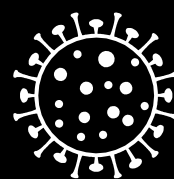




**Tennis
Ireland**
Sport For Life



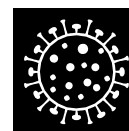
Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Return to Play Protocols for Tennis Clubs, Players and Coaches

Effective from November 4th, 2021

Republic of Ireland





Introduction

On October 19th Government announced Ireland's plan for the next phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Full details of the announcement can be found [here](#):

It is envisioned that these measures will remain in place until approximately February 2022.

Tennis Organisations and Coaches should continue to implement strong protocols with regard to training, competition, and other sporting activities.

These will include:

- The collection of contact tracing data.
- The use of COVID 19 Officers.
- Recommending symptomatic individuals do not participate in or attend Tennis activities.
- The ongoing promotion of good respiratory & hand hygiene.
- The wearing of face coverings in relevant settings.
- Ensuring that indoor spaces are well ventilated.
- Consideration of indoor space densities and duration of indoor activities.

Monitoring, oversight, and compliance activities should continue to be reinforced by Tennis Organisations and Coaches.

Up to date and active Communication on existing measures will also assist with the ongoing promotion of public health measures at a local and club level.

In addition to the protective measures outlined above the Department of Sport Expert Group strongly recommends that all eligible individuals consider vaccination as a matter of priority. This will maximise availability of indoor sporting opportunities and the number of participants.

Summary of the Measures in place from November 4th, 2021

Outdoor Tennis Activities

- Outdoor group activities should continue to implement the relevant protective measures as outlined above.
- Proof of vaccination or recovery no longer applies for spectators attending outdoor events.
- Fixed capacity limits will no longer apply for spectators or participants at outdoor events and tournaments

Indoor Tennis Activities

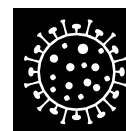
- The use of the EU Digital COVID Certificate (vaccine or recovery certificate) will be required to access / spectate at indoor sporting activities and events.
- Where all individuals have an EU Digital COVID Certificate (vaccine or recovery certificate) there is no limit on a pod size for indoor play.
- Where individual players have mixed

immunity status i.e., the activity has vaccinated and unvaccinated participants, pods of up to 6 participants will be permitted (excluding adult coaches / instructors).

- Multiple pods will be permissible subject to protective measures.
- The overall number of pods will have regard to the number of courts (one pod per court) and there should be substantial social distance between individual pods.
- Indoor competition is allowed.
- Players do not need an EU Digital COVID Certificate (vaccine or recovery certificate) but it will be required for spectators.

Transport To and From Activities & Events

Tennis Organisations and coaches organising transport to/from events should implement protective measures such as mask wearing etc, as appropriate.



Private transport (carpooling) carrying those not yet vaccinated or of mixed immunity should be aware of the higher risk. The use of appropriate face coverings is recommended. If carpooling, consider use of a pod system in which the same participants pool together for all activities.

Showers / Changing Rooms / Clubhouse

Where all individuals are vaccinated the full use of showers and changing rooms is permitted. Where individuals have mixed immunity status the use of these facilities should be pod based.

The type of protective measures implemented will be determined by the type of facility users i.e. vaccinated / mixed immunity). Sample protective measures may include:

- Limit overall duration of individuals in a changing room for example implement a 15-minute window / 5-minute shower rule etc.
- Implement adequate social distancing measures in changing areas for example the use of every second changing space/lockers/shower head etc.
- Recommend the wearing of masks in shared areas (showers an exception).
- Provide clear signage highlighting any relevant space capacities and time durations.
- Close off any unnecessary spaces or those not in use/not permitted.
- Monitor toilets with agreed capacity numbers and limit to participants/patrons only.
- Implement flow management systems where necessary.
- To improve ventilation, consider an open window / open door policy (subject to privacy).
- Provide sanitisation stations as appropriate on entrances and in shared areas.
- Continue to promote hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette through signage, posters etc.
- Ensure deep cleaning of shared areas on a regular basis.

