

# Playing Tennis During Coronavirus Outbreak

We know how important it is for people to be active, and the particular role tennis can have in the physical and mental wellbeing of those that play it. By its very nature, tennis is an activity whereby close person to person contact can be avoided, with the UK Government saying tennis is a good example of an activity that can be undertaken in a way compliant with social distancing restrictions.

## Local Restrictions

**Links are provided below providing details of any local restrictions are in place in England, Scotland or Wales, and where there are any specific implications for taking part in tennis activity this is specified.**

However, anyone taking part in tennis activity should be aware of whether they are in an area with local restrictions, and if so what the restrictions are as they may impact on aspects of the activity beyond the tennis court, such as travel or restrictions on socialising with people outside of your household around the tennis venue (e.g in venue clubhouses).

## England - Return to Play (updated 10 September)

Following guidance published by the Government for the phased return of sport and recreation, the LTA has developed an updated set of practical guidelines for venues, coaches, players and officials/competitions. Key additions and updates to the guidelines have been clearly marked on the pdfs, including what dates they apply from where applicable.

This version of the guidance has been updated to provide clarity on group activity after the Government confirmed that organised group tennis activity that is currently permitted in line with LTA COVID-19 Secure guidelines, can continue to take place, both indoors and outdoors. For clarity, from Monday 14 September:

- **For informal social play, group size is limited to a maximum of six people by law**
- **Organised tennis activity for larger groups, including coached sessions, club nights and competitions is permitted by the Government as an exception to the limit of six, and so can continue, provided that venues, coaching providers and event organisers follow LTA COVID-19 secure guidelines**
- **In specified areas of the North East of England, spectating should not take place at tennis activity. Supervision however, can continue, and so where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) is required, or a carer for a disabled player, it is permitted, but should be off court and limited to one per player where possible**
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These guidelines apply to tennis as well as padel, and outline adaptations and considerations so that tennis and associated activity can be enjoyed in a way that is in line with Government advice and helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include measures to maintain hygiene and minimise unnecessary interactions with others.