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March 17, 2021

Update from Tennis BC Regarding New PHO Order

In response to the most recent PHO Order, and in conjunction with viaSport, we present this updated document of preventative and protective measures. This document highlights changes that affect **adult outdoor sport only**.

Effective immediately, group sport activities like training and drills are permitted for adults 22 and older, provided they meet the following condition:

- ✓ If the group sport is outdoors, only **ten persons** participate (increased from four people) ***note: 3m physical distance rule must still be maintained, therefore we recommend a maximum of 4 adults plus a coach on one court**

There are no changes in the following:

- 1) If the group sport is indoors, only two persons participate
- 2) The participants maintain a distance of three metres from one another while engaged in the group sport, unless the participants reside in the same private residence
- 3) There are no spectators, unless the presence of a spectator is necessary in order to provide care to a participant

All other restrictions on indoor activities remain in place and there are no changes for youth sport to report today. This change for adult sport aligns with the loosening of restrictions [announced on Friday](#) allowing 10 people to gather outdoors while maintaining our other layers of protection while indoors.

Stay safe and have fun!

Thank you,
Your Tennis BC Team



Updated March 17, 2021

(regarding adult outdoor engagement)

PREVENTATIVE & PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR YOUR CLUB OR FACILITY FOR RECREATIONAL PLAY

Tennis facilities in British Columbia are all different and operate as such. Assessing whether a safe exercise environment can be provided at your facility depends on a large range of factors and apply differently at each venue. It is the responsibility of each tennis facility management to make that assessment based on their specific environment. Safety precautions must remain in place as we move from “lock-down” mode to modified openings. The following guidelines will help clubs to navigate through these unprecedented times as they re-open their facilities for recreational play and offering lessons/camps also.

We know that tennis offers many benefits including physical and mental health, relief of stress, socializing with others and providing much-needed exercise. Of primary importance is taking every precaution to help keep all participants safe. If played responsibly, tennis can be enjoyed safely within the new physical distancing guidelines and play a vital role in community well-being.

Disclaimer:

This document outlines key preventative and protective recommendations and best practices to safeguard your facility during a pandemic. While these recommendations are based on industry best practice and norms, we encourage your organization to check with your local and provincial health authorities to verify what is acceptable for your jurisdiction.

