



# FALL 2020 SAFE PLAY GUIDELINES

As college tennis players, coaches, and administrators, we are fortunate to participate in a sport that naturally lends itself to social distancing. So as you prepare to host or participate in collegiate tennis competition this fall, the ITA would like to stress the importance of running “safe” collegiate competitions where all players, coaches, event staff, and spectators are adhering to stated health safety protocols. It is critically important that all players, coaches, event staff, and spectators comply with the health safety procedures imposed by host institutions, host facilities, and local, state, and federal governments. Failure to comply with stated health safety protocols not only endangers the health of participants and their friends and families, but it hurts our ability to reinforce tennis as a social distancing sport and puts into question the short-term viability of tennis events at all levels.

Prior to administering a fall collegiate tennis competition, all host sites are encouraged to create a set of health safety protocols, taking into account institutional, conference, NCAA along with local, state, and federal guidelines necessary in running a safe event. These protocols should be communicated to all participating programs prior to the event.

***Please note: The following guidelines are only recommendations. This list is not exhaustive and host sites are encouraged to implement any additional measures that are deemed necessary.***

## **General Recommendations**

- Host sites should monitor and follow institutional, conference, NCAA, and local/state/federal guidelines leading up to and during competition. We encourage you to consult the NCAA guidelines on the “*Resocialization of Collegiate Sport*” as well as CDC guidelines on “*Playing Sports*.”
- Establish a policy regarding what personnel associated with each participating team are deemed essential and will be allowed on site (players, coaches, training staff, SID, etc.). Inform participating coaches of this policy and inform them of measures that will be taken if essential personnel do not comply with stated protocols (warning, removal from event & facility, etc.). Ask for a list of essential personnel to be submitted pre-event and use this list at the entrance to the facility.
- Establish a policy regarding allowing non-essential people (fans, family members, etc.) on site during the event. If allowed, that policy should include measures that will be taken if those non-essential personnel do not comply with stated protocols (warning, removal from the facility, etc.). This policy should be stated on your athletic website as well as posted at the entrance and throughout the facility.
- Require masks/face coverings to be worn by all coaches, players, staff, and fans while on site. The only exception should be players while actively competing or officials while chairing a match. Coaches and roving officials should wear masks while on court.
- Wherever possible, please require players, guests, and staff to stay socially distanced (six feet away from each other). The examples of how to enforce this include, but are not limited to:
  - Players place their bags/sit on opposite sides of the court.
  - Restrict fan congregation areas.
  - Rope off areas as necessary, such as bleachers.
  - Coordinate team arrival times, practice times, and meeting spaces to avoid overlap with competing teams.
- Ensure the event is set up in a way that should an individual later test positive for Covid-19, social distancing has taken place and no close contact has occurred between individuals from competing teams that would require contact tracing (any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes).
- Prop open doors/gates wherever possible within the facility - courts, training rooms, locker rooms, or bathrooms (if locker room/bathroom setup allows without violation of privacy issues).

- Limit the number of people allowed in indoor areas at any given time (meeting rooms, bathrooms, locker rooms, training rooms).
- Additional signage around the facility to enforce basic guidelines such as mask and social distancing requirements, as well as consistent hand washing/sanitation. Provide hand sanitizer/hand wipes on site.

### **Pre-play**

- If possible, schedule your event in a way where members of the same team are playing at or around the same time of day and on neighboring courts. This will help limit the time a team needs to remain on site on any given day and limit the number of courts coaches are needing to cover.
- Publish your draw with court assignments in advance and utilize shotgun starts. Have the tournament director communicate with participating coaches by text/app when a court is available for their players so as to avoid having players check-in at a tournament desk.
- Assign each participating team an outdoor bench/waiting area/meeting area and ask that they remain there when not actively playing.
- If multiple teams are sharing a locker room/bathroom/meeting area, etc., please coordinate specific times they will be available to each team, ensuring no overlap.
  - If possible, please sanitize these common areas before the next team uses the space.
- If the visiting team requires training services from the host, coordinate specific training needs prior to the match. Designate specific times for pre-match treatment, ensuring no overlap.
- Teams are encouraged to bring their own ice/water/sports drinks/food when traveling.

### **During Play**

- Require players to wipe down their on-court benches/chair before and after their matches, or have the facilities/event staff do so.
- Players should stay on the opposite side of the net (six feet away from the opponent).
- Teams must bring their own towels, water bottles, etc. - should not share with other players.
- Touchless water refilling stations if possible.
- Place on-court benches/chairs on opposite sides of the court instead of side by side.
- For adjacent courts, ensure that teammates are always sharing the space between courts & opponents do not share the same side of the court for changeovers.
- In the absence of one official per court, keep scores verbally, as opposed to traditional scorecard/scoreboard methods. Alternatively:
  - Have a staff member/volunteer to exclusively operate all scorecards/scoreboards, with proper safety procedures such as gloves or constant sanitization.
  - Designate the home team to be the sole keeper of scorecards, preventing opponents from touching the same scorecards.
- Place tennis balls on the court prior to the start of each match, preventing the need for a person-to-person exchange.
- Have teams bring their own balls (with school logos/different numbers). Please just ensure that they are identical tennis balls (e.g. Wilson Extra Duty).
- Require players to use their racquet/feet to transfer balls from one side of the court to the other or to return balls to adjacent courts.
- Remind players to avoid touching their face after handling tennis balls, racquet, or other equipment.
- When teams gather to the court of finished matches to view ongoing matches, don't change ends with the players of the ongoing matches. Alternatively, teams should change ends on opposite sides of the court, taking into consideration which players are seated on which side of the court.

### **Post Play**

- Provide a place for balls to be disposed of.
- Instead of a handshake, players should instead tap racquets.
- Require players to wipe down their on-court benches/chairs, or have facilities/event staff do so.
- Require players to wash hands/sanitize after the completion of their match.
- Require coaches to confirm scores via text message or email.

- If the visiting team is showering post-match, please provide them with a secondary locker room if possible, or coordinate times to use the showers to avoid competing team overlap.
- Deep clean of the facility at the end of the play each day.

### **Officials**

- Roving officials will have limited contact with players unless there is an on-court emergency
- Chair officials can perform duties as normal.
- Require officials to wear masks when on-site.
- Allow officials to perform their normal duties on site. Do not use them as virus maintenance workers.

### **Athletic Training**

- On-site athletic trainers should be used only in case of a medical emergency.
- Require athletic trainers to wear masks and gloves on-site.
- Avoid having trainers work in small, enclosed areas.
- No on-court medical timeouts unless it is an emergency.

### **Additional Measures** *(Should Your Budget Allow)*

- Provide back-up masks onsite.
- Additional cleaning of high-contact areas, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, toilets, etc., using disposable latex gloves.
- Use walkie-talkie/phone communication whenever possible among officials, athletic trainers, staff, etc.
- Require the following upon entry to the facility each day:
  - Proof of negative test within the last 7 days
  - Temperature checks
  - Screening questionnaire
    - Within the last 10 days have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 or had a test confirming you have the virus?
    - Do you live in the same household with, or have you had close contact\* with someone who in the past 14 days has been in isolation for COVID-19 or had a test confirming they have the virus?
    - Have you had any one or more of these symptoms today or within the past 24 hours, which is new or not explained by another reason?
      - Fever, Chills, or Repeated Shaking/Shivering
      - Cough
      - Sore Throat
      - Shortness of Breath, Difficulty Breathing
      - Feeling Unusually Weak or Fatigued
      - Loss of Taste or Smell
      - Muscle pain
      - Headache
      - Runny or congested nose
      - Diarrhea