

Following a successful club forum on 14th May 2020, attended by over 60 club representatives from right around the country, we have put together some helpful FAQs which should answer most of the questions you might have about tennis activity at Level 2.

GROUPS/GATHERINGS

LATEST UPDATE

From midday Friday 29th May, restrictions on groups and gatherings are relaxed from maximum 10 to maximum 100. A gathering includes players, spectators, coaches, officials and support staff.

ClubRooms

From midday Friday 29th May, up to 100 people per group can be in the club room, but only with appropriate space (2m) between everyone.

View clubrooms like restaurants with regard to the spacing and the sharing of space between groups, plus the hygiene requirements when groups arrive and leave.

Groups of guests in the clubhouse must be limited to 100 people per group. All groups should be seated, have separation from other groups, and be served by a single server if possible. Players should only sit with the group they played tennis with.

Between Thursday 14 May and Friday 22 May, tennis clubs should manage the serving of food in a similar manner to how they are required to trade at Easter. While liquor licences normally dictate that food must be available for purchase, until 22 May customers must purchase food. Please check with the relevant Food and Alcohol industry bodies, and your local council re) liquor license rules

Question

Ladies social group and social play Saturday afternoon.

Answer

From midday Friday 29th May, club play like this can happen, as long as the number of players per event/session doesn't exceed 100. Players within the group of 100 can mix and mingle with one another – during play and after. Groups must use the same equipment, and keep 2m distance if they don't know each other, or 1m distance when contact tracing is in place (which should always occur at tennis clubs).

Question

Are we limited to 10 people at the club at any one time? Or can each court have a gathering of up to 10 people?

You are NOT LIMITED to 10 at the club. You can have as many groups at the club/on the courts as you can fit. From midday Friday 29th May groups and gatherings at tennis clubs are allowed to be a maximum of 100. Individuals and groups must be able to physical distance form one another, and follow contact tracing and good hygiene procedures.

Question

How does the 10-person gathering limit apply for social tennis/organised games? What if 12 people turn up? Can the extra 2 people wait in the clubrooms and swap out with others from the group of 10?

From midday Friday 29th May the 10-person gathering limit increases to 100 meaning most club events can run as normal. If you do have more than 100 players, they will need to be split into 2 groups ahead of time and players must stick to their groups with no mixing or mingling or sharing of equipment outside of each group.

Question

What if casual players also want to use a court at the same time? Are they considered a separate gathering?

Yes each group of people is a separate gathering, and they need to keep distance from other groups (imagine a restaurant scenario, and if it helps, apply bubble rules to groups).

Question

If a group coaching session has 4 players, plus 5 spectators and the coach (total of 10 for a gathering), does this mean no one else can enter the club?

From midday Friday 29th May groups and gatherings are limited to 100, so it is easier to cater for spectators as long as they follow physical distancing, contact tracing and hygiene protocols.

Question

Can a parent who is not a member/player be there eg if 2 children under 14 are playing a game together?

Spectators/non-player rules are at the discretion of each club/centre/coach, but for minors supervision is important if they are not part of a structured supervised session.

Question

With the mixing of 10 people, we can manage this with three groups of 8-10 players over two courts each, however, can these people play three times in the week with a different 10 each time...theoretically with 27 different people per week, or do they play with the same 10 once a week?

As of midday Friday 29th May, the limit of 10 in a group/gathering increases to 100. Even within the groups of 100 it's fine to be part of different groups throughout the week (imagine it like socialising with a few groups of your friends throughout the week (but not more than 100 total at a time) It might be worth keeping a record not only of contact tracing, but the club noting down who was in which group on which day.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

At tennis clubs and centres, where contact tracing is mandatory, a 1 metre physical distancing rule applies to all people at all times. If there is no contact tracing, or you do not know someone, then a 2 metre rule should be applied.

Question

The Guidelines for Clubs poster refers to "We are committed to maintaining a 2m distance between each person on court at all times." How can this practically be achieved when playing doubles?

