

Return to Play Guidelines for Municipal Tennis and Pickleball Clubs

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Overview

Municipal Tennis and Pickleball clubs located in City of Ottawa municipal parks have been closed under the [Provincial Emergency Orders](#) to close all outdoor recreational amenities in Ontario.

Provincial guidelines

On Thursday, May 14, 2020 Premier Ford announced Ontario's plan for the next phase of reopening our province. Individual recreation sports, such as tennis courts, will be allowed to open with limited access to facilities (e.g. no clubhouse, changerooms, washrooms and emergency aid only).

Ontarians must continue to comply with current [Provincial Emergency Orders](#), including the prohibition on organized public events, gatherings of more than five people, and entry to and use of certain outdoor recreational amenities.

[Ontario - Resources to prevent COVID-19](#)

[Detailed Provincial list of stage 1 openings](#)

Municipal guidelines

Preparation stage: May 16, 2020

Beginning Saturday May 16, 2020 representatives from municipal clubs will have access to prepare outdoor courts for play. Representatives are able to access clubhouses to obtain materials required for opening preparation.

Clubhouses and washrooms are to remain closed to members until provincial regulations are lifted. Clubs must ensure staff or volunteers are regularly washing their hands, wearing a mask if they cannot maintain a 2 metre distance from each other and regularly disinfecting touch points.

It is important to remember that information and guidance is changing rapidly. For the most up-to-date information, please consult www.OttawaPublicHealth.ca/Coronavirus. Up to date information on workplace guidelines can be found here: [Public Health Info for Workplaces](#).

Phase 1 Opening: Tuesday May 19, 2020

The City officially began implementing the Province's stage one reopenings that relate to park amenities on Tuesday May 19, 2020. This included opening of the following outdoor recreation amenities:

- Baseball diamonds
- Soccer fields
- Frisbee golf locations
- Tennis
- Platform tennis
- Table tennis and pickleball courts
- Basketball courts
- BMX parks
- Skate parks

OPH continues to advise that limiting activities to members of your own household remains important to limit the spread of COVID-19 and save lives, and that physical distancing of at least two metres from non-household members be maintained during activities. To ensure the safety of participants, the following guidelines are recommended for players to follow:

Tennis and pickleball courts

- All structures/facilities including benches, picnic tables, field houses, washrooms and clubhouses remain closed
- Access is restricted to players only, no spectators
- Limit congregating with other people when going to and from common areas
- Caution should be taken around common touch points and proper hand hygiene should be practiced

Tennis and pickleball play

- Recommend singles play only
- Only every other court to be used for pickleball play
- Players should not share equipment
- No lessons, organized programming, camps, tournaments or league play
- Bring and use your own equipment

Individual actions and precautions

- Those who are sick or symptomatic must not participate
- Clean and disinfect equipment prior to and after use
- Wash your hands frequently
- Refrain from touching your face with unclean hands
- Carry and use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol content

- Wear a non-medical mask in public places to help limit the risk of spread to others if you will be within 2 metres of people other than members of your own household

Details for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of reopening will be communicated to all municipal tennis clubs once timelines have been confirmed by the Province, public health authorities, and under City directives.

For up-to-date information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Ottawa, visit ottawa.ca/covid19 or call 3-1-1 (TTY: 613-580-9656). You can also connect with Ottawa Public Health through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

FAQ for Municipal Tennis Clubs

Q. Are clubs responsible for disinfecting common touch points, such as gates/entrances to courts?

A. Clubhouses and washroom facilities remain closed. Cleaning of common touchpoints on outdoor courts (gates etc.) is recommended and is the responsibility of the club.

Q. Can Tennis Clubs allow for doubles play?

A. We continue to recommend singles play only for now, as this limits the total number of people on the courts. As a club, you can establish

Q. What is the responsibility of the tennis club if a member informs us they have symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19?

A. Contact the Outbreak (OB) Reporting Line at 613-580-2424 ext. 26325, 7 days a week between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or 311 outside business hours and ask to speak with on-call public health inspector for further guidance.

Q. Ontarians must continue to comply with current prohibitions under the [Provincial Emergency Orders](#), including the prohibition on organized public events, and gatherings of more than five people. Can you be clear that tennis clubs can allow access for more than 5 participants at a time if we are following physical distancing measures?

A. It is recommended that clubs allow for only 2 players per court.

Q. Can the City provide signage for closed park amenities (e.g. benches, clubhouse)

A. Yes, see resources.

Q. Why is there no access to lighting for tennis clubs for play after dusk?

A. Park lighting will not be turned on until we return to full services, including rentals and organized sports.

Q. Can the City provide a waiver or paragraph from your legal department absolving clubs of the risk of participation by its members?

A. Municipal Tennis Clubs currently have membership agreement with their members that do not fall under the oversight of the City of Ottawa. These membership agreements allow each club to make decisions on their operations and issue conditions to their members. Clubs can seek clarification from

their own legal support and/or their insurance provider if they have further questions regarding a waiver to be included in their membership agreements. It would be up to the individual operators to determine if they are ready to re-open in accordance with the Provincial Orders and any guidelines issued by Ottawa Public Health and Recreation, Culture and Facility Services.

Q. Can clubs provide some programming (e.g. private lessons, league play) if physical distancing measures are followed?

A. During phase 1, clubs are open for tennis and pickleball play only. Programming, including lessons, league and camps is not permitted at this time.

Q. Are public courts available for rentals either to clubs or to other groups at this time?

A. Public courts are not available for private or organized group rentals at this time.