

RETURN TO PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

USTA OFFICIATING

Updated May 28, 2020

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting different parts of the country in different ways and with different timing. Therefore, we believe safely returning to play will be possible in some cities and states sooner than in others. Before doing so, please review federal, state and local guidelines to make informed decisions as to when play can recommence.

In addition to the Playing Tennis Safely recommendations for players, facilities, and programming issued by the USTA on April 22, 2020, available on tennisindustryunited.com, here are some additional recommendations to consider for USTA Officials as well as facilities utilizing Officials for USTA events.

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS	ON SITE / PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>General Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer near all courts and common areas. Ensure any designated Officials area is large enough to provide ability to physically distance. Keep gates open (where possible, and not dangerous) to minimize contact with common surfaces upon entering/exiting the court. Ensure free court entry/exit for Officials and players, unimpeded by spectators. Provide an extra ball for warm-up or a way to sanitize used balls as a replacement if match balls are lost. If providing towels, each Official should receive their own to sit on for the day. <p>On-Court Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seat players at least 6 feet apart from each other or from the Chair Umpire chair. Seat Line Umpires at least 6 feet apart from each other and appropriately distanced from spectators Sanitize equipment Officials may share, including scoring devices and radios, in between uses, when exchanged, and at the end of the day. Sanitize microphone and Chair Umpire chair between matches. 	<p>General Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider wearing a mask/gloves and wash hands and/or gloves often and after touching items. Avoid touching face, especially after handling on-court equipment Practice proper physical distancing from fellow Officials, players, spectators and tournament staff. Where possible, avoid exchanging supplies with players and fellow Officials. <p>Pre-event Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check with the host facility ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility. Include the following in your court bag for your personal use: gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes Bring your own water, snacks, and food. Check with event how/what food and water will be provided. <p>Scheduling Matches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger match times Use alternate scoring formats to decrease the amount of time on-site per player. Implement various scheduling formats, such as the “followed by” system to minimize crowding near the tournament desk Use remote check-in for matches via text/email. <p>Official’s Report Times/Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stagger report times for Officials. Use technology to communicate rather than hold group meetings. If not possible, conduct meetings in smaller groups based on staggered report time <p>Pre-match Meeting with Players</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice physical distancing and politely remind players if needed Review any special procedures (i.e. do not shake hands at the end of a match, calling score, handling balls, post-match procedures, etc.) <p>During Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rovers should move to the center of the court on changeovers even if players are not changing ends. Encourage players to clearly announce the score before each point, game, and set. Practice physical distancing when interacting on-court (Referee coming on court, relieving a fellow Official, Line Umpire reporting information to Chair Umpire, etc.) Pour new balls onto the court and avoid touching used balls. Players should remove used balls from play and discard according to facility guidelines after the match. <p>Post-Match</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer an acknowledgment such as a nod, a thumbs up, or a “good match” instead of shaking players’ hands. Encourage players to collect their own balls and drop off in designated area for used balls Ensure players take all their belongings and discard their trash Radio in scores, when possible, so players do not have to return to the tournament desk. Use technology to receive scores (text or email).

