
RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS – TOURNAMENT HOSTS



JULY 2020

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION



RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS

Foreword

In order to support a safe return to international tennis tournaments, the ITF has devised protocols that all tournament hosts and participants must follow, to mitigate the risk of exposure to, and spread of, Covid-19.

This document applies to all ITF-owned and sanctioned tennis tournaments, including Davis Cup and Fed Cup, Junior Team competitions, World Tennis Tour Mens, Womens and Juniors, Beach Tennis, Seniors and Wheelchair Tennis, with effect from 1 August 2020.

All ITF tournaments and participants (which includes players, support personnel, officials, tournament staff and any other credentialed individual) must comply with the requirements set out in this document.

Information regarding Covid-19 is constantly changing. The information provided in this document is not intended to be a substitute for guidance provided by local, national or international government and health organizations. The ITF makes no representation as to, and assumes no responsibility for, the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document in respect of its effectiveness in preventing or controlling the spread of Covid-19.

The Tournament Director (or, in the case of Davis Cup and Fed Cup, the Official Organiser) is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all persons attending a tournament. This document provides the ITF's guidance regarding the minimum standards that a tournament must implement in order to safeguard the welfare of participants. A tournament may impose higher standards than those described in this document where it considers it appropriate to do so, or where so required by local legislation. The Tournament Director must ensure that each tournament is conducted in accordance with these protocols as published at the time of the tournament.

This document is subject to change and may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the ITF. The ITF will make the latest version available on its website: www.itftennis.com. Any questions regarding this document should be addressed to the ITF at covid19@itftennis.com.

Introduction

The overall objective of this document is to describe the measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of participants in ITF tournaments. By setting out those measures, participants in all tournaments covered by this document can be confident that the appropriate measures are being taken and have the benefit of a consistent approach.

The ITF *Return to International Tennis Protocols* comprise four sections:

1. ELIGIBILITY TO HOST A TOURNAMENT

This section describes the criteria by which the ITF will decide whether a tournament is eligible to be added to the ITF calendar.

2. ITF TOURNAMENT FRAMEWORK

This section sets out the ITF's guidance, recommendations and minimum standards that all tournaments must meet in order to adequately protect the health and safety of participants in relation to Covid-19.

3. COMPLIANCE

The framework by which any failures to meet the minimum standards are described in this section

4. RISK MITIGATION

This section sets out the measures that are required to reduce the risk to participants of Covid-19 transmission

How to use this document

The information in this document describes the main requirements for tournament hosts when organising international tennis tournaments during the Covid-19 pandemic. All tournament hosts are advised to read this document together with the relevant explanatory notes (available as a separate document), and to familiarise themselves with the relevant amendments to the regulations for the tournament(s) in question.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility to host an ITF tournament

In order to be eligible for addition to the ITF calendar, the following criteria must be met:

1. Government legislation must permit a tennis event to be held in the host country.
2. The host nation's borders must be open to international visitors, giving sufficient and reasonable access to that nation to players, as determined by the ITF.
3. Each host organiser must, on application to host a tournament, confirm that it will implement the minimum standards set out in the 'risk mitigation' section of this document.

ITF tournament framework during the Covid-19 pandemic

The framework below forms the basis for the minimum standards that all tournaments must meet in order to adequately protect the health and safety of participants in relation to Covid-19.

1. Physical distancing must be respected at all times by all participants and spectators.
2. Personal hygiene measures must be taken by all participants.
3. Methods of identifying potential cases of Covid-19 prior to entry to the tournament site and of identifying participants who may have been exposed to Covid-19 during a tournament must be implemented.
4. Consideration must be given to additional protection for vulnerable individuals.
5. The minimum number of participants required for the tournament to operate should be permitted on-site.
6. Players and support personnel must isolate from other participants and spectators, to the greatest possible extent.

Compliance

1. Effective implementation of the minimum standards for hosting tournaments requires a programme of monitoring and, where those standards are not met, enforcement.

Risk mitigation

The Covid-19 virus presents an elevated health risk to all participants. Steps to reduce that risk must be taken by all ITF tournaments and participants. Relevant areas in which an elevated risk may exist, and the minimum standards and/or recommendations for mitigation of those risks, are set out below.

