoor facilities.

The definition of community sport is all community sport playing activities that are authorised by the State Sporting Association. For tennis, this includes on court activities i.e. coaching, competitions, tournaments, training/social play and court hire.

We operate an indoor venue; how do our playing restrictions differ to outdoor venues?
If the premises is only open for community sport, you do not need to comply with venue density limits as community sport can return across Victoria for the minimum number required (singles and doubles)

However, if you are opening the premises for other purposes (food and beverage, retail or social functions, gym), all patrons will need to be fully vaccinated and have their check-in status verified by a COVID Check-in Marshal and comply with density limits (1 per 4sqm for indoor). Toilets are exempt.

COVID Safe Principles

Are COVID check in marshals required at our venue?
No, if the premises is only open for community sport. People will not need to be fully vaccinated or confirm vaccination status or comply with venue density limits.
OR, when a physical recreation facility is open to the public for the purpose of community sport, but is not staffed (for example, after regular staff hours at a 24-hour gym, or unstaffed basketball courts), a COVID Check-in Marshal does not need to be present.

However, when a physical recreation facility is not staffed, the operator of the facility must prominently display a QR code and instructions to patrons and visitors that they must check in. The operator of the facility must also ensure that all other COVIDSafe requirements are complied with, including face masks, density quotients, signage and cleaning.

Yes, you will need a COVID Check-In Marshal if the premises is open for something outside of community sport (eg an off-court event, such as club social event) or if your venue has decided to be a fully vaccinated venue.

What should we do if someone tests positive at our venue?
The government anticipates that once the economy opens that COVID cases will rise, but in a highly vaccinated population. This means the number of exposure sites could grow and you may need to manage a situation where someone tests positive to COVID-19 at your venue. The Tennis Victoria COVID 19 toolkit takes you step by step through what to do.

Someone at our venue tests positive and becomes ill, are we covered by insurance via our Tennis Victoria affiliation?
Directly contact the insurer for specific insurance questions. To manage your risk around this be sure to follow the COVID directives and have a thorough COVID safe plan in place.
Please see contact details for Marsh Advantage Insurance below:
Phone: 1300 130 373
Email: sport@marsh.com

COVID Safe Principles

CLUB ROOMS/USE OF FACILITY OUTSIDE COMMUNITY SPORT

Can we open our club rooms?
Yes. However, regardless of the activity occurring within the clubhouse (social function, committee meeting, watching play, etc.) you must be fully vaccinated to access the club rooms. The ONLY exemption is when you need to use the toilets.

If opening the club rooms for anything outside of toilet access, then you will be required to have a COVID Check-in Marshal confirming vaccination status and must comply with density limits of 1 per 4sqm.

Can we operate our canteen/kiosk/licensed bar during tennis?
Yes, under the hospitality guidelines venues will be able to operate a canteen/kiosk. Venues must ensure that they meet the hospitality guidelines which can be found HERE.

Please note, If you are opening the premises for other purposes (such as food and beverage, retail or social functions, gym), all patrons will need to be fully vaccinated and have their check-in status verified by a COVID Check-in Marshal and comply with density limits (1 per 4sqm for indoor and 1 per 2sqm for outdoor or up to 500). Toilets are exempt.

If we hold a trophy presentation outside can unvaccinated parents attend?
Due to the nature of events, with larger groups gathering and the prospect of continual use of clubhouses, the current activities permitted under the community sport exemption for open premise directives may be compromised.

Therefore, in line with Government directives, events will need ot be delivered within the Event Setting Directives which requires all patrons aged 16 and over to be fully vaccinated.

COVID Safe Principles

SPECTATORS

Do spectators and parents watching and or supervising kids need to be double vaccinated as they are not there to actually play tennis but supervise support?

As part of child safety, a parent or guardian can attend and watch their child play. This does not count towards the 30 people limit. Outside of this, Spectators are permitted subject to public gathering limits in the Stay Safe Directions No.28, in groups of no more than 30 (multiple groups must be spaced out). Vaccination status is irrelevant while they remain outdoors.*
*Only time when this may not be the case is if a venue has decided that you need to be fully vaccinated to play.

