



**NATIONAL
LEAGUE**

Covid-19 Guidance for Venues, Team Captains & Players

Information correct as of 8th September 2020



**TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN**

The following document aims to provide the relevant Covid-19 guidance for those venues, team captains and players involved in the LTA National League competition.

Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by HM Government we will be adhering to guidance put in place by the LTA to ensure the safety and wellbeing whilst competing. 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](#).

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

Pre-attendance Symptom Check

It is the responsibility for anyone attending a National League 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.

- Countries and territories with no self-isolation requirement on arrival in England can be found [here](#).
- The latest advice on local restrictions and areas with an outbreak of Coronavirus can be found [here](#).

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 National League fixture if this falls within the two week isolation period
- Similar to the above if someone is self-isolating they cannot break that period and play in the event if it falls within the tournament period.

Travel Arrangements

- Walking and cycling to fixtures is encouraged. Where this is not possible, use public transport or drive
- Players are encouraged to arrive as close as possible to when they need to be at the venue

Car sharing - You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering

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, scoreboards) should be cleaned and wiped down afterwards
- New or fresh tennis balls are not need 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)

Maintaining Social Distancing

- Social distancing should be observed by all those attending the competition
- 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.
- Presentations can take place but Medals/Trophies should remain in boxes/packaging 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

- Where possible, players should be restricted to one non-participant and, where possible, dependants should not be brought along
- Supporters, parents, and other spectators should remain socially distanced whilst attending events
- Spectator groups must be restricted to discrete six person gathering limits and spread out, in line with government guidance.

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 spectators 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 the league match 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 competition 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

Food and Beverage

- Players should bring their own drinks / snacks to matches
- Some venues may have a bar / restaurant, and all guidelines at the venue must be followed

Current guidance states that you should NOT:

- socialise indoors in groups of more than two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) – this includes when dining out or going to the pub
- socialise outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households; gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is from exclusively from two households or support bubbles

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 online for venues, coaches, players, officials & competition organisers - www.lta.org.uk/coronavirus