Note: nothing in this document precludes tournaments from going beyond the minimum specified standards where it considers it appropriate to do so, or where so required by local legislation.

RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS INFORMATION FOR TOURNAMENT HOSTS

Pre-event

1. A Covid-19 Officer must be appointed and identified to the ITF.
2. A risk assessment, relevant to the context of the tournament, and describing the Covid-19 risk factors and mitigation measures that will be taken to protect the health of participants, must be completed in advance of the tournament.
3. Details of a local location (i.e. hospital, testing centre etc.) that provides Covid-19 testing services must be made available to participants at participants' expense.
4. Tournament hosts should make reasonable efforts to obtain insurance to cover cancellation of the tournament due to Covid-19.
5. Tournament hosts should make available to participants via the tournament fact sheet relevant information about local requirements and restrictions.
6. Tournament hosts are strongly encouraged to liaise with the relevant authorities to explore ways in which any quarantine requirements for participants upon entry to the host country can be relaxed, or alternative less time-consuming access methods applied.

Off-site

7. Where possible, tournaments should offer a hotel that is dedicated (or has a dedicated section) for tournament participants, located close to the tournament venue.
8. The maximum capacity of tournament vehicles must be as dictated by the appropriate physical distancing requirements. Face coverings must be used by the driver and all passengers. Tournament-provided transport that is used by participants must not be available for use by any other person.

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9. Physical distancing must be maintained prior to entry to the site, including by spectators. Hand-washing with soap and water or sanitiser must be made available at all entry points.

Site access

10. All participants must complete a daily self-declaration of being Covid-19 symptom-free and not having had any high-risk contacts in the last 14 days and be subject to daily temperature screening. Only those participants who comply with, and meet the requirements of, screening are permitted on-site.
11. Case management and notification protocols must be implemented if a participant does not meet the requirements of the screening, or if any person reports Covid-19 symptoms during or within 7 days of the date on which they left the tournament venue.
12. Tournament hosts must retain contact details (email address and mobile phone number) of all participants for 21 days after the tournament, to facilitate the identification and/or notification of those who have or may have been exposed to an affected individual.

On-site

13. Tournament staff/security must be trained to implement Covid-19 procedures, including the use of thermometers and Personal Protective Equipment (known as 'PPE') at all relevant times, including site entry and exit and indoors.
14. All sign-in must be remote (online/telephone).
15. The fewest number of on-court officials required to provide the appropriate level of officiating must be used (as per *ITF Officiating Requirements*).
16. Spectators are only permitted where approved in advance by the ITF, and if permitted must be isolated from participants to the greatest extent possible.
17. Only essential staff movement around the site must be permitted.
18. Adequate ventilation must be provided in all high-use, multiple-occupancy indoor spaces, where possible.
19. For all events and functions (draw, dinner, opening ceremony, Captains' Meeting etc.), physical distancing and personal hygiene must be respected throughout, including face coverings where held indoors.

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20. In all on-site amenities (hospitality, player dining; player/team lounge, tournament offices), physical distancing and hygiene must be respected at all times.
 21. Media are permitted on-site (including journalists, TV camera operators, live scoring etc.), but must comply with physical distancing, hygiene and screening requirements.
 22. No visitor may enter the site perimeter boundary, within which access is controlled, unless they are subject to the same screening requirements as participants.
 23. All areas of the tournament venue that are used by participants should be subject to regular and sufficiently frequent disinfecting.
 24. Adequate on-site signage must be provided as an aid to compliance with physical distancing and hygiene precautions at all key points around the venue, but particularly in the toilets and areas where surfaces are likely to be touched.

Competition

25. ITF practice and match protocols must be implemented.
26. Use of locker rooms (including for players, officials and ball persons) must be determined by the available space, such that physical distancing can be maintained at all times. No player support personnel are permitted in locker rooms, except for support personnel required to provide essential physical assistance.
27. Non-Covid-19 medical treatment will be limited to the reasonable time necessary for completion.
28. Anti-doping staff (where present) must comply with physical distancing, hygiene measures and daily screening.