



COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines

5 February 2021





COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines for Continued Play

Last updated 5 February 2021

Guidelines to take effect as of Friday 5 February from 6:00pm

Please take note of some temporary variations between Perth Metro and Peel regions, and all other regions of Western Australia

We all know tennis is a unique sport with many benefits – the main one being health and wellbeing.

The **COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines for Continued Play** provide details on how outdoor courts can remain open for use to help ensure people remain active, subject to strict social distancing and hygiene practices being implemented.

Tennis clubs, coaches and operators across the country are all different and operate in different local contexts. They are also independent organisations and businesses. Making an assessment of whether a safe exercise environment can be provided also depends on a range of factors, which will apply differently at each venue – it is the responsibility of each coach, club and operator to make that assessment based on their local environment.



COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines v10

These guidelines have been developed to reduce the likelihood of spreading the COVID-19 virus through tennis. 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.

SafeWA and Contact Tracing

The WA State Government requires that businesses and premises maintain mandatory contact registers for staff, volunteers and patrons for the purpose of Department of Health COVID-19 contact tracing.

There is no longer an indoor / outdoor activity distinction, and **any visitor** to your tennis venue **must register upon arrival** via the SafeWA app or manual register. Regardless of the length of time spent at the venue, all visitors must register for contact tracing purposes.

To date the onus has been on businesses to ensure a contact register is available for patrons. From 6pm on 5 February the responsibility will be shared - individuals will now also face penalties if they fail to scan in using either SafeWA or the contact register available. As always, authorities will apply a common-sense approach.

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>

Under the WA Government's COVID Roadmap, each business and community facility will need to prepare a [COVID Safety Plan](#) and display a COVID Safety Plan Certificate. You will also need to ensure your COVID safety plan is available for inspection by authorised offices.

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 who has been overseas in the last 14 days
- Have flu-like symptoms

Social distancing and public gatherings

Tennis holds a unique advantage as a sport which requires no direct contact between players. You should also adhere to the following rules for your region.

Metro Perth and Peel (Friday 5 February at 6:00pm – Sunday 14 February at 12:01am)

- Maintain a strict limit of a minimum of **four square metres (4sqm) per person**
- Community sport can involve **up to 150 people** including players, officials and spectators for the entire venue. Please coordinate venue activities accordingly, and ensure the four square metre rule is adhered to at all times.



COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines



- Up to 32 people may be allowed on a tennis court at one time, as per the 4 square metre rule. However, there may not be more than 150 people across the whole venue. Clubs are asked to coordinate their activities
- Touch racquets instead of the regular pre or post-match handshakes

All other regions of WA (including South West)

- Maintain a strict limit of a minimum of **two square metres (2sqm) per person**
- Gathering limits are determined by WA's unique 2sqm rule
- Touch racquets instead of the regular pre or post-match handshakes

Personal behaviours

To protect against infection, in all regions of WA you should:

- Wash/sterilise your hands before and after you play and avoid touching your face while playing
- Not share water bottles or towels. Bring your own full bottle and towel
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand-sanitiser when available, before and after eating, after going to the toilet, sneezing and coughing
- Cover your coughs and sneezes and dispose of any used tissue immediately
- Avoid touching your face
- Keep your distance from people who are obviously sick

Metro Perth and Peel (Friday 5 February at 6:00pm – Sunday 14 February at 12:01am)

- Everyone over 12 years and not otherwise exempt must continue to **wear a mask** in public and while at work, unless exempt or for outdoor vigorous exercise.
- Players are **not required** to wear a mask while actively participating in **vigorous on-court activities**.
- A mask must be worn at all times pre and post vigorous on-court activities.

Coaching

- Attendance records of participants for the purposes of contact tracing are mandatory
- Position your participants at well-spaced stations
- Maintain social distancing at all times including when giving feedback and while players are resting
- Ensure thorough and regular cleaning of any equipment and high touch items
- Implement a 15-minute buffer between participants, to ensure equipment can be cleaned
- Payments to be made online via EFTPOS – avoid handling cash.

Metro Perth and Peel (Friday 5 February at 6:00pm – Sunday 14 February at 12:01am)

- Coaches must **wear a mask**, unless actively engaged in vigorous on-court activities.
- The four square metres (4sqm) per person rule must be adhered to, along with overall capacity limits

Tennis equipment

There is no specific evidence that balls can spread COVID-19. We do know that respiratory droplet contamination on hard surfaces can potentially survive for some time. Therefore, you should:

- Make sure you clean your hands before and after coming off the court
- Not touch your face after touching a ball, racquet or other shared tennis equipment



COVID-19 Community Tennis Guidelines



- Sanitise hands at regular intervals while on court
- Use new balls and racquet grips where possible
- Use fewer balls per session. Replace all balls if someone with/suspected to have COVID-19 comes in contact with them
- Restrict balls to a particular person, court or day of the week. One idea is to label them with a permanent marker
- Clean all shared tennis gear before and after use 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. If this type of equipment is used, they must be positioned and removed by a coach/supervisor and cleaned between use.

Organising tennis activities

- Implement a 15-minute buffer between participants, to ensure equipment can be cleaned
- Promote prevention techniques and lead by example
- Implement ways to minimise contact for both participants and staff
- Keep your team and your participants informed of the actions you're taking
- Payments to be made online or via EFTPOS – avoid handling cash

Venues

- Follow [Department of Health](#) guidelines
- Meals can be served as can alcoholic beverages without a meal.
- Changerooms, toilets and shower facilities should be cleaned regularly and thoroughly.
- If professionally operated cafés, bars and canteens are in operation, all staff are to complete the mandatory [AHA Hospitality and Tourism COVID-19 Hygiene Course](#)
- Remove all soft furnishings such as seat cushions.

Clean environment

Providing a clean environment to play tennis in is essential. Make sure you:

- Ensure thorough and regular cleaning of common contact surfaces, 'high touch' items and shared amenities, such as handles, taps, lunch rooms, EFTPOS keypads and toilets.
- Provide soap, hand-sanitiser or wipes at all main contact points
- Clean all surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and tables, at least once a day wearing disposable gloves
- Clean any surfaces which may have blood, body fluids and/or secretions or excretions on them
- Regularly remind and encourage everyone, particularly juniors, of the need to wash hands regularly and adopt the other principles of a good hygiene strategy
- Display signage about handwashing and hygiene techniques at strategic points like all sinks, eating areas, drinking areas and on the side of court.