

RETURN TO PLAY REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES - USTA MID-ATLANTIC ADULT & YOUTH TOURNAMENTS

The USTA/Mid-Atlantic, Inc. (USTA MAS) recognizes that the coronavirus has been affecting different parts of our region in different ways and with different phased openings. We, therefore, understand that it will be possible for people to return to playing tennis in localities, cities, and states at different times.

The tables below set out the minimum guidelines to manage safety and health concerns when participating in or administering a USTA MAS Tournament. While USTA MAS has provided these guidelines, USTA MAS needs your help to stay safe and current with the ever-changing federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding COVID-19. If you find that the information provided herein needs updating, immediately notify USTA MAS. USTA MAS will make every effort to revise these guidelines based upon the most current information.

To review recent state and federal information, please see:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/index.html>
- Virginia: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/>
- Maryland: <https://governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/>
- West Virginia: <https://governor.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

For non-sanctioned tournaments listed in TennisLink all of the below are strongly recommended but not required.

REQUIRED GUIDELINES	
FORMAT & PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS	ORGANIZER/FACILITY REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spectators and individuals outside of participants may be limited. Players under the age of 18 may be accompanied by one parent or guardian. ▪ Capacity restrictions must be adhered to. Follow all state and local guidelines on gathering restrictions. When playing indoors, capacity limits may change and additional restrictions may apply. ▪ Where spectators or individuals outside of registered participants do not increase the number of individuals over the state and local maximum capacity mandates, they are permitted to attend to spectate. Associated players must share guidelines and expectations with accompanying individuals. ▪ All non playing individuals associated with participation in a USTA MAS tournament must also perform a self check of the below criteria and follow all CDC guidelines related to social distancing and personal hygiene. ▪ Individuals at high risk should evaluate their participation. Visit the CDC information here. <p>Participants are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adhere to below criteria for participating in a USTA Tournament: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The local area where you are administering your tournament must be allowing gatherings of at least 50 people for tournaments. ▪ Your locality must meet all relevant and applicable standards in state and local guidelines. ▪ Adhere to the Commitment to Safely Returning to Play Form. ▪ If not directly connected with your host facility, check with them ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility. ▪ Tournaments may need to be modified or schedules may need to stagger in order to adhere to state and/or local mandatory guidelines. ▪ Outdoor events shall follow Rain Delay Protocols



- No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - No close sustained contact with anyone who is sick within 14 days of the event.
 - Complete a COVID-19 self-check screening of health each day of participation. If you answer YES to any of the screening questions below you must stay home and not participate.
 - A new fever (100.4°F or higher) or a sense of having a fever?
 - A new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - New shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - New chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - New muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity?
 - Those with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 during the event will be asked to leave the venue.
 - Sign a USTA MAS Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability - COVID-19 Waiver and USTA MAS General Participation - Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability and Photo Release to participate.
 - Follow all [CDC guidelines](#) related to social distancing and personal hygiene. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Wash your hands often or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Stay at least six to ten feet from other people per local and state orders.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others and not actively playing tennis. Face coverings should not be placed on anyone that has trouble breathing or is unable to remove the mask without assistance.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes.
 - Monitor your health.
 - When registering for the event, ensure cell phone information is accurate for real time communication from tournament organizers.
- Draw sizes and match formats shall be confirmed with USTA MAS Section staff.
 - Email all registrants the player safety protocols prior to the event, and post safety notices at each site.
 - Event staff must assess themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 before supporting an event each day. If an event staff answers YES to any of the screening questions below they should stay home and not report to the event:
 - A new fever (100.4°F or higher) or a sense of having a fever?
 - A new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - New shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - New chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - New muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity?
 - Event staff working in customer-facing areas must wear masks covering their nose and mouth when customer facing. Gloves are recommended.
 - Event staff and participants/spectators must maintain at least six to ten feet of distance between themselves and others per local and state orders.
 - Use remote check in and score reporting when feasible.
 - Provide two cans of balls with different numbers for each match. Have these balls on courts prior to match play, and have a plan for ball return.



- Check with the facility location ahead of time for any additional protocols that may apply.
- Arrive at the venue dressed for your match 10 -15 minutes before your allotted start time and depart the venue immediately after the match. Do not use the locker rooms or showers and avoid touch points when entering and exiting.
- Players must bring their own water.
- Do not enter the court until previous players exit and maintain social distancing.
- Do not share any equipment or other items (racquet, water bottles, food) with partner or opponents.
- Each player shall handle his/her own new set of balls provided by the event organizer.. When returning balls to opponent or from another court, use your racquet/foot to send back.
- Follow tournament directors instructions for use of score tenders on courts; clearly verbalize the score at the start of each point.
- Toss the coin or spin the racquet that maintains social distance between players and the same person conducts and retrieves the coin and/or racquet.
- Maintain six to ten feet of distance when changing sides and communicating with each other per local and state orders. Players must change on opposite ends of the net.
- No handshake after completion of the match. Acknowledge the completion of the match with a thumbs up or a “good match” across the net.
- Leave the courts as soon as possible, taking with you all your items (tennis balls, water bottles, etc.).
- Follow check in and score reporting protocol as directed by the Tournament Director.
- Players and spectators must follow state and local government mask mandates at all times. Note: when playing indoors some facilities may mandate wearing a mask while playing. Please contact the host facility directly if you have questions.
- Remove court benches or implement cleaning protocol between matches.
- Remove any score tender from courts or designate one player to use score tender and clean between every match.
- Follow all state and CDC guidelines in reference to cleaning and disinfecting of all facility areas.
- Remove tables and chairs or rope off common areas to discourage congregating
- All players should leave the facility immediately after playing.

RECOMMENDED STANDARDS

FORMAT & PARTICIPANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Please consider the following:

- Bring tissues, cleaning wipes and a personal trash bag to pack in & pack out.

ORGANIZER/FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide antibacterial wipes and/or hand sanitizer in the common area and if possible near all courts.



- Use tissue to open gates and immediately toss tissue in your personal “trash bag.”
 - Use the restroom at your private residence prior to your match.
 - Use hand sanitizer on every changeover.
 - Advise players to discard any gloves & one time use masks used during the match.
 - Advise players to use headbands, hats, wristbands to avoid touching their faces during play.
 - Refrain from bringing spectators or extra players, unless outdoors and can maintain social distancing per local and state orders.
 - If playing doubles, avoid high-fives and whispering to each other from a close distance to strategize.
 - Seating may be limited; players and spectators may consider bringing a chair.
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- Where possible, and not dangerous, keep gates open so players do not have to touch when entering/exiting court.
 - Consider limiting on site food and beverage offerings.
 - Designate areas for players to position personal items/equipment before play.
 - Alternate match courts when possible to implement social distancing.

