



Team Competition - Covid-19 Guidance for Venues, Team Captains and Players

Information correct as of 31st March 2021



The following document aims to provide the relevant Covid-19 guidance for those venues, team captains and players involved in the LTA National League, LTA County Cup and LTA Youth Schools (National Championships and Year 8 & 10) competitions. LTA approved competitions, including these team competitions can be played as long as they adhere to the LTA's Return to Competition guidance

To accompany this summary document and following the publication by the Government of detailed guidance, we have republished our full LTA Covid-19 Secure guidance documents for tennis venues, coaches, officials and players to support the safe return to play from 29 March under step 1 of the roadmap. You can view these documents via the links below:

[Guidance for Tennis Players](#)

[Guidance for Tennis Venues](#)

[Guidance for Tennis Coaches](#)

[Guidance for Tennis Officials & Competition Organisers](#)

[Summary grid of permitted tennis activity](#)

[Wales – Guidance for Tennis Venues, Coaches & Players](#)

[Scotland – Summary Grid – tennis activity by level of protection](#)

Undertaking any activity, including tennis, has the potential for increased risk of transmission of Covid-19, you are advised to read [Government guidance on staying safe outside your home](#).

It is the venues, team captains and players responsibility to check the relevant LTA Guidelines at the time of the fixture via www.LTA.org.uk/coronavirus

Venues

- All venues must ensure they have read and adhere to the [LTA Guidance for Tennis Venues](#). This page is updated regularly so please ensure this is checked regularly
- All those attending a venue must ensure they strictly observe and respect all rules and signage at any particular venue

Changing Rooms & Toilets:

- Toilets can be accessed
- Players should arrive changed and ready for play
- Changing rooms and showers should not be used except by people with disabilities or special needs or in emergency situations
- Where toilet facilities are opened, particular care should be taken by those using them and should minimise time spent inside

Face Coverings:

- Where access to indoor facilities is permitted (e.g. as a throughway to access outdoor courts or toilets) visitors are encouraged to wear masks

Pre-attendance Symptom Check

It is the responsibility for anyone attending a fixture in any capacity that they should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any Covid-19 symptoms using the information on the NHS website before leaving home. No-one should leave home to participate in tennis if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of Covid-19, currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste

Government guidelines in relation to local lockdowns and returning to the UK from overseas must be followed.

Quarantine/Self Isolating/Health

It is each player/team captain's responsibility to adhere to current government guidelines regarding both international and domestic travel.

- Travel corridors are currently suspended; therefore, anyone arriving in England must quarantine for 10 days and take 2 coronavirus test while in quarantine.
- If you have been in a country on the [travel ban red list](#) in the 10 days before you arrive, you will need to quarantine in a government approved hotel.

This information can change on a regular basis so please ensure you refer to it.

- If any players are travelling back from any of the countries on the current quarantine list, they are not permitted to participate in a fixture if this falls within the 10 day quarantine period
- Similar to the above if someone is self-isolating they cannot break that period and play in a fixture

Courts

- Outdoor courts can be used for fixtures for adults and children
- Indoor courts and bubble courts should not be used at this time. From 12th April at the earliest, indoor courts may open for junior fixtures.
- Ensure nets are maintained at the appropriate height to avoid players having to adjust them, and remove net winders
- If your courts require dragging (e.g. clay) or drying after rain, venues are advised to have a nominated person to do this or make spray available for players to use
- Remove any other unnecessary equipment and items from courts, and ensure appropriate cleaning measures are in place

Travel Arrangements

- Travel to take part in a tennis competition / fixtures is permitted, with no restriction on distance
- Walking and cycling to fixtures is encouraged. Where this is not possible, use public transport or players to drive their own car
- Car sharing is not currently permitted with someone from outside your household or your support bubble and this is unlikely to change until 17th May at the earliest
- Schools to check on their own regulations for car / mini bus sharing
- Overnight stays to take part in sport or physical activity are not permitted
- Players are encouraged to arrive as close as possible to when they need to be at the venue

- [Safer travel guidance is provided on the Government website](#)

Equipment

- Please follow public health guidelines for hygiene
- Please bring your own hand sanitiser to clean your hands at regular intervals especially before and after a match
- Please try not to bring any equipment, baggage or clothing that is not essential.
- Players must bring their own tennis balls for practice
- Players are advised to bring and use their own equipment – where any equipment is shared it should be subject to thorough cleaning measures between use
- Any equipment used (e.g. mini tennis nets, orange lines) should be cleaned and wiped down afterwards
- We advise that scoreboards and on court chairs are not used in any fixtures
- New or fresh tennis balls are not needed for each match, but extra care must be taken to ensure the players do not touch their faces during play, and anyone involved in the match should all clean their hands before the match and immediately after finishing (use alcohol gel if required)
- Bring your own, full water bottle, and do not share food or drink with others
- Ensure you take all your belongings with you at the end of the competition and do not leave anything on court. Please make sure any rubbish is put in the bins provided
- Players must be mindful that they have a sufficient number of restrung rackets, as stringing facilities could be limited at the majority of venues

Maintaining Social Distancing

- Social distancing should be observed by all those attending a fixture
- Players should not to congregate on/around the court before & after play
- There should be no skin to skin contact for players. Racket taps are allowed but shaking hands or elbow alternatives are not permitted
- In normal circumstances the home team may provide hospitality to the away team after the match, however, this is not permissible for this season, however, we do still expect home teams to be very welcoming
- Presentations can take place but Medals/Trophies should remain in boxes/packages or players can take them out the boxes and be collected from the table (not passed). This should only be held outside

Doubles Protocol

- Other than during the playing of a point distance between partner's & opponents to be maintained
- Player's to avoid talking into a tennis ball, and when communicating with partner maintain distance
- Avoid fist pumps and other physical contact with partner
- Maintain distance from partner & opponents when changing ends
- No shaking of hands at the end of a match. Racket taps allowed.

Supervision & Spectating

- Spectating is not permitted
- Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) is required, or a carer for a disabled player, it is permitted across, but should be off court and limited to one per player where possible

- Where supervision takes place, this is subject to legal gathering limits (rule of six outdoors) and attendees should maintain social distancing from people not in their household or bubble at all times

Rain Delays

- In the event of rain, attendees should use an umbrella or if they drove, return to their own vehicle, to maintain social distancing if there is insufficient outdoor cover from the rain to maintain social distancing
- Players and supervisors should not gather indoors to shelter if it does rain
- In the event of an extended delay, team captains are encouraged to make an early decision with regards to cancelling a fixture to avoid attendees waiting around for a prolonged period

During the Competition

- If a player develops coronavirus symptoms at any time during the fixture (even if not whilst at the venue) they must stop competing and withdraw immediately. They should then contact the NHS.
- Public Health England will contact the venue if anybody that attended the fixture later tests positive for Covid-19 under the Track and Trace system
- Changing rooms are not to be used during fixtures; therefore, players should arrive on site ready for play. Toilets will be accessible, however, all those involved in the competition must observe the relevant signage at the particular venue

Refreshments (Food & Beverage)

- Players should bring their own drinks / snacks to matches
- Some venues may have a bar / restaurant for takeaway service only, and all guidelines at the venue must be followed
- This facility will vary from venue to venue, so teams must check in advance to see what provisions are available if applicable

NHS Test & Trace

- To support NHS Test and Trace, team captains should keep a temporary record of all players for 21 days, in a way that is manageable, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed
- All match times & fixtures, player details and results should be fully inputted and kept up to date via www.competitions.lta.org.uk

Full guidance is available and regularly updated online for venues, coaches, players, officials & competition organisers - www.lta.org.uk/coronavirus