FACILITY GUIDELINES

<p>Facility Review</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a full and comprehensive review of your facility, analyzing risk and exposure areas. 2. Create a ‘touch map’ displaying these areas and develop a cleaning plan with regard to same. 3. Determine what areas will be open and available to patrons and what will be closed off. 4. If feasible, consider making your facility “one-way”, with one entrance and one exit to simplify physical distancing. 5. Create or update your facilities Hygiene & Safety Guidelines protocols, ie: for maintenance staff, for desk personnel, for Coaches, for guests/members. You can download a free physical distancing poster from the BCCDC here and a free handwashing poster from the BCCDC here. 6. Ensure you have sufficient supplies of sanitizing materials, including dispensers for both hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes that will be placed at potential new locations. Offer disposable gloves & masks for all your personnel in case they feel more comfortable wearing them. 7. Fully clean and sanitize your complete facility before re-opening. You can access BCCDC cleaning & disinfecting information here and download a free cleaning & disinfecting in public settings poster here. 8. Ensure your facility has proper contact tracing protocols in place. As per the new health order, you need to include full name, phone number or email of everyone using your facility.
<p>Physical Facility Updates</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove seating from public viewing areas. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. We recommend that viewing is no longer admissible at this time. b. Parents can drop off children for lessons a few minutes before the lesson begins and pick them up right after. **If necessary, you may have to designate someone to monitor pick up to ensure safety of younger children** 2. If using benches on court, maintain the 3m physical distancing protocol as well as proper cleaning and sanitizing. 3. Remove score cards. 4. Remove on-court trash cans and ask players to take their own trash home. 5. If your facility is equipped with nets between courts, keeping them closed will assist as a reminder of the physical distancing requirement.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Regrip all loaner racquets, create one area only for these racquets to be kept & clean with a sanitizing wipe after each use, before being set back in their area. 7. Shut down or cover all water fountains. 8. Create any new signage necessary and place any new directional aids. 9. Position and secure all new sanitization products. We recommend: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. hand sanitizer stationed at all entry and exit doors to the courts b. hand sanitizer and wipes courtside, at each court c. hand sanitizer at reception/front desk area
Court Booking Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If possible, consider going cashless. By becoming ‘online’ for both booking and payments, you minimize the risk for your desk staff and the players. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keep accurate information of all players, their time/date/court # when playing in case there is a need for authorities to trace who has been onsite. You may want to consider having all participants sign a waiver acknowledging the risk of participating. There is a sample here & here
Communication with Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to use virtual meetings, or physical meetings as long as you can remain within the 3m physical distancing protocols with staff to go over all protocols and address any questions or concerns your staff may have with returning to work during this time. 2. Ensure that your staff are wearing masks at all times when indoors, including coaching sessions, unless playing. 3. Amongst your new staff protocols should be a daily assessment of their health. No staff member should attend work if they show any symptoms of being sick. If any staff member is unsure, please have them use the self-assessment tool provided free online through https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en or through the COVID-19 BC Support App self-assessment tool.
Communications to your members/guests	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Update also on the plans for general play and how/when classes will resume. 5. Update your tennis community so they are aware of the steps their club is taking to protect them. 6. Let them know about all new safety protocols put in place, such as: bringing their own hand sanitizer, no sharing of anything, the need to bring extra water as fountains are shut off, what washrooms are available, ask them to come dressed for tennis – no changerooms open, the status of the common areas, no unnecessary hanging around – arrive just a few minutes before your court time and leave directly after. 7. Advise them of any changes made with regard to booking and payments.

	<p>8. We have included a template of a letter to send to your clubs regarding your re-opening. You can find it here. You will need to add your own pertinent information to this letter with regard to your club's new safety protocols.</p>
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COACH AND STAFF GUIDELINES

<p>Staff</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the level of staffing your facility needs to efficiently cover its current needs & reinstate/rehire them. This includes maintenance staff. 2. Meet with them (virtually if needed) to go over protocols that have been put in place (greeting/handling clients/members, changes in booking/paying, sanitation, etc) & address and questions or concerns they have at this time. **Continue with regular meetings with your staff to go over current regulations and ask for their feedback and suggestions on how they feel the protocols put in place are working. If necessary, make any adjustments to ensure the health and safety of your staff and customers** 3. Give each member a copy of the protocols & advise them where they are posted. 4. Staff will wash hands or sanitize their hands before every change in class or court times. Staff should wear masks at all times when indoors. 5. We recommend no sales of any kind on premise. But if a handheld payment terminal is still being used, it must be disinfected after every use. 6. We recommend the maximum number of people in your facility at one time be 50. This, of course, is dependent on your clubs' size so please use common sense when developing your max. This must be monitored by someone.
<p>Coaches</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine your need for coaches at this time. Reinstate/rehire whoever is required. 2. Meet with them to go over protocols that have been put in place and ensure they have a copy of same. **Continue with regular meetings with your coaches to

