



TENNIS TOOLKIT

Community Tennis Guidelines: Regional Victoria

TENNIS VICTORIA

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How to use the Community Tennis Guidelines: Regional Victoria

Last updated 26 October 2020 (In effect from Wednesday 28 October)

The **Community Tennis Guidelines: Regional Victoria** are designed to support anyone involved in delivering or playing tennis to do so within State COVID-19 Restrictions. Tennis has an important role to play in helping people be active in this new phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic, as long as Government restrictions are adhered to and public health and safety is considered a top priority. We hope these guidelines, read in conjunction with our Community Tennis Toolkit Checklist: Regional Victoria and other resources, will ensure you can continue playing tennis as safely as possible if you choose to.

This is a rapidly evolving situation, please refer to the [Tennis Victoria website](#) regularly for the latest recommendations and guidance on dealing with COVID-19 for tennis in Victoria. On 6 September, the Victorian State Government announced the Roadmap Regional Victoria and Metropolitan Melbourne.

Follow the COVIDSafe principles: wear a face mask, don't play if you are sick or unwell, physical distancing 1.5m, cough or sneeze into your elbow or tissue, good hand hygiene, outdoor activities.

The directions of the Victorian Government for Regional Victoria from Wednesday 28 October:

- Outdoor (all ages) and indoor (under 18 participation only) courts may open for the following:
 - Singles and Doubles play permitted
 - Competition play
 - Group coaching with up to 10 participants plus the coach
 - A cap of 10 participants per group ie. Up to 10 participants per court is permitted
- All indoor facilities must remain closed – this includes clubhouses
 - Toilets/changerooms may remain open if indoors
- Cafes in club houses can open subject to the [Industry Restart Guidelines for Hospitality](#)
- Tennis equipment must not be shared
- Spectators are not permitted unless supervising children or assisting players with additional needs.
- A register of participant details that enter the facility must be maintained, you may want to use this [QR Code](#) resource to assist with participant tracking and encourage facility users to download the [COVIDSafe app](#)
- Participants 12 years and older must wear a face mask, unless an exemption applies. If you are doing strenuous physical exercise you do not need to wear a face covering but you must carry one with you. Strenuous exercise can include playing tennis.

Tennis clubs, associations, coaches, operators and local councils across Victoria operate in many different ways and within different surroundings and communities. Therefore, making an assessment of whether tennis can be provided safely will be dependent on a range of factors, varying across each local council area and specific to each venue. It is the responsibility of each council, coach, club and operator to work together to make this assessment based on individual circumstances.



Community Tennis Guidelines: Regional Victoria

To keep the tennis and the wider community safe, we must all take responsibility to minimise the effects and spread of COVID-19.

Before you play

Please stay at home if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days or have mild flu-like symptoms. If you are in a [high risk health](#) category, please consider whether you should be administering or playing tennis at any time during this period, please do not take unnecessary risks.

Attending tennis activities

- Only people core to playing or coaching can be at the venue
- Arrive and leave as close as possible to when you need to be there
- In order to comply with relevant Child Safety guidelines, at least one parent/guardian should have line of sight of younger children during tennis activity.
- Spectators are not permitted unless supervising children or assisting players with additional needs. This includes during coaching and at competitions.

Social distancing

- Keep 1.5 metres away from other people while attending a tennis activity.
- Remember no handshakes or high fives, try tapping racquets instead.

Behaviours

To protect against infection, you should:

- Wash/sterilise your hands before and after you play
- Avoid touching your face while playing
- Not share water bottles and bring your own bottle, already full
- Bring your own hand sanitiser
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow
- Be aware of what surfaces you touch and ensure you clean them after play.
- Wear a mask when travelling to and from the venue if over the age of 12, unless an exemption applies.

Tennis activities

- Outdoor (all ages) and indoor (under 18 participation only) courts may open for Singles and Doubles play
- Group coaching with up to 10 participants
- Competition play can return.
- Cap of 10 participants per group or court
- Shorten booking times to create a buffer between sessions to ensure minimal cross over
- Off court gatherings should be minimised
- Keep records of who attends your venue and their contact details, you may want to use this [QR Code for this purpose](#)
- Payments to be made online to avoid handling cash
- Leave gates ajar during opening hours so players do not need to use handles to enter



Coaching

- Tennis lessons are permitted with up to 10 participants
- Live ball drills and game based play is recommended over basket based
- Always maintain social distancing including when giving feedback and while the player is resting
- Limit the use of coaching equipment such as target cones
- Do not let the student handle any coaching equipment - coach to pick up balls and feed drills
- Wear a face mask when travelling to and from a venue and while on court unless the face covering impacts on your ability to deliver instructions or if the activity is strenuous. You must have a face mask on you at all times.

Clean environment

Providing a clean environment in which to play tennis is critical at this time. Display signage about handwashing and hygiene techniques at strategic points like gate entry and on the side of all courts.

- All indoor facilities must close – this includes clubhouses/rooms
 - Toilets may remain open if indoors
 - Indoor courts may open for participants 18 and under
- Cafes in club houses can open subject to the [Industry Restart Guidelines for Hospitality](#)
- Clean all communal tennis equipment ie. nets, court bagger, gate handles etc.

At all times sport and recreation organisations must respond to the directives of Public Health Authorities. Localised outbreaks may require sporting organisations to again restrict activity and those organisations must be ready to respond accordingly. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a sporting or recreation club or organisation will result in a standard public health response, which could include quarantine of an individual or large group, and close contacts, for the required period.