This 2m distance applies to most of life now, so individuals will have to be mindful of this when playing tennis. Clubs should remind members and players of this ahead of time (in email for example).

CONTACT TRACING

Question

Can we use other contact tracing tools, including Sporty, and are Sport reputable?

We'd started developing the Tennis NZ contact tracing tool before other options came about. Lots of companies have pivoted and someone like Sporty has a good reputation and has been around a while. Only barrier to the Sporty tool was that it's free for Clubs and Regional Sporting organizations where people aren't paying to attend (e.g. not intended for commercial entities so that would restrict regional centres, clubs using Book a Court for casual play, and coaches from using it). Clubs and coaches are free to use alternative tools if they have access to them or a handy IT person on the committee, but our preference is to save your time and energy and use what we've provided.

Question

Just wondering if it's OK to have a pen and paper sign in system at the club for Saturday tennis for members to use and then have one of the committee record the attendees in the TNZ online system?

Not preferable but if you are using pen and paper you should dedicate one person to using it (e.g. a committee member or volunteer who will be the only one to touch the pen and paper. Or ask people to sanitise their hands before using the pen, and again afterwards. Wiping the pen between uses would be a good idea too.

Question

How should we contact trace players who have no access to technology e.g. our Vets group? What other options can be used in addition to the Tennis NZ solution?

For those that don't have an internet enabled phone, a pen and paper method is ok. Templates can be found on the Safety Plan downloadable from tennis.kiwi and of course the sanitisation methods should be followed above.

CLEANING AND HYGIENE

Question

We have an outside toilet that players normally use – what is the expectation for cleaning this (normally cleaned once a week)?

Multiple times per day would be recommended. If this isn't possible it would be recommended to keep facilities like this closed and communicate that clearly to members and casuals ahead of time.

EQUIPMENT

Question

What are the guidelines around tennis balls – can the same balls be used by different groups?

Equipment should be cleaned after use and definitely between use by different groups. Balls are trickier to clean but could be sprayed with sanitiser and left to dry thoroughly. Some clubs/coaches are separating out balls and other equipment to be dedicated to certain days of the weeks/groups. Private sessions/bookings – people should be bringing their own balls/equipment and taking them home again, and not sharing with others or touching others.

Don't share balls outside of your groups. There isn't much science to go on specifically for tennis balls, so we can only follow what is known about surfaces and fabrics

GENERAL

Question

As a club can we organise pre-arranged games for our members to play if they each book their own court and only play the organised match?

Yes, as long as contact tracing, distancing and no more than 100 in a group are followed.

Question

Is there any guidelines for whether we should allow non-members to play as well as our club members?

This is an extremely opportunistic time to welcome casual users. NZ public knows from the PM and Sports Minister that tennis and golf are some of the safest sports! For those clubs set up with Book a Court or similar online booking tools, you will be able to embrace casual players and the alternative income that comes with them. If clubs can offer advance booking, online payment, follow contact tracing and health and hygiene rules then casual players are out there wanting to play! I hope you all know that Tennis NZ offer Book a Court which is a hardware subsidy scheme reducing the cost to clubs of keypad entry and online booking technology from approx \$10,000 to \$2000. You can read more and enquire about Book A Court at tennis.kiwi under the CLUBS menu tab - <https://tennis.kiwi/clubs/book-a-court/>

Question

Is there going to be an updated Safety Plan template?

A safety plan for level 2 was published on 13 May 2020 at <https://tennis.kiwi/covid-19/alertlevel2/> WorkSafe has advised that under COVID-19 Alert Level 2 and 3 all businesses or organisations that are permitted to resume operations need to have a plan that sets out how they'll operate safely. This includes any Play, Active Recreation and Sport providers that may be able to operate under the strict level 2 and 3 requirements.

Question

Are there any age restrictions on who can play?

No. Those over 70 and/or with underlying health conditions are able to make their own decision about participating in tennis.