	<p>go over current regulations, ask for their feedback and suggestions on how they feel the protocols put in place are working. If necessary, make any adjustments to ensure the health and safety of your staff and customers**</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. As they will be your 'front line workers', ensure that your coaches fully understand what is expected & required from them. Address any questions or concerns they have at this time and be sure they know to come to you with any matters that arise.4. Group coaching can be allowed for juniors only (21 and under), and only if there is adequate space for full 3-metre physical distancing by all students. The student/coach ratio must not exceed 4-1.5. There are no indoor groups allowed for adults (22+). The recommendation now is that coaching for adults will now only be private lessons (2 max on a court, which now includes the coach). We feel it is acceptable for semi-private lessons if both lesson-takers are from the same household.6. Indoor coaching for doubles is no longer allowed.7. Outdoor restrictions for adults have been changed so that a group of ten (10) persons can now participate, providing the 3-metre physical distance rule can still be maintained. In order to comply with the physical distancing rule, we recommend no more than 4 adults per court plus the coach.8. For coaches, we recommend:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Not only to enforce the 3-metre physical distancing rule, but a strict & absolute no-touch policy.b. Coaches will wash hands or sanitize their hands before every class.c. Coaches will remind students at the start of each class of the no-touch rule.
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PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<p>Coaching</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coaching can resume when courts have been re-opened. 2. The indoor restriction for adults (22+) is 2 people maximum per court, so private lessons only or semi-private if the lesson-takers are from the same household. 3. For Juniors, the ratio is 4-1 (student/coach) providing they can comply with the new 3-metre physical distancing rule. 4. Outdoor restrictions for adults have been changed so that a group of ten (10) persons can now participate, providing the 3-metre physical distance rule can still be maintained. In order to comply with the physical distancing rule, we recommend no more than 4 adults per court plus the coach. 5. Ensure coaches have training in your protocol and know how to handle the situation on court to help the kids maintain their physical distancing, even when at rest or being given feedback. 6. Consider assigning coaching equipment to each coach as well as assigned storage areas for their equipment. 7. Coaches should ask & remind their students before each class to ensure they are beginning their class with sanitized hands and equipment. **Our recommendation is for coaches to distribute hand sanitizer to each student upon entry to the court and again at the end of each session before the student leaves the court. Sanitizer could be reapplied during breaks also**
<p>Programs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programs can resume when courts have been re-opened. 2. Programs for juniors must be kept to a maximum of 4 students (4-1 ratio), providing you can still maintain the 3-metre rule for physical distancing. 3. For adults (22+), there is now a maximum of 2 people per indoor court, so private lessons only or semi-private if the lesson-takers are from the same household. 4. Outdoor restrictions for adults have been changed so that a group of ten (10) persons can now participate, providing the 3-metre physical distance rule can still be maintained. In order to comply with the physical distancing rule, we recommend no more than 4 adults per court plus the coach.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Have program times staggered so that people have time to exit the courts and the building before the next group comes in. 6. This will give the coaches time to sanitize the court area (net posts, equipment, chairs, etc) and themselves. 7. This will give the staff time also to sanitize the desk area, washroom area, etc.
Events	✓ No events allowed at this time.

RECREATIONAL TENNIS ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

On Court management:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure NO physical contact between players. Consider touching racquets rather than shaking hands. ✓ Each court can be used. We recommend staggered start times to reduce congestion at start and end times.
Singles or Doubles?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No indoor doubles allowed at this time. Outdoor doubles is allowed providing the 3m physical distancing rule can be followed. ✓ Outdoor restrictions for adults have been changed so that a group of ten (10) persons can now participate, providing the 3-metre physical distance rule can still be maintained. In order to comply with the physical distancing rule, we recommend no more than 4 adults per court plus the coach.
Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All seating must be set apart the 3-metre appropriate distance.
Personal Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each player should carry their own hand sanitizer for use during their match. ✓ Although each person is accountable for their own health, the safety of others is at risk also with Covid-19. Everyone should be tasked with monitoring others for signs & symptoms & have a central person in charge that will handle any issues that arise.

USEFUL LINKS

1. Proper handwashing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0P-0d1mJfA>
2. BCCDC free handwashing poster: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_Handwashing%20Poster_MD%20offices.pdf
3. Covid-19 self assessment tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
4. BCCDC free Physical Distancing poster: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_PhysicalDistancingPoster.pdf
5. BCCDC information page on cleaning & disinfecting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/cleaning-and-disinfecting>
6. BCCDC free cleaning in public settings poster: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf