



BTA Return to Tennis Guidance

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PLAY SAFE GUIDELINES - RETURN TO RESTRICTED PLAY

INTRODUCTION

The BTA has developed a set of practical guidelines for tennis to resume in Barbados, subject to the guidance and restrictions issued by the Government from time to time on the public health COVID-19 emergency.

Tennis venues across the Island are all different. Assessing whether a safe exercise environment can be provided depends on various factors which may apply differently at each venue. It is the responsibility of each tennis provider, coach and facility to make that assessment based on their local environment.

FACILITIES

- Toilet facilities can be opened if the venue wishes, but particular care should be taken by those using them and those cleaning them. Where they are open, ensure soap and water is provided
- Clubhouses can be opened in a limited way for operational reasons (e.g. to switch on floodlights) or for toilet access
- The venue's changing area should not be used. Players and coaches should arrive changed and ready to go on court
- All social spaces should remain closed
- If your courts require dragging (e.g. clay) or drying after rain, have a nominated person do this or make disposable gloves and spray available for players to use
- Remove any other unnecessary equipment and items from courts (e.g. benches)

HEALTH, SAFETY & HYGIENE

- It is recommended that 'at-risk' groups and those with COVID-19 symptoms (or who have come into contact with someone with COVID-19 symptoms) not participate or attend venues
- All persons should wash their 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)
- Good hygiene should be observed (i.e avoid touching surfaces where possible; wash/sanitize your hands regularly; cough into a tissue and discard it immediately; and do not touch your face)
- Masks should be worn while off court
- Players should bring their own hand sanitizer, full water bottle, marked tennis balls and own equipment
- Clubs/venues should ensure usual access to first aid and emergency equipment is maintained (in some cases this may require limited access to the clubhouse being possible)
- Clubs/venues should make hand sanitizers or wipes available for use at entrance/exit to venue/courts
- Clean all common touchpoint surfaces (gates, door handles, handrails etc) regularly
- Avoid using your hands to pick up tennis balls that are not yours - use your racquet/foot to hit/kick them to your opponent or return them to another court

TENNIS ACTIVITY

- Limit activities to court rental and coaching activity to no more than permitted by Government restrictions (currently 3 persons if not all of same household or 5 persons, if of same household)
- No extra-curricular or social activity should take place
- Use every second court, where practical
- Coaches and players should be assigned specific courts where possible—and possibly specific days and times.

COURT ACCESS

- Encourage minimal encounters between people, including in car parks and at entrances
- Players should arrive as close as possible to when they need to be on court and leave the court before the end of their allotted times so that the court is empty for the next players
- Where safe and appropriate, doors and court gates should be left open during playing hours

EQUIPMENT

- Players should bring their own equipment - it is advised to avoid use of communal racquets or tennis balls
- Consider spraying tennis balls briefly with a disinfectant spray (e.g., Lysol or Clorox) at the conclusion of play. Using new balls on a very regular basis is highly encouraged
- Use of coaching equipment (e.g. cones) should be limited, with any equipment used cleaned and wiped down afterwards
- Players should only take the minimum amount of equipment needed to play
- Players should clean and wipe down their equipment, including racquets and water bottles, before and after use
- Avoid using other equipment such as courtside benches, net handles or court sweepers where possible
- Teaching pros should have their own marked hoppers and teaching charts to avoid sharing with other pros

BOOKINGS & PAYMENT

- Operate online booking for courts and sessions where at all possible, or alternatively, phone bookings
- Contact details must be provided to the venue to facilitate the tracing of contacts in case of infection
- Implement a short buffer period (e.g. 10 minutes) between court/session booking slots to allow time for players to leave before the next players arrive
- Consider staggering the start time of court bookings so that players do not all arrive/leave at the same time
- Take any payments online where at all possible, and avoid handling cash

COMMUNICATION

- Communicate with your members/customers clearly and regularly, making them aware in advance of the measures you are putting in place at your venue, and guidelines they are asked to follow
- Ensure signage on guidelines for playing tennis safely and promoting hygiene measures is clearly displayed (and ensure these remain up to date as restrictions change)

COACHING

- It is important that both recreational play and coaching activity resumes. Venues should liaise with their coach(es) to ensure an approach to activity is agreed that is feasible to deliver safely, and how coaches can be supported to deliver lessons
- Coaches should position themselves on the other side of net, and maintain social distancing from the player at all times
- Use new or fresh tennis balls where possible for each lesson
- It is advised the coach should be the only person to touch the tennis balls and players use their feet/racket to return them. Where players need to handle tennis balls (e.g. serving toss), it is advised they should bring their own clearly marked tennis balls that only they touch
- Coaches should liaise with the venue to ensure an agreed approach to activity that is feasible to deliver safely, and explore how coaches can be supported to deliver sessions
- Communicate with your customers clearly and regularly, making them aware in advance of the measures you are putting in place for your sessions, and guidelines they should follow when attending

SPECTATORS

- Spectating should be actively discouraged
- Where attendance of a parent/guardian (non-participant) or a carer for a disabled player is required, it should be limited to one per player, with the carer/parent/guardian remaining in their vehicle where possible. Where this is not possible, social distancing should be strictly observed while watching the sessions (consider marking out specific boxes/areas for this purpose)

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)
- Do not make physical contact with other players (such as shaking hands or high five)
- Stay on your side of court and avoid changing ends, or agree to change ends at opposite sides of the net
- Avoid chasing the ball down to another court if other players are using it

COMPETITIONS

Competitive sporting events are currently prohibited under Government guidelines.