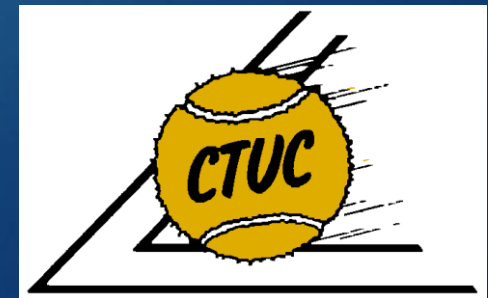


# Returning to Court

JUNE 2020




# Some Generalizations

- ▶ Safety and health are #1!
- ▶ General Guidelines - What you do and how you do it depends on:
  - ▶ TD/Club wishes & possibilities
  - ▶ Configuration of club
  - ▶ Age of players
  - ▶ What you, as an official, are willing to do

There are No Prescriptions!

# Sources Used

- ▶ Most documents similar, though extras worth considering.
- ▶ USTA
  - ▶ Return to Play Recommendations
  - ▶ Playing Tennis Safely
- ▶ Illinois Department of Commerce
  - ▶ Tennis Facility And Player Safety Guidance (2 docs)
- ▶ ITF – Return to Tennis Guidelines
- ▶ Communication with CDTA and NITA



We need to know what players should be doing, so we, as officials, know what to do to keep them & ourselves safe.

# General Guidelines for Officials

- ▶ Wear a mask, wash hands frequently and wear gloves (optional)
- ▶ Social distance at all times
  - ▶ Might want to try off-court officiating – a la Florida, depending on the TD, the configuration of the courts, and your comfort level with it
- ▶ **Check tournament Home Page**
  - ▶ **CDTA requires tournaments to have protocols posted**
  - ▶ CDTA suggests sending protocols to players prior to tournament

# Must Confer with TD Prior to Tournament (not just before matches start)

- ▶ Checking in/Tournament desk
- ▶ Court usage/match schedules
- ▶ **Match formats**
- ▶ **Balls – containers in each corner; those left on court/stray balls**
- ▶ **Scorecards – Paper/Pens/Reporting scores**
- ▶ **Changeovers**
- ▶ **Chairs/benches**
- ▶ **Availability of hand sanitizer/disinfectant wipes**
- ▶ Masks
- ▶ Tissues
- ▶ Notices around the courts/Signage
- ▶ **Court Monitors**
- ▶ Plastic bags
- ▶ Towels
- ▶ Bathrooms
- ▶ Gates (if outdoors)/Doors
- ▶ Water fountains/on-court water
- ▶ **Spectators/parents**
- ▶ Medical personnel – Thermometer
- ▶ Get emergency contact information
- ▶ Garbage containers
- ▶ **Singles sticks**

In most instances, the TD will determine how items are executed.

# Players' Considerations

- ▶ Online check in & lots of communication before/during tournament
- ▶ At facility 10 minutes prior to match & leave immediately – no showering
  - ▶ Staggered start times
  - ▶ Use every other court
- ▶ Any player with COVID-19 symptoms:
  - ▶ Not play or be in the area
  - ▶ Have medical procedure/personnel in place
- ▶ No sharing of equipment, food or water bottles, benches
- ▶ **No handshakes before or after match – racket bumps**

# Players' Considerations – cont.

- ▶ Sit on opposite sides of net during changeovers/rest periods
- ▶ Stay on the same side of the court or go around the net on opposite sides for changeovers
- ▶ Play with own set of marked/numbered balls and do not touch opponent's balls with hands
- ▶ Send stray balls to other courts with racquet
- ▶ Will not be scorecards – **Need to call score after every point & start of each game**
  - ▶ If game cards, one person uses and wiped clean after each match



# Officials' Considerations

- ▶ Wear mask at all times (can take off while on court)
- ▶ Wear gloves if available/comfortable – wash hands frequently
- ▶ Social distancing at all times on and off court – even if relieving an official
- ▶ Do not touch or retrieve balls for players – pour new balls on court without touching
- ▶ **During changeovers and rest periods, move to center of the court even if players not changing sides**

# Officials' Considerations – cont.

- ▶ Need to remind players of all they need to do
  - ▶ Social distancing
  - ▶ Call scores after every point/game
  - ▶ Do not pick up opponent's or stray balls
  - ▶ Pick up and leave court immediately after the match
  - ▶ How to change ends/rest periods
- ▶ **Beneficial for Officials have walkie-talkies to communicate with TD**
- ▶ Might want to consider having more officials
  - ▶ Can cover more ground
  - ▶ Can split into teams – less stressful

# Overall

- ▶ Most critical is to communicate with the TD
  - ▶ They will have decided how the tournament will be conducted
  - ▶ TD will need to have trust in Officials; walkies will help communication
- ▶ Be flexible
  - ▶ We have not done this before
  - ▶ Every club/facility and tournament will be different
- ▶ Be safe
  - ▶ Use your head
  - ▶ Ask questions
  - ▶ Eyes open



Questions?

