



# Swindon & District Tennis League

## COVID-19 Policy

1. The Swindon & District Tennis League accepts no responsibility for the implementation of the government's guidance and COVID-19 policies and procedures at venues. By the venue's involvement in the league its managing committee warrants that such policies and procedures (including a COVID-19 risk assessment) have been established and are in force throughout the league season.
2. All activities should be consistent with the government and LTA's COVID-19 guidance including health, travel, social distancing and hygiene at all times. The latest government and LTA guidance can be found on their respective websites and include:
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>
  - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
  - <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/tennis-news/news-and-opinion/general-news/2020/march/coronavirus-covid-19---latest-advice/>
3. Such advice includes, but is not limited to:
  - a). Participating venues must make their players aware that undertaking any activity, including tennis, has the potential for increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 and advise match players to read the government and LTA guidance specified above.
  - b). Players should follow government guidance when travelling to and from match venues. As of 30th September the guidance states that players should try not to share a vehicle with those outside their household or support bubble. If they need to do this, they should try to:
    - share the transport with the same people each time
    - keep to small groups of people at any one time
    - open windows for ventilation
    - consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
    - clean their car between journeys using standard cleaning products
    - ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering.
  - c). New or fresh tennis balls are not needed for the second rubbers, but extra care should be taken by players not to touch their faces during play, and anyone involved in the match should wash or sanitise their hands before the match and immediately after finishing.
  - d). To minimise waiting between and after rubbers the League Committee has introduced the ILTF/LTA approved alternative "No-Ad" scoring method which is defined as:
    - If each team has won three points, the score is "Deuce" and a deciding point shall be played. The receiver(s) shall choose whether to receive the service from the right half or the left half of the court. In same gender doubles, the players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive this deciding point. The player/team who wins the deciding point wins the "Game".
    - In mixed doubles, the player of the same gender as the server shall receive the deciding point. The players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive the deciding point.
  - e). During the pandemic unless the venue has a facility that has specific COVID procedures in place to safely serve refreshments then none should be served. Players should therefore ensure they take sufficient refreshments for the match.
  - f). In the event that a national or local lockdown is enforced during the season, the committee is tabling a rule change at the 2020 AGM that will seek to define what constitutes a viable season.
  - g). Government and LTA guidance may be updated from time to time and such updates must be adhered to by the venue and participants for all league matches.
  - h). Team captains should undertake a COVID risk assessment prior to play commencing and share with all players.
  - i). All players are ultimately responsible for their own safety and should employ social distancing, disposable gloves, hand sanitiser and face masks where appropriate.