

Howard Park Tennis Club Tennis Guidelines during COVID-19 Phase 3 **NEW**

Introduction

The following guidelines are in place during Phase 3 of the 2020/2021 Howard Park Tennis Club season. These guidelines are based on the updated [Guidelines for Tennis Community Clubs during Covid-19](#) **NEW** guidance document issued by the City of Toronto to help reduce the risk of respiratory infections, including COVID-19.

Please review the City's updated guidance document for further details, including symptoms of COVID-19, WHO guidance concerning the possibility of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spread of COVID-19, details of vulnerable groups that may face higher risk of severe illness, and advice on steps to take if symptoms develop.

Important: These guidelines form part of the rules of Howard Park Tennis Club during COVID-19 and must be followed by members at all times for the safety of staff, members and the public. Any member found to be non-compliant will be subject to disciplinary action, which could include suspension or termination of membership.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Howard Park Tennis Club and its Board make no representation and assume no responsibility in respect of the information contained herein concerning COVID-19 as the circumstances are constantly changing, and any information on COVID-19 should be obtained from your Public Health Authority.

Before Arrival at the Club

- All tennis players should self-screen before visiting the club to help limit the introduction of infection. **EDIT**
- A self-assessment for COVID-19 is available on the [Ministry of Health website](#).
- Only individuals who pass the assessment and show no signs of COVID-19 should visit the club. **EDIT**

Accessing the Club

- Individuals showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who have had close contact with a confirmed case may not enter the club.
- Access to the club is restricted to tennis players only, and any required staff. **EDIT**
- Members may now bring guest tennis players to the club. **NEW**
- Federal, municipal and provincial physical distancing measures must be followed at all times and during all activities at the club.
- It is recommended that individuals follow official orders and advice about wearing masks and face covers. This could include wearing a cloth mask or face cover where physical distancing is not possible. **EDIT**
- Masks are required in the clubhouse. **NEW**
- Tennis players may remain as spectators at the club before or after playing if physical distancing is maintained. **NEW**

Playing Tennis

- Each tennis player must review and sign a waiver in order to play tennis at the club.
- Players who become ill with symptoms of COVID-19 while at the club should go home to self-isolate.
- Doubles play is permitted. It is recommended that doubles partners are from the same household or social bubble.
- It is recommended that players clean or sanitize their hands regularly, before and after playing tennis, and avoid touching their face.
- If a player must sneeze, they should do so into a tissue or upper sleeve.
- Players on the court are asked to leave the court on time to help with the changeover. Physical distancing must be maintained during court changeover. **EDIT**
- Players must keep a two-meter (six-foot) distance from each other at all times, including when retrieving tennis balls, and avoid physical contact, such as shaking hands.
- Players should stay on their side of the court and cross at opposite sides of the net during change of side.
- Balls may be shared while on the court, but players should continue to practice good hand hygiene using sanitizer before, during and after play. **NEW**
- Players should regularly clean and sanitize their equipment, including racquets and water bottles. Do not share racquets or any other equipment, such as wristbands, grips, hats and towels. **EDIT**

Facilities

- Benches and picnic tables are now available for member use, provided social distancing is maintained. **NEW**
- The upper patio is now accessible, with a limited capacity. Physical distancing must be maintained at all times and face masks must be worn until seated. Patio chair markings are positioned to maintain two-metre distance. **NEW**
- Access to the clubhouse will be managed in a way that achieves physical distancing and minimizes close contact. **Masks are required while inside the clubhouse.** All indoor spaces have a maximum occupancy of 50 people. **NEW**
 - The second floor lounge is now accessible. Furniture in the lounge is limited and positioned to maintain two-metre distance. **NEW**
 - Only one person is permitted in the kitchen at a time. Items should not be stored in the refrigerator overnight. The refrigerator will be cleared nightly. **NEW**
 - The clubhouse water fountain is turned off as per City of Toronto tennis guidelines. It is recommended that players bring a full bottle of water to the club.
 - Locker rental is available to members at a reduced fee of \$5. The locker fee must be paid through the [online portal](#) and members must their preferred locker number to the [Court Managers](#) by email. Players should take care to keep two-metre physical distancing and to wear masks in locker areas as well. **NEW**
 - It is recommended that tennis players shower at home, however, the clubhouse showers are now accessible. **NEW**
- Touching common areas, such as nets, fences, poles and gates, should be avoided.
- Physical distancing protocols have been implemented at the club for the safety of staff and members, including the removal of shared equipment and post scorekeepers, and the propping open of court gates.
- Hand sanitizer is available at various locations throughout the club and clubhouse.
- Tournament and league play is permitted provided that physical distancing and hand hygiene requirements are met. Outdoor gatherings such as tournaments or games should not exceed 100 people. This includes spectators and staff/volunteers. Access is limited for all communal areas where gathering may occur naturally. **NEW**

Booking a Court

- By and large, [court booking rules](#) are the same as in previous years.
- However, please note that, in order to help maintain physical distancing and limit contact with staff, **court reservations must be made by phone only during Phase 3.** **EDIT** Court Managers will not be able to take court reservations at the window. If at the club, members may call the club with their cell phones to book a court.
- A court can be booked a maximum of three hours in advance of the playing time (this rule was implemented in 2019). However, please note that members may only book for the initial sessions of the day once the Court Manager's shift begins; the start times have been adjusted for the convenience of members:
 - The Court Manager arrives 15 minutes prior to club opening on weekdays, i.e. members may call to reserve courts beginning at 10:45 a.m. on weekdays.
 - The Court Manager arrives one hour prior to club opening on weekends and holidays, i.e. members may call to reserve courts beginning at 10 a.m. on weekends and holidays.
- The name of each player that will be playing on the court will be recorded, as per the club rules and for contact tracing purposes. This information, along with phone numbers and/or email addresses, may be shared with authorities, if requested.
- Members may now bring guest tennis players to the club. To make a reservation, the member must pay the \$10 guest fee through their [online account](#) in advance of their court booking and send an email with the subject "Guest Information" to the [Court Managers](#) with their guest's first name, last name and phone number, for contact tracing purposes. The guest must register as a non-member in the [online portal](#) and sign the COVID-19 waiver **prior to playing tennis.** **NEW**
- If a member tests positive for COVID-19, Toronto Public Health will follow-up with close contacts who may include other tennis players or volunteers. **EDIT** Individuals who came in close contact with the infected tennis player may also be required to self-isolate.
- To help ensure the phone-only reservation process is fair and respected by all members, the following cancellation policies are in place:
 - A court booking must be cancelled at least one hour in advance of the playing time.
 - A member who does not cancel within the specified time receives a strike.
 - If a member books a court within one hour of the playing time and cancels during this hour, they receive a strike.
 - On the second strike, the member loses court booking privileges for one week. Each strike thereafter results in a loss of court booking privileges for one week.

Programs and Events

- Some club programs and events are suspended in order to avoid congregation. **EDIT**
- The singles Ladder is operating and participants must adhere to the club's COVID-19 tennis guidelines at all times.
- Day camps for children are operating under [provincial guidelines](#), as well as guidelines set out by ACE Tennis, which are communicated to parents.
- Adult group, private and semi-private lessons are operating under City of Toronto and club COVID-19 tennis guidelines, as well as guidelines set out by ACE Tennis, which are communicated to participants.
- Questions concerning lessons, clinics and camps, including health and safety measures specific to these activities, can be directed to the club's Head Tennis Professional, Craig Mercer, at: craig@acetennis.ca or (289) 772-7947.

Thank you for doing your part to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Questions concerning these guidelines can be directed to:

info@howardparktennis.com