# Return To Play – USTA Doc



## RETURN TO PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

### USTA OFFICIATING

Updated May 28, 2020

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting different parts of the country in different ways and with different timing. Therefore, we believe safely returning to play will be possible in some cities and states sooner than in others. Before doing so, please review federal, state and local guidelines to make informed decisions as to when play can recommence.

In addition to the Playing Tennis Safely recommendations for players, facilities, and programming issued by the USTA on April 22, 2020, available on [tennisindustryunited.com](https://tennisindustryunited.com), here are some additional recommendations to consider for USTA Officials as well as facilities utilizing Officials for USTA events.

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS	ON SITE / PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS
<p><b>General Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provide antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer near all courts and common areas.</li><li>- Ensure any designated Officials area is large enough to provide ability to physically distance.</li><li>- Keep gates open (where possible, and not dangerous) to minimize contact with common surfaces upon entering/exiting the court.</li><li>- Ensure free court entry/exit for Officials and players, unimpeded by spectators.</li><li>- Provide an extra ball for warm-up or a way to sanitize used balls as a replacement if match balls are lost.</li><li>- If providing towels, each Official should receive their own to sit on for the day.</li></ul> <p><b>On-Court Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Seat players at least 6 feet apart from each other or from the Chair Umpire chair.</li><li>- Seat Line Umpires at least 6 feet apart from each other and appropriately distanced from spectators.</li><li>- Sanitize equipment Officials may share, including scoring devices and radios, in between uses, when exchanged, and at the end of the day.</li><li>- Sanitize microphone and Chair Umpire chair between matches.</li></ul>	<p><b>General Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Consider wearing a mask/gloves and wash hands and/or gloves often and after touching items.</li><li>- Avoid touching face, especially after handling on-court equipment</li><li>- Practice proper physical distancing from fellow Officials, players, spectators and tournament staff.</li><li>- Where possible, avoid exchanging supplies with players and fellow Officials.</li></ul> <p><b>Pre-event Preparation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Check with the host facility ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility.</li><li>- Include the following in your court bag for your personal use: gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes</li><li>- Bring your own water, snacks, and food. Check with event how/what food and water will be provided.</li></ul> <p><b>Scheduling Matches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stagger match times</li><li>- Use alternate scoring formats to decrease the amount of time on-site per player.</li><li>- Implement various scheduling formats, such as the "followed by" system to minimize crowding near the tournament desk</li><li>- Use remote check-in for matches via text/email.</li></ul> <p><b>Official's Report Times/Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stagger report times for Officials.</li><li>- Use technology to communicate rather than hold group meetings. If not possible, conduct meetings in smaller groups based on staggered report time</li></ul> <p><b>Pre-match Meeting with Players</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Practice physical distancing and politely remind players if needed</li><li>- Review any special procedures (i.e. do not shake hands at the end of a match, calling score, handling balls, post-match procedures, etc.)</li></ul> <p><b>During Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rovers should move to the center of the court on changeovers even if players are not changing ends.</li><li>- Encourage players to clearly announce the score before each point, game, and set.</li><li>- Practice physical distancing when interacting on-court (Referee coming on court, relieving a fellow Official, Line Umpire reporting information to Chair Umpire, etc.)</li><li>- Pour new balls onto the court and avoid touching used balls. Players should remove used balls from play and discard according to facility guidelines after the match.</li></ul> <p><b>Post-Match</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Offer an acknowledgment such as a nod, a thumbs up, or a "good match" instead of shaking players' hands.</li><li>- Encourage players to collect their own balls and drop off in designated area for used balls</li><li>- Ensure players take all their belongings and discard their trash</li><li>- Radio in scores, when possible, so players do not have to return to the tournament desk.</li><li>- Use technology to receive scores (text or email).</li></ul>

