

TENNIS FACILITY AND PLAYER SAFETY GUIDANCE



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

PART OF PHASE 3 OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE III | EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2020

The Recovery Phase of the Restore Illinois public health approach to reopening the Illinois economy includes returning people to work, businesses reopening and group gatherings of 10 or fewer. We must all continue to social distance, frequently wash our hands and cover our faces to maintain progress in overcoming COVID-19.

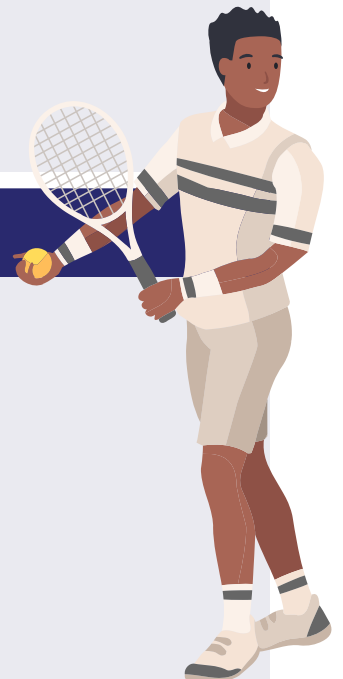
With the precautions and operational restrictions outlined below, indoor and outdoor tennis facilities may resume operations, effective immediately. These guidelines can be used for pickleball and paddle tennis as well. In addition to the general social distancing standards set forth in the Stay at Home Order, tennis clubs and facilities should abide by the following controls.

PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS

1. All gates should be roped off or left open to prevent touching.
2. Players should come to the facility no more than 10 minutes before the time expected to play.
3. Avoid playing on adjacent courts when possible.
4. Public drinking fountains should not operate and should be taped off.
5. Players should not congregate in groups before or after playing tennis.

TENNIS COURT FACILITY

1. Encourage online or telephone court reservations. Stagger booking times (odd courts start on the half hour; even courts on the hour).
2. Clubhouses should remain closed.
3. Proshops may reopen so long as they comply with the retail guidelines.
4. Remove drinking water jugs and prohibit use of water fountains that are permanently affixed with signage.
5. Restrooms shall be sanitized regularly. Staff must wear face coverings if they cannot keep a 6 ft social distance and players should wear masks when in the facility and not playing.
6. Locker rooms and showers should be closed.
7. All court gates and stair rails should be wiped down every 2 hours.



8. All score tenders will be taken off the courts to prevent touching.
9. All common area chairs and tables should be stacked, roped off or removed from the area to prevent congregating and touching.
10. Hand sanitizer or wipes should be available at all main contact points.
11. Alternating courts should be reserved for play, if possible.
12. Players should come to the facility no more than 10 minutes before the time expected to play.
13. A parent or guardian should accompany minors to the facility when possible.

COACHING/LESSONS

1. Individual lessons are permissible.
2. Small group lessons are permissible, 4 players per court and maximum of 2 courts (8 players total), but only with drills that provide for social distancing.
3. Limit the use of coaching equipment such as target cones.
4. If a ball machine is used, balls should be picked by the coach using a basket.
5. Coaches should use assigned hopper/baskets and mark them accordingly.

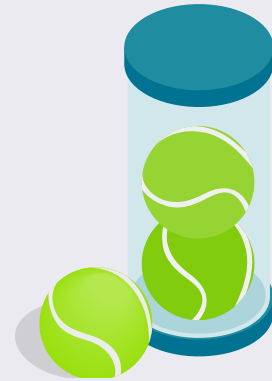
PLAYER RESTRICTIONS

1. Any players with any symptoms of COVID-19, should not play.
2. Bring your own tennis racquet and tennis balls.
3. Players shall maintain adequate physical distancing between each other.
4. Do not use the public drinking fountain or ball cleaner.
5. Bring hand sanitizer with you and use during your round and at the end.
6. No handshakes at the beginning or end of the match.
7. Players should stay on their side of the court and avoid changing sides during match play.
8. Playing singles is preferred, but not required.
9. Club tennis match schedules need to be pre-set before the match day to prevent gatherings of players awaiting assignment.



TENNIS BALLS

1. Using new balls on a very regular basis is highly encouraged. Although there is no specific evidence that tennis balls can spread COVID-19, we know that contamination by respiratory droplets does occur on hard surfaces, especially ones that are made of felt and therefore players should be mindful of their contact with tennis balls.
2. Replace all balls if someone suspected to have COVID-19 comes in contact with them.
3. Consider spraying tennis balls briefly with a disinfectant spray (e.g., Lysol or Clorox) at the conclusion of play.
4. Suggestions on tennis ball use:
 - a. For private lessons that feature serving, have customers bring two cans of balls that only they handle for serving.
 - b. Match play - Tennis players should each bring a new can of balls to a match, different brands or same brand/different numbers and only serve with your tennis balls. If playing pickleball, use different color balls.
 - c. Encourage players to use their racquet/foot to push balls back and/or hit them to their opponent to avoid using hands and touching the balls.



If you have questions or need additional support:
Please call our hotline at 1-800-252-2923
or e-mail us at ceo.support@illinois.gov
or return to illinois.gov/businessguidelines