
RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS – PARTICIPANTS



JULY 2020

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION



RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS

Foreword

In order to support a safe return to international tennis tournaments, the ITF has devised protocols that all tournament hosts and participants must follow to mitigate the risk of exposure to, and spread of, Covid-19.

This document applies to all ITF-owned and sanctioned tennis tournaments, including Davis Cup and Fed Cup, Junior Team competitions, World Tennis Tour Mens, Womens and Juniors, Beach Tennis, Seniors and Wheelchair Tennis, with effect from 1 August 2020.

All ITF tournaments and participants (which includes players, support personnel, officials, tournament staff and any other credentialed individual) must comply with the requirements set out in this document.

Information regarding Covid-19 is constantly changing. The information provided in this document is not intended to be a substitute for guidance provided by local, national or international government and health organizations. The ITF makes no representation as to, and assumes no responsibility for, the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document in respect of its effectiveness in preventing or controlling the spread of Covid-19.

The Tournament Director (or, in the case of Davis Cup and Fed Cup, the Official Organiser) is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all persons attending a tournament. This document provides the ITF's guidance regarding the minimum standards that a tournament must implement in order to safeguard the welfare of participants. A tournament may impose higher standards than those described in this document where it considers it appropriate to do so, or where so required by local legislation. The Tournament Director must ensure that each tournament is conducted in accordance with these protocols as published at the time of the tournament.

This document is subject to change and may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the ITF. The ITF will make the latest version available on its website: www.itftennis.com. Any questions regarding this document should be addressed to the ITF at covid19@itftennis.com.

Introduction

The overall objective of this document is to describe the measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of participants in ITF tournaments. By setting out those measures, participants in all tournaments covered by this document can be confident that the appropriate measures are being taken and have the benefit of a consistent approach.

The ITF *Return to International Tennis Protocols* comprise four sections:

1. ELIGIBILITY TO HOST A TOURNAMENT

This section describes the criteria by which the ITF will decide whether a tournament is eligible to be added to the ITF calendar

2. ITF TOURNAMENT FRAMEWORK

This section sets out the ITF's guidance, recommendations and minimum standards that all tournaments must meet in order to adequately protect the health and safety of participants in relation to Covid-19

3. COMPLIANCE

The framework by which any failures to meet the minimum standards are described in this section

4. RISK MITIGATION

This section sets out the measures that are required to reduce the risk to participants of Covid-19 transmission

How to use this document

The information in this document describes the main requirements for participants when competing in international tennis tournaments during the Covid-19 pandemic. All participants are advised to read this document together with the relevant explanatory notes (available as a separate document), and to familiarise themselves with the relevant amendments to the regulations for the tournament(s) in question.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility to host an ITF tournament

In order to be eligible for addition to the ITF calendar, the following criteria must be met:

1. Government legislation must permit a tennis event to be held in the host country.
2. The host nation's borders must be open to international visitors, giving sufficient and reasonable access to that nation to players, as determined by the ITF.
3. Each host organiser must, on application to host a tournament, confirm that it will implement the minimum standards set out in the 'risk mitigation' section of this document.

ITF tournament framework during the Covid-19 pandemic

The framework below forms the basis for the minimum standards that all tournaments must meet in order to adequately protect the health and safety of participants in relation to Covid-19.

1. Physical distancing must be respected at all times by all participants and spectators.
2. Personal hygiene measures must be taken by all participants.
3. Methods of identifying potential cases of Covid-19 prior to entry to the tournament site and of identifying participants who may have been exposed to Covid-19 during a tournament must be implemented.
4. Consideration must be given to additional protection for vulnerable individuals.
5. The minimum number of participants required for the tournament to operate should be permitted on-site.
6. Players and support personnel must isolate from other participants and spectators, to the greatest possible extent.

Compliance

1. Effective implementation of the minimum standards for hosting tournaments requires a programme of monitoring and, where those standards are not met, enforcement.

Risk mitigation

The Covid-19 virus presents an elevated health risk to all participants. Steps to reduce that risk must be taken by all ITF tournaments and participants. Relevant areas in which an elevated risk may exist, and the minimum standards and/or recommendations for mitigation of those risks, are set out below.

Note: nothing in this document precludes tournaments from going beyond the minimum specified standards where it considers it appropriate to do so, or where so required by local legislation.

RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Pre-event

1. Participants should establish and keep continue to review whether the host country has imposed any entry requirements, such as recent certificates of Covid-19 tests or restrictions based on travel history.
2. Participants will be required to confirm that they have read these ITF *Return to International Tennis Protocols*, will comply with the requirements in full, accept that they provide an adequate level of protection against the risk of transmission of Covid-19, and assume responsibility for any risk of participating.
3. All participants and, particularly, vulnerable individuals who may be at elevated risk of severe Covid-19 symptoms and those who have had Covid-19 are advised to consult with their personal doctors to determine whether it is safe for them to travel to, and participate in, each tournament.
4. Players and support personnel are advised to review the terms of their travel insurance and, where appropriate, consider taking out insurance against Covid-19-related risks (e.g. travel, health).
5. Participants should not travel to tournaments if they have had a positive Covid-19 test within the last 7 days, or if they have or have had any symptoms of Covid-19 within the last 7 days, or if they have been exposed to anyone who has Covid-19 or symptoms of Covid-19 within the last 14 days.

Off-site

6. Participants must minimise the time spent in locations to which the public has access, and especially locations that are crowded, noisy or in which close contact with the public is required. Face coverings must be worn at all times when indoors.
7. Participants must avoid dining in locations to which the general public has access (e.g. local restaurants/bars).
8. All participants must self-check their health daily, before leaving their accommodation and must not travel to the tournament site if any symptoms of Covid-19 (and, particularly, fever, new or

persistent cough, loss or change in sense of taste and smell) are present, or if there has been any exposure to Covid-19.

9. Face coverings must be worn and physical distancing must be practiced at all times while using transport.

Site access

10. Before entering the tournament site, all participants must complete a daily self-declaration of being Covid-19 symptom-free and not having had any high-risk contacts in the last 14 days, and be subject to daily temperature screening. Only those participants who comply with, and meet the requirements of, screening are permitted on-site.
11. Participants must comply with case management protocols if they fail to meet self-reporting or screening requirements. Participants must report Covid-19 symptoms during or within 7 days of the date on which they left the tournament venue.
12. Following a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, or following exposure to Covid-19, participants must comply with the ITF 'return to competition' protocols (as set out in the case management protocol).

On-site

13. All sign-in will be remote (online/telephone).
14. A maximum of one support person per player will be permitted on-site for individual events, except for players who need essential physical assistance during competition, in which case such additional essential person(s) are permitted.

Competition

15. ITF practice and match protocols (available as a separate document) must be observed throughout a tournament.
16. Use of locker rooms (including for players, officials and ball persons) will be determined by the available space, such that physical distancing can be maintained at all times. No player support personnel are permitted in locker rooms, except for support personnel required to provide essential physical assistance.
17. Non-Covid-19 medical treatment will be limited to the reasonable time necessary for completion. Players must wear face coverings while obtaining medical treatment.
18. Participants must wear face coverings during anti-doping testing. Anti-Doping staff must comply with physical distancing, hygiene measures and daily screening.

ITF RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Introduction

This document is intended to provide supporting information for the ITF *Return to International Tennis Protocols* for participants, and is intended to be read together with that document. Participants are advised to read both documents and to familiarise themselves with the relevant amendments to the regulations for the tournament(s) in question.

SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
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Eligibility to host an ITF tournament	
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1	For the avoidance of doubt, local or national (as applicable) government legislation and guidance in the host country takes primacy over these protocols only where it imposes <i>more</i> stringent standards or restrictions (otherwise, these protocols shall be applied). Accordingly, where such legislation or guidance prohibits a tournament from being held for any reason, then no ITF tournament in that location will be permitted.
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2	‘Sufficient’ refers to the number of countries from which the host nation is accessible. ‘Reasonable’ refers to the restrictions imposed at the point of entry (e.g. quarantine). At the time of application, host organisers must notify the ITF of access restrictions and keep the ITF updated as to any changes in those restrictions.
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3	Failure to meet any of the minimum standards in the ‘risk mitigation’ section is subject to sanction under the Code of Conduct of the relevant ITF tour regulations.
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SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
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ITF tournament framework during the Covid-19 pandemic

