

WGTC Coronavirus - COVID 19 New Guidelines

Version 5 - 15 September 2020

Following new guidance from the LTA, we have updated our current **WGTC Coronavirus - COVID 19 Guidelines** to include the following additional points. As before we need members to please respect and follow our Guidelines and advise us of any concerns.

NHS TEST & TRACE. All members, coaches, parents, staff and visitors should check in via the **NHS Test & Trace** app on their smart phone (QR code posters are available for venue check-in). If a person does not have a smart phone or the app, they are required to **sign in and out** via the book using their own pen.

PRE-ATTENDANCE SYMPTOMS CHECK. Anyone coming to WGTC must undergo a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms before leaving home. You must self-isolate if you, or someone you live with, has identified ANY possible symptoms.

INFORMAL SOCIAL PLAY. Members should not attend the club or gather at the club in groups of more than six. From 14 September the maximum group size of six applies to informal social play and is limited by law.

Players must not congregate in the courtyard area before and after play. Our existing rule to have a maximum of six people in the courtyard area at any one time must now be rigorously applied by all.

The Wednesday and Friday morning groups are now to be allocated courts in advance and you should make your way to your courts as soon as possible, rather than waiting in the courtyard area for absent members to turn up.

Allocated groups of up to 4 members may socialise together but players are advised to limit interactions with anyone outside of your immediate allocated group, including players on another court or players you encounter in the courtyard before or after play.

SOCIAL DISTANCING. Members are reminded to leave the club promptly after your session to help the club comply with the ruling of only six people in the courtyard at any one time.

INDOOR FACILITIES. The upstairs toilets can now be used but the showers remain closed and members should continue to avoid changing at the club. The Clubhouse remains closed for general/social use and there should be no more than six people in the clubhouse at any one time for the purpose of accessing toilet facilities, 1st aid and emergency equipment.

ORGANISED ACTIVITY. Organised activity for larger groups such as coached sessions, club nights and competition can now resume but are only permitted subject to a thorough risk assessment and an event delivery plan, prepared in advance, in line with LTA and Government guidance and with clear risk mitigation measures in place.

COMMUNICATION. Any tennis related activity has the potential for increasing the risk of transmission of Covid-19. The Government's guidance on staying safe outside your home should be followed at all times.

Previous note previous guidance below remains in place.

Both singles play and doubles play is now permitted with people from outside of your household, as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible - meaning that 4 people from different households can now play doubles. For doubles, please consider agreeing in advance which player will take the shot if a ball travels to the centre of the court.

Players do not now need to use their own clearly marked tennis balls, but you may still choose to do this. If you choose to use shared balls, however, then extra care must be taken to ensure you do not touch your face during play, and you should clean your hands before play and immediately after finishing using alcohol gel if required.

Players should still **avoid using their hands to pick up tennis balls from other courts** where possible - use your racket or foot to send them back.

Players are advised to **clean their hands after touching shared surfaces** such as court gates and benches and avoid doing so where possible.

Everyone is **advised to avoid touching your face.**

Ensure that there is **no physical contact at all between players.**

Pre book your court online. Allow a buffer period of 5 minutes between court bookings to allow players to leave before next players arrive.

Please stop playing at least 5 minutes before the end of your booking, quickly collect your own balls and possessions and leave the court swiftly but safely.

When leaving the club via the alleyway, in line with social distancing, **please do not pass by people who may already be in the passage.** If in doubt, those entering the club, from the street, have priority.

The clubhouse should only be used for essential activities (a maximum of 10 minutes per person). Essential activities include for hand washing, the toilet, drinking water, first aid as well as grabbing wipes for rackets and purchasing new balls.

All players and coaches, including juniors, should **wash hands before and after a tennis session** (or use an alcohol gel).

Clean and wipe down equipment, including rackets, cones and tennis balls, which can be sprayed with disinfectant.

Do not allow racket sharing or use of communal rackets.

Consider using new balls, where possible, and consider using a small number of balls for a lesson, so fresh balls can be used for each session. We will put new cans of balls on the table in the clubhouse with an “honesty book” for members to write down how many cans they have taken (£5 per can of balls). We will take payment at a later date.

If someone who has played at WGTC develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should be directed to follow the Government’s ‘test and trace’ guidelines, which can be read on the [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

We will be reviewing our guidance constantly, in line with changing advice on the LTA website and with current and evolving Government advice and updating WGTC website accordingly.

Be aware that this advice may change at very short notice and so should be checked ahead of every session. Thank you again for following our Guidelines to date. We really do appreciate it. We look forward to seeing some games of socially distanced doubles soon!