VACCINATION

How will we track who is and isn't vaccinated?

The 3 ways in which you can track are:

- A COVID vaccination digital certificate through the Services Victoria app, the Medicare app, or a smartphone wallet; or
- A printed version of their certificate or immunisation history statement; or
- Provide evidence of a valid exemption

Do all committee members now need to be vaccinated as well to be on tennis club committees?

No. No mandate has been set requiring committee members to be vaccinated, but we do strongly encourage that everyone who can, does get vaccinated. You will have to be vaccinated though to attend meetings in the clubhouse.

How should we handle conversations where people refuse to show their vaccination status?

People who refuse to provide evidence of their vaccination status, or proof of their medical exception must be treated as unvaccinated.
You cannot compel people to provide proof of vaccination and are not encouraged to enforce compliance where it poses a risk to your safety.
This Tennis Victoria COVID 19 toolkit contains a document that can help you navigate this circumstance if it does arrive.

COVID Safe Principles

TRAVEL

Are there any travel limits?
No. There are no travel restrictions between Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

Will carpooling to tennis be allowed?
Yes. However, the enclosed space of a car presents a heightened risk of transmission of COVID-19. Wear a face mask if you are with people you don't live with unless an exception applies. You should ensure that you follow the COVIDSafe Principles if carpooling.

Affiliates should ensure that children are to be transported only with prior written authorisation from the child's parent/guardian.

To obtain approval Personnel should provide information about the proposed journey, including:

(a) the form of transport proposed;
(b) details of any insurance and age of the driver (if applicable);
(c) the reason for the journey;
(d) the route to be followed, including any stops or side trips; and
(e) details of anyone who will be present during the journey

We live in a border town, how will this effect tennis where people from NSW/SA who may be under different restrictions are playing in Victoria or vice versa?
We currently do not have any information on this front, but expect that any person who does play across state borders to follow the restrictions of that state of which they are playing in.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID Safe Principles

HEALTH

Do I have to wear a face mask?
Face masks are required in indoor spaces only for ages 12+ (unless a medical exemption applies)

I'm feeling unwell, what steps should I take?
If you feel unwell do not visit a tennis facility or participate in a tennis activity. Get tested at a nearby testing location. Return home immediately.

COACHING

What happens to a Club Coach that is not vaccinated? Does this mean they are unable to continue coaching even after 26th November 2021?
Any coaches not vaccinated by this date will be unable to coach.

How many people can be involved in group coaching?
There are no caps on the number of people allowed for coaching.

COMPETITION

Can competition resume?
Yes. The definition of community sport is all community sport playing activities that are authorised by the State Sporting Association. For tennis, this includes on court activities such as competition.

Our association includes a venue that requires all people to be fully vaccinated regardless of Community Sport. What should we do for forfeits where teams are unable to play at this venue?
At their discretion, some venues may wish to introduce measures beyond the above guidelines. Tennis Victoria recognises and supports the ability of clubs to do so.

Tennis Victoria recognises and supports that each association should make the best decision for their competition and stakeholders regarding the awarding of points from forfeits. It is best to ensure that these decisions are a collaborative process with stakeholders and once finalised communicated well to all

COVID Safe Principles

OTHER

What rules may apply when we hit 90%?
As has been the case at each stage of the easing of restrictions, we are unable to confirm what may or may not be included as part of any conditions associated with the further opening of the state. As soon as we know, we will let our affiliates know.

I have a question that has not been answered by this FAQ, who should I ask?
Please feel free to reach out to your Club Development Officer or Coach Leader to ask any questions that you feel may not have been answered by this FAQ.

Please be mindful and respectful that the reality might be that they don't have the answer until they have sought further information.

Where can I find more information or support?
More information and support can be found at the following links -

- https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
- https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/
- https://www.tennis.com.au/vic/home/tennis-victoria-covid-19-toolkit