

ESL 2021/FALL 2020 COVID-19 LEAGUE PROTOCOLS

The safety of Players, staff, and officials is of utmost importance to the Chicago District Tennis Association (CDTA). Additionally, while CDTA wants to continue to offer as many play opportunities as possible, we understand that, as a community, we have to follow directives from public health officials to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. USTA League play will be allowed as long as areas within the Chicago District are meeting requirements of the Restore Illinois plan.

Please be mindful that we are currently in the midst of an unprecedented time of uncertainty and unrest. We encourage Players to use extra kindness and outstanding sportsmanship during this unusual League season and to be grateful that they can play the sport we all love so much.

The following protocols will be in place for the upcoming ESL 2021/Fall 2020 seasons. In addition to these minimum league-wide requirements, each host club/facility will have its own protocols that may be more or less restrictive than those of the league as a whole. Players and Captains are responsible for being aware of and following **BOTH** these general league-wide protocols and requirements of clubs. Links to each club's protocols can be found [here](#).

The ESL 2021/Fall 2020 season will be a playoff-progressing season, but COVID-19 related issues MAY result in adjustments to determination of playoff eligibility and to championship structure.

CDTA LEAGUE-WIDE PROTOCOLS

- **Do not play** if you are exhibiting any **symptoms** of the coronavirus or if you are feeling unwell at all. Symptoms may include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. Please refer to CDC.gov for the most up to date information about COVID-19.
- **Do not play** if you have been in **contact** with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- **Do not play** if you have travelled to a high incidence state within the last 14 days as identified by Cook County (regardless of where you live). Cook County regulations state that you should **self-quarantine** for 14 days upon return from a flight or a high incidence state. To stay up-to-date on the list of high incidence states, visit <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance/>
- Check the CDTA website for a list of **facility protocols** before you show up for your CDTA Match. All Players are expected to respect and adhere by individual facility protocols. Captain-to-captain communication prior to matches should include reminders about each facilities' safety protocols.
- Bring your own **racquet, towel, water** and **hand sanitizer**. These items will likely not be available at the facility.
- **Wash or sanitize** your hands before and after play.
- Wear **face masks** when entering or leaving facilities or while in common areas, other than courts. Although rare, some facilities may require the use of a **face mask** during play. If a Team does not want to play against another Team because of the face mask requirement, the Team who is refusing to play by the facility's protocols will lose the Match by default and be responsible for any court fees if the Match is not cancelled within the required 48-hour time period.



Chicago District Tennis Association
2200 East Devon Ave., Suite 319
Des Plaines, IL 60018
P: 847.803.2382 | F: 847.803.2383

-
- Each Player should come to the Match with their own set of **balls**. (In USTA League play, facilities are not obligated to provide balls; some do, but others do not. Please check with your captain to confirm who is supplying the balls.) If any Player on a given court prefers to use their own set of balls, all Players must honor that preference. Each Player should then mark their tennis balls with their name so that only the server's balls are being used (and touched by the server) during the server's game. The use of one set or multiple sets of balls on a court is up to each court and does not have to be consistent on all courts in the same Team Match.
 - As much as possible, try to send **balls** to other Players by using your racquet instead of your hands.
 - Many clubs have removed their **scoring devices**. Be sure to announce your score at the beginning of each point, game, and set.
 - Practice **social distancing** (keep a 6-foot distance from others) throughout your time at a facility. Do not shake hands or high five during the Match or upon its completion.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Switch ends** of the court only after the completion of each set. This must be agreed upon on each individual court. If any Player prefers to switch sides on the odd games, per standard tennis rules, all Players must go along with that Player's preference. Be sure to keep a 6-foot distance when passing your opponent(s) or agree to switch ends from opposite sides of the net.
- **Share line-ups** with each other Captains via text and/or by sending a picture of the scorecard.
- Captains should be prepared to share line-ups with the host facility for **contact tracing** purposes. Communication of this information may vary by facility. Facilities can also look to TennisLink scorecard to get a list of players from a given match.
- If **outdoor courts** are available at the home facility, Matches may be played outside if the temperature is 50° or higher. Captains should notify the opposing Captain 24 hours prior to the start of the Match if they intend to play outdoors.
- Some COVID-19 safety measure will likely slow down play. Please try to **keep the rest of the match moving**. Adhere to 90 second breaks after odd games (except the first) and 20 seconds between points.