

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

Here is a great example from a North Shore club talking about how they approached re-opening:

"We managed to open under Level 3 and are putting in place the necessary for Level 2. We plan to keep the clubrooms shut at least initially, and hope to start our club sessions next week – we have 4 courts with a curtain in the middle that we can use, effectively creating 2 separate spaces (even with separate entrances). We will ask people to pre-register, allocate them to either Group A or B and have a lead for each of these on the night. Will have separate group labeled balls and as we are very unlikely to get more than 20 people, we should be ok! That is our preliminary plan to work up and communicate in the next couple of days.

I know a lot of this comes down to common sense, but that doesn't always exist across the whole of one's membership group so trying to come up with a few examples to help people make the right choices 😊"

ClubRooms

More than 10 people can be in the club room, but only in their own groups of max 10 and 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 10 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

Club play like this can happen, but players must be allocated (ideally ahead of time) into groups of 10. These groups cannot mix and mingle with one another – during play or after. And must always use same equipment, same space (court) and keep 2m distance.

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, but you must follow the rule of maximum of 10 per group per court, and individuals and

groups must be able to keep 2 metres away from one another. E.g. if you have 5 courts the most you can have on site is 50 people.

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?

Split in to two groups of 6 or another arrangement no more than 10, and stick to your 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?

No – the example above is one group which means others can enter the club or use other courts, but new arrivals would not be able to interact with this group.

Question

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

A few factors come in to play here. Some venues will reach maximum capacity with safe 2 m spacing if there are spectators or parents/non players there. In this instance, a parent would be part of the gathering, which is fine because this particular gathering is only 3 people. For coaching sessions, parents staying to watch/supervise will impact numbers considerably. Some examples, Albany Tennis Park aren't allowing parents to come into the building and are asking them to drop their kids off outside for lessons for the time being – they have safety measures in place (eg coach waiting to meet them). Ultimately, non-players on site is your decision to make as a club and/or coaching business, but for minors of course supervision is important if they 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?

Yes it's fine to have different groups throughout the week (imagine it like socialising with a few groups of your friends throughout the week (but not more than 10 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

2 metre distancing applies to all people at all times.

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 10 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.