



Oxford University Lawn Tennis Club

Covid-19 Guidance: Return to Play Guide for Players

Version 1.2
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(Based on the LTA Guidance for Tennis Coaches in England, Covid-19: Return to Play document, updated 18 March 2021)

To our new members, welcome! We are incredibly excited to have you with us this next academic year. To our returning members, welcome back -- I hope you have not forgotten how to hold a racket after we suspended our operations since March.

The committee, along with guidance from the University's Sports Federation and the Lawn Tennis Association, have been working hard in the past few months to get our operations ready for the start of the academic year. It's truly been a challenge, but we are happy that we have prepared the club for a busy, friendly, and safe year of tennis ahead (subject to everchanging government restrictions, of course).

We are lucky that the sport we love is one that we are able to take part of during these difficult times. With that said, our utmost priority is the safety of our members, coaches, and the wider university community, so things will be looking a little bit different this year. We have prepared this document so that every member is aware of the necessary coronavirus protocols within our club. This document will be updated accordingly with changing guidance from the LTA and the university, and will be available on the website. Please take the time to read this thoroughly.

I trust that every member of OULTC will act responsibly with regards to our protocols, and certainly respectfully towards others.

I wish you a healthy, happy year ahead, with lots of socially distanced hitting on court.

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1 KEY POINTS

1.1 Guidelines from the LTA

- The government has confirmed that organised activity for larger groups, including coached sessions, club nights, and competitions is permitted as an **exception to the limit of six**, provided that the activity is in accordance with the COVID-19 Secure guidelines.
- **Singles and doubles play are permitted** with people from different households, as long as players **remain 2 metres apart as far as possible**.
- When participating in any tennis activity outdoors, participants **must not mingle in groups of more than six before and after the activity**.
- For outdoor activity, The LTA recommends no more than **12 players** on one full-size tennis court and surrounding areas at any one time, in order to ensure social distancing can be maintained at all times.

1.2 OULTC-Specific Key Points

- This year, every session will be **registration only** to allow track and trace and follow the LTA's guidance on maximum capacity. If you are a social member, all registrations can be done through our website (www.oultc.org) **one week in advance** on a first-come, first-served basis; if you are a team player, registration to sessions will be done via Teamer - your captain will be in touch with the arrangements.
- We iterate that Individuals who are supposed to self-isolate based on the [government guidance](#) should NOT be going to any session. When registering for a session, as well as 24 hours before the session, you will be sent a Covid-19 self-assessment questionnaire to iterate this.
- To follow the LTA's guidelines on court capacity, as well as to help our coaches ensure social distancing, we are limiting the number of registrations to **five players per court for social tennis**, and **four players per court for team tennis**. If you are booking courts for unsupervised informal play, the maximum number of players is four on a court, and your group size across different courts should not be larger than six. **Social distancing** should be maintained at all times and **no physical contact**, including high-fives, may happen on court, except for players in the same household.
- Players are advised to arrive at a session **ready to play**, minimising the need to use the changing rooms and water fountains.
- For each club session, there will be a **session leader** -- for social tennis, these are your UTCs, and for team tennis, this is your captain. The session leader will be responsible to ensure that all protocols are followed by everyone in the session.
- Players are obliged to **sanitise their hands before and after play**; hand sanitisers will be available in all our venues, however, our session leaders will always have hand sanitisers with them for your use. Feel free to use your own.
- If you show any coronavirus symptoms, please follow your college's guidance and proceed to the University testing service, and self isolate immediately.

- If you test positive within 7 days after attending an OULTC session, **contact your session leader immediately**, so that we will start