1	<p>This applies to all participants (except for those who require essential physical assistance, in which case the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (known as 'PPE') must be used where physical distancing is not possible), to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 by the avoidance of close and prolonged contact. Physical distancing requirements shall, as a minimum, meet the requirements of the relevant authorities of the host location. Where no minimum is specified by the relevant authorities, or where that minimum is less than 1 metre, the minimum physical distancing shall be 1 metre (except for vulnerable individuals, for whom the minimum is 2 metres). To avoid creating confusion for other participants, physical distancing must be practised by members of the same household.</p>
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2	<p>Personal hygiene includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regular hand-washing or hand-sanitising;- Not touching your face;- Coughing into your elbow, or a tissue and immediately discarding it;- Wearing a face covering where appropriate
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3	<p>These methods may include testing or screening. (See 'risk mitigation' section).</p>
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SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
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Compliance

	<p>Tournament organisers and all participants are collectively responsible for reducing the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Failure to comply with any requirement places the health of other participants at an elevated risk of infection.</p>
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1	<p>Failure to comply by players and/or their support personnel may result in a sanction under the ITF Code of Conduct including a fine and/or immediate default, and removal from the tournament (and subsequent tournaments), at the sole discretion of the ITF.</p>
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	<p>The Tournament Supervisor is responsible for monitoring and enforcing failures to comply with the requirements in this document by players and player support personnel.</p>
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SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
Risk Mitigation	
1	<p>Participants are advised to follow their own government’s advice prior to travelling, and follow local requirements on arrival, including maintaining physical distancing and personal hygiene. Some host countries may require negative Covid-19 PCR (or equivalent) tests.</p>
	<p>Any Covid-19 testing should be an antigen PCR (or equivalent analysis) test. Participants should only travel to a tournament if the test returns a negative result. Antigen (PCR or equivalent) tests may return ‘false negatives’, and so a negative result does not guarantee that the person concerned is not infected with Covid-19.</p>
2	<p>Confirmation of acceptance of and compliance with the ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols will be required on entry to a tournament, on application for accreditation, or on arrival on-site.</p>
5	<p>Participants are advised to pack sufficient face coverings, sanitiser (conforming to maximum allowable volumes), hand wipes and tissues in their hand luggage, so that these items are available to them at all times. For long journeys, a thermometer is also recommended.</p>
	<p>Participants are advised to anticipate physical contact and/or close contact during their journey, and try to avoid them, as far as possible.</p>
6	<p>Time spent in shared-access locations may increase the risk of transmission, particularly where physical distancing and hygiene precautions are not observed.</p>
	<p>Where sleeping accommodation is shared with anyone from outside a household, ventilation using a fresh air supply should be maintained to the greatest reasonable extent.</p>
7	<p>If it is not possible to avoid dining in publicly-accessible locations, eat outdoors and ensure that physical distancing and personal hygiene are maintained throughout. Ideally, all meals would be taken in the tournament hotel (preferably in-room dining, but alternatively delivery/take-away).</p>

	Where a participant has Covid-19 symptoms or has been exposed to Covid-19, they must remain in their accommodation/hotel room and contact the tournament Covid-19 Officer.
8	If a participant is in any doubt about whether they have Covid-19 symptoms, and so whether they should attend the tournament site, they should contact the Covid-19 Officer or the Tournament/Independent Doctor prior to leaving their accommodation.
9	Participants should avoid public transport and travelling in vehicles for extended periods (more than 15 minutes) with multiple occupants, where that vehicle is unventilated and/or un-sanitised.
10	<p>Failure to comply with testing (including any additional testing imposed by location government) will result in the person concerned being denied entry to the site and not being permitted to participate in any ITF tournament until such time that they comply with those requirements in full.</p> <p>Due to the rate of false negatives associated with antigen (PCR or equivalent) tests, negative test does not offset a failure to meet the requirements of screening.</p>
11	'Exposed' refers to anyone who has been in close contact with the affected individual within the previous 48 hours of the onset of the affected individual's symptoms. Close contact is defined as: face to face contact (under 1 metre) for any length of time; within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes; sharing an enclosed space for more than 2 hours; anyone living in the same household or household-like setting (e.g. hotel room, apartment or hostel).
12	The return to competition will be determined as described in the case management protocol (available as a separate document).
16	<p>Showers are permitted only after matches and only where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Physical distancing can be maintained;- Where the player is competing in more than one match in a day and during team events. <p>Where the locker room includes the team lounge, the shower area must be physically separated from all other parts of the lounge.</p>
