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Ashbourne Tennis Club: Covid-19: Return to managed play guidelines

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Author – Management Committee

Introduction

This guidance refers specifically to Ashbourne Tennis Club, Moor Lane, DE6 1NA to ensure tennis activity can be enjoyed in a way that is in line with Government advice and helps prevent the spread of Covid-19. Members are advised to read and abide by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Covid-19 guidance for players, coaches and venues. Link below:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/tennis-news/news-and-opinion/general-news/2020/march/coronavirus-covid-19---latest-advice/>

Guidelines

1. Players

- 1.1 Players should bring their own equipment where possible, and the minimum amount needed to play. Equipment such as racquets can be shared, but where this happens ensure thorough cleaning before and after use. Players should not share items such as towels. Clean and wipe down equipment, including racquets and water bottles before and after use
- 1.2 Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home to go to the court (or use an alcohol gel if washing hands is not possible)
- 1.3 Players should bring their own alcohol gel to the courts and follow hygiene advice provided within Government guidelines. There will be no alcohol gel provided at the club. Players should use alcohol gel after touching any shared surfaces such as court gates, fences, benches, etc, and avoid doing so where possible
- 1.4 Players should avoid touching their face
- 1.5 Players should not share food or drink with others
- 1.6 Players must maintain social distancing – stay at least two metres away from other players at all times (including during play, when taking breaks and before and after play)
- 1.7 Players should not make physical contact with other players
- 1.8 Avoid chasing the ball down to another court if other players are using it
- 1.9 Players should not congregate on or around the court after playing to allow access for others
- 1.10 Players should take away any rubbish as the club rubbish bins have been removed
- 1.11 Players should arrive as close as possible to when you need to be there
- 1.12 Do not leave your home to play tennis if Government advice means you should stay at home because you or someone you live with has or has had symptoms of Covid-19, or you are in the most vulnerable category and have been advised to shield from the coronavirus
- 1.13 If someone who has played at your venue develops symptoms of Covid-19, they should follow the Government's 'test and trace' guidelines
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

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2. Singles play

2.1 Singles play is allowed against a different household as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible

3. Doubles play

3.1 Doubles play is now permitted with people from outside of your household, as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible – meaning 4 people from different households can now play doubles

3.2 Consider agreeing in advance which player will take the shot if a ball travels to the centre of the court

4. Equipment

4.1 Players do not need to use their own clearly marked tennis balls – however, if you choose to use shared balls then extra care must be taken to ensure you do not touch your face during play, and you should clean your hands before play and immediately after finishing (use alcohol gel if required)

4.2 Players should still avoid using their hands to pick up tennis balls from other courts where possible – use your racquet/foot to return them

5. Courts – bookings and access

5.1 Courts must be booked in advance via Club Spark. Members can access the ‘court bookings’ tab via the club website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ashbournetennisclub>. Players should register on Club Spark to enable court bookings if they do not currently have access. Any questions please contact Sally Longley, Club Secretary: 07787 118013 or David Longworth, Membership Secretary: 07952 237892.

5.2 Players must leave the courts **10 minutes before the end of their booking time** to ensure that the court is empty for the next players.

5.3 The court gates will remain open for players to access the courts. Players should use the gate nearest to Court 1 for access to Court 1 and Court 2 and the gate nearest to Court 3 for access to Court 3. Court 4 is accessible by its own gate.

5.4 Players should not proceed onto the pathway leading to any of the courts from the car park or from the courts back to the car park until the path is clear

5.5 Daylight play only, floodlights not to be used

5.6 Park car at a safe distance (greater than 2 metres) from other cars in the car park

6. Nets

6.1 The nets will be adjusted to the correct height so players should not adjust them. Net winders have been removed.

7. Clubhouse and Facilities

7.1 The clubhouse will remain closed at present. Only access should be for the First Aid Box as needed

7.2 Floodlights should not be used

7.3 All toilets are currently closed

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7.4 Do not use benches at the courts

7.5 Carefully arranged and managed social activity can take place for groups of no more than six people, subject to social distancing always being in place. Members must bring their own chairs for this

8. Coaching – refer to LTA Return to Managed play guidelines

<https://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/news/2020/lta-guidance-for-tennis-coaches---covid-19.pdf>

8.1 Coached sessions should be limited to groups of no more than 6 people, including the coach(es)

8.2 Any coaching equipment used (e.g. cones) should be cleaned and wiped down afterwards

9. Supervision

9.1 Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) is required, or a carer for a disabled player, it is permitted and is not counted as part of the maximum group size of six, but should be off court and limited to one per player where possible, with social distancing strictly observed while watching the sessions

Review of Guidelines

These guidelines will be reviewed by the Management Committee on a weekly basis and when any Government and LTA advice and guidelines change. Any amendments to these guidelines will be communicated to all Ashbourne Tennis Club members. A copy of these guidelines will be situated in the Noticeboard at the courts along with posters providing key messages. These guidelines will be available on the club website

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ashbournetennisclub>

Any questions please contact:

Andy Bailey, Chairman Ashbourne Tennis Club 07968 492383