



Community Tennis Association (CTA) Reopening Checklist

Whether it is your first time on court or you have played for years, no other sport delivers the wide variety of benefits that tennis does. Tennis lets you keep your social distance without being socially distant. Tennis is the ultimate return game, and now is the time to get out and play!

The USTA Community Tennis Association Committee offers this list of best practices to CTAs with important tips, strategies, and suggested guidelines for reintroducing tennis during the COVID-19 pandemic. These practices may be helpful for those CTAs planning to use or open facilities to offer public tennis programming.

As of June 1, the national suspension of USTA tennis programming was officially lifted. Community Tennis Associations across the country are cautiously and safely welcoming tennis players back to USTA programming. This is happening on a case-by-case basis, based on local situations and in conjunction with government offices and local decision-makers.

When considering best practices, the most important practice is to follow any and all policies put forth by your state and/or local municipalities.

Facilities, Programs, and General Operations

[USTA Playing Tennis Safely: Player Tips & Recommendations](#)

[USTA Playing Tennis Safely: Facility and Programming Recommendations](#)

Assess Your Situation

Tennis providers, coaches and facilities across the country are all different and operate in different local contexts. Making an assessment of whether a safe exercise environment can be provided depends on a range of factors, which apply differently at each venue. It is the responsibility of each tennis provider, coach and facility to make that assessment based on their local environment.

Organize Your Tennis Activities

All activity should align with the Federal Government's advised physical distancing measures, including when arriving at and departing from a court.

With camps and clinics starting to re-open, it is still important to follow COVID-19 guidelines put in place by each organization in addition to state and local guidelines. These resources include considerations for safely running camps or clinics: [Net Generation Tennis at Home Videos](#), [Net Generation Summer Camp Play Plan](#), [Net Generation Summer Camp Coaching Recommendations](#).

Provide a Clean & Safe Environment

Because tennis does not require direct person-to-person contact, players can enjoy the many physical and mental benefits that tennis offers so long as they practice physical distancing by keeping six feet apart from other players and follow other safety recommendations to ensure a safe exercise environment.

During this challenging time of pandemic restrictions, CTAs and facilities play a key role in protecting the health and safety of employees and players. We recommend CTAs, players, and facilities frequently read through the Playing Tennis Safety recommendations and watch for



other COVID-19 updates on USTA.com. In addition, the [Tennis Industry United \(TIU\)](#) has developed a website with resources to provide both immediate and longer-term support to those in the tennis industry. A few highlights from the TIU website include a page about [player safety for tennis facilities](#) and a page with [reopening guides and frequently asked questions](#).

With CTAs and programs beginning to reopen, many organizations are creating new guidelines that players and employees must follow to ensure the safety of everyone at the facility or park. Below are samples of waivers that CTAs and facilities may use. These are not intended to provide legal advice; they are intended as models only. Please seek advice of your legal advisors. Sample waivers: [General Use & Release Waiver](#), [Release & Waiver \(Participant Content\)](#), [Facility Use Agreement](#).

Communication and Community Partners

Frequent Communication

Keep in constant contact with the community partner via email, phone, or online meetings. Some offices or staff may have irregular/reduced hours or may be working from home so ensure that the contact person is still accurate.

Reopening Recommendations

Understand timelines/phases/stages of reopening for each partner as different areas may have different regulations. Also, be sure that you understand all requirements for running tennis programming (safety rules, permits, access to facilities, waivers, new/amended contracts).

Schools

Communication about programs for students usually must be approved through school districts. There are often firm policies about advertising and sending flyers home with students for any profitmaking venue. Be sure to clearly explain the nonprofit aspect of CTAs.

Identify Partner's Needs

Seek out needs of the partner, which could include USTA safe play guidelines, grants, additional equipment, or software required to conduct programming. USTA National/Sections/Districts and CTA's may offer grants or other support like reduced program fees or free league play.

Facilities

The use of facilities usually includes insurance protection, approved safeguards for working with children (including volunteers), and payment of staff hired to conduct programming.

Volunteers

Community and parent volunteers are important to supporting programs and should be held to the same safety and behavioral standards as teachers, CTAs, and providers.

Additional Resources

- [CDC Business Checklist](#)
- [CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#)
- [Project Play: Aspen Institute Outlook on Youth Sports](#)
- [National Recreation & Park Association \(NRPA\) Path to Recovery](#)