



Protocol for Members for the Safe Return to Tennis in WLTC

1st May 2021

We are delighted that we can return to playing tennis! This protocol has the primary objective of keeping everyone safe from Covid 19 during the ongoing pandemic, recognising that the pathway out of this unprecedented challenge will rapidly change over the coming weeks and months. Therefore, it will be necessary to review and adapt our procedures frequently. This protocol has been revised taking account of Ulster Tennis Guidance, Sport NI Guidance and guidance from the NI Executive.

This protocol is divided into two sections: -

Part 1 - The General Principles of booking, access to playing and coaching, and returning home safely.

Part 11 – Social Distancing Behaviours, respiratory etiquette, and prevention of Infection.

All playing members will be required to commit to adherence to this protocol.

Booking a Court

- The Club times will be 9am-11pm Monday -Thursday, 9am-10pm Friday-Sunday; all five courts are open for play;
- No visitors are allowed on the courts or in the gym;
- The clubhouse will be closed to members except in an emergency;
- All bookings will be made online by a member who is aged over 16 years on 1st January 2021, (or a parent of a junior member);
- For those members who cannot access the internet, please ask Simon/Michael to book a court for you (i.e. in exceptional circumstances);
- You may book online as per normal club rules and within your membership category; for example, to play within peak times, a full member may book a court once per week;
- Players must bring their own tennis balls for individual use;
- Singles Play and Doubles Play – on all five courts;

- Club Play takes place on Thursdays and Saturdays. Each session will last 1 hour and will be on three courts (i.e., 12 members only). All slots must be booked online and must be an accurate reflection of participants;
- Mixed Social Tennis - is on Sundays at 6 PM; all slots must be booked in advance with a maximum of 12 people playing on 3 courts;
- All members will be expected to read and adhere to Gov/ public health advice, e.g. regarding social distancing, good hand hygiene, and respiratory hygiene (see below);

Access to Courts for the purposes of play

- Travel to the Club on your own or with a member(s) of your own household;
- Come to the Club **Tennis Ready**, using your own bathroom facilities before travel;
- Arrive no more than 5 minutes before court time;
- Maintain social distancing in the car park;
- Access is by the side gate; there is **NO** access in the Clubhouse except in an emergency, including emergency use of the toilet (on a one in-one out basis);
- Bring your own racquet and your own marked balls;
- If raining, and shelter is needed, shelter under the balcony cover but observe the social distancing markers;
- Children and teenagers under the age of 16 years will need to be supervised by one parent whilst in the Club (but see above on doubles – household play);
- Due to the limited space and the need for social distancing, a non- playing child or adult (other than a supervising parent) cannot be spectating;
- Water may be obtained from the outside tap only; and
- There will be no on-court furniture allowed or rubbish bins – i.e. please bring home your own rubbish.

Conditions of Access to the Court by a player

- Be a current member;
- Alcohol your hands before entering the court and post play;
- A parent/guardian must supervise any player under 16 years (i.e. juniors);
- You must be feeling well, and have no Covid 19 symptoms;
- You must comply with International and Common Travel Area advice, if recently arrived into Northern Ireland;
- Not have been identified as a close contact within the last 10 days;
- Not be in a period of self-isolation;
- Have a court booked online and all members on court must be documented on the booking system;
- Have sought medical advice, if needed, before engaging in high intensity training, following recovery from Covid 19;
- Respond to the member of staff on duty; if asked to leave the court, please do so.

Playing on Court

- Bring your own water, if needed;
- Observe social distancing, and respiratory hygiene at all times;
- Don't encroach on other players on the adjacent court (e.g. social distancing at all times);
- Only use your own tennis racquet;
- Use your own tennis balls, if playing singles; household doubles may share tennis balls within the same household;
- Leave the court promptly when your allocated time is finished.

Coaching

- Coaching sessions (for an adult and/or child members) are available from Simon and Michael;
- Private coaching is available between 9 am – 5 pm daily;
- Children's and adult squads have recommenced from 19th April within the framework of *Ulster Tennis* Guidance, Windsor LTC protocols and screening procedures, and in compliance with Windsor risk assessments;
- Members should use their own tennis racquet;
- 2 metre distance must be always maintained;
- It is the responsibility of the coach to gather the tennis balls;
- Coaching sessions must be prebooked and participants' details recorded;
- Coaching is not available "out of hours";
- Payment should also be made in advance, through online payment systems, directly to Simon or Michael.

Getting Home Safely

- Alcohol gel is available on exit of the courts;
- Do not wait until the next players arrive - please leave the club car park promptly and observe social distancing;
- If a player becomes unwell after playing, they should contact their own GP in the first instance or 999 in an emergency.

Suspected Cases of Covid 19 or Emergencies at Windsor LTC

- A new Protocol is available to deal with suspected cases of Covid 19 at Windsor LTC. This is available in the Covid 19 box on Court Booker;
- New Posters are visible from the Courts on actions to take if someone becomes Covid-19 symptomatic whilst at Windsor;
- **A separate protocol is available for use of Defibrillator and First Aid kit, whilst on the premises;**
- **The Defibrillator is located inside the backdoor of the Clubhouse;**
- The Club needs to be informed if a player, or member of the same household becomes ill by emailing covid@windsortennis.co.uk.

Returning to Play post-illness

- You must observe the public health advice on social isolation and follow any medical advice given to you.

Part 11

Behaviours on Court to Promote Social distancing and Infection Prevention

- Players must refrain from handshakes and high fives;
- Keep 2 metres away from other people at all times;
- Do not share food, towels, drink or equipment;
- Cover your coughs and sneezes and dispose of any used tissue in your own bag and bring it home with you;
- Avoid touching your face;
- Try not to touch any surfaces, but if you do, sanitise your hands as soon as possible;
- Change ends at opposite sides of the net. If this is not possible, then do not change ends;
- Players own tennis balls should be used (see below). For singles play, these should be alternated for serving, with each player only touching their individual tennis balls; but for “household” doubles play, the same household may use the tennis balls on their side of the net;
- If a ball comes across from another court, send it back with a kick or with a racquet; and
- use sanitizer on your hands at the exit of courts and before you enter your car.

This protocol will be subject to weekly review, via the Tennis Committee. Updated versions will be available online.

Simon – 07851 282210

Michael – 07545 846416

Covid 19 Officer – Maura Briscoe - available on covid@windsortennis.co.uk

Other Resources

www.health-ni.gov.uk; [Public Health Agency, www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net); and the [Department of Communities; www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)