Gyms

In relation to Gyms and Training Facilities within tennis clubs, these may operate in line with the broader permissions for indoor facilities. i.e., the use of pods of 6 for mixed immunity participants or no fixed limit for participants with proof of immunity. Appropriate protective measures and COVID protocols should be in place.

Indoor Meetings & Educational / Coaching Courses

Tennis Clubs may wish to continue to conduct Meetings & Educational / Coaching Courses remotely or outdoors.

Coaching or Educational programmes that contain a practical element should be delivered in line with other sporting measures permitted i.e. the use of pods of 6 for mixed immunity participants. Appropriate protective measures and COVID protocols should be in place.

Ongoing consideration to Room densities, meeting durations and ventilation should continue throughout the Winter months.

Health Questionnaires

In line with a move towards personal judgement and responsibility clubs may wish to begin to unwind the ongoing use of health questionnaires for training and events from October 22nd.

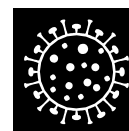
The promotion of the Governments COVID TRACKER APP and the ongoing recommendation that symptomatic individuals do not attend sporting activities or events until 48hrs symptom free should continue.

Substantial Distance amongst Pods

Indoor activities made up of Mixed Immunity Participants should continue in pods of up to a maximum of 6 persons.

Multiple pods will be permissible and should take into account the overall size of the venue. For Tennis this will usually be on a pod per court basis.

Substantial social distancing between individual pods should be implemented. The levels of 'substantial distance' will differ depending on the nature and intensity of the activity.



To any independent onlooker it should be clear that the pods are completely separate groups operating independent of one another with no interaction or sharing of equipment and there is no opportunity for them to mix or stray into one another's group or playing space.

In addition, it is not recommended that Coaches / instructors participate in multiple pods. A single Coach / Instructor may however coach / instruct / oversee / supervise more than one pod.

This Coach / Instructor should ensure that they are not directly engaging with or in close proximity to any individual members of the pod. To any independent onlooker it should be clear that the Coach / Instructor is separate to the groups he / she is overseeing.

Sharing of Equipment

Where there is any sharing of equipment, appropriate sanitisation practices should remain in place

Underage Spectators at Indoor Sporting Events

Accompanied minors (i.e. children under 18 years old accompanied with a fully vaccinated/proof of immunity adult) attending indoor sporting events in a spectating capacity are not required to be fully vaccinated or recovered to attend events and do not need to show a COVID-19 pass.

Unaccompanied minors (children under 18 years old) attending indoor sporting events in a spectating capacity are required to be fully vaccinated or recovered to attend events and must show a COVID-19 pass. They must also have photo ID to prove that the COVID-19 Pass relates to them.

Use of Masks

The use of masks in indoor settings, particularly for those not participating in activity, continues to be recommended. The use of masks on public transport remains a requirement, while the use of masks in shared private transport continues to be strongly recommended. Medical staff should continue to use masks and appropriate PPE when treating participants.

Ventilation

Ventilation will remain a core component of the COVID-19 response. The HSA has published a new COVID-19 [Work Safely Protocol employer checklist](#) on ventilation.

Mitigation Measures for Inclusion in Indoor Sport Protocols

- Staggered start and finish times combined with appropriate entry, exit and traffic management protocols to minimise the unnecessary interaction of participants at any one time.
- The pre-booking of activity including the health screening of participants along with coaches & support personnel.
- Symptomatic individuals not to participate in or attend sporting activities.
- Consideration of indoor space densities when determining overall numbers.
- Reduction in the overall duration of activities.
- Ensuring that indoor spaces are well ventilated.
- Participants to arrive prepared to play; limited use of changing room or showers.
- The ongoing promotion of good respiratory & hand hygiene.
- The wearing of face coverings by coaches and support personnel.
- Additional signage, hand sanitization stations and deep cleaning implemented.
- The use of physical distancing during warm-ups, rest times and off the field of play.
- No handshakes, high fives, fist pumps, chest bumps, huddles, group celebrations, etc.



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