

RETURN TO PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

USTA TEAM CHALLENGE

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 when hosting a USTA Team Challenge.

FORMAT / PLAY MODIFICATIONS

- Use alternate scoring formats and stagger the match times to decrease the amount of time on-site per player.
- Alternate match courts when possible to implement physical distancing.
- Use USTA Officials when possible to assist with your event. (See USTA Officiating Recommendations.)

Advise Players to:

- Check with the host facility ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility.
- Arrive at the facility close to assigned start time, ready to play, and depart immediately.
- Bring their own water bottles, towel, or any other personal equipment and store them inside their tennis bag when not in use.
- Bring their own chairs and avoid sharing a bench with a teammate and/or opponent.
- Use headbands, hats, towels or wristbands to avoid touching their faces during play.
- Wash hands often (before / after matches.)
- Clearly verbalize score at the start of each point and use technology to report scores (email or text).
- Maintain safe physical distance between players during the racquet spin at the start of a match.
- Maintain physical distancing if changing ends of the court.
- Offer an acknowledgment such as a nod, a thumbs up or a “good match” instead of shaking players’ hands.

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Follow all state and CDC guidelines in reference to cleaning and disinfecting of all facility areas.
- Post safety notices for players, officials, and spectators.
- Provide antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer near all courts and common areas.
- Advise staff to wear masks and gloves when checking players in, and wash hands often.
- Keep gates open so players do not have to touch when entering/exiting the court (where possible, and not dangerous.)
- Capture and retain accurate participant information in the event contact tracing becomes necessary.
- Observe physical distancing in all areas:
 - Limit large congregations at the tournament desk, players’ lounge/locker rooms, and everywhere on site.
 - Designate areas for players to position personal items/equipment during play.
 - Designate an area and/or provide containers for used balls throughout the facility to avoid returning to the tournament desk.
 - Only allow spectators if they can adhere to 6-foot physical distancing guidelines.
- Remove the following:
 - Score tender from courts
 - Line/Court sweeping equipment from general player use. (Have staff manage all line/court sweeping.)
 - Water coolers or stations from the courts.
 - Food offerings in common areas (fruit, granola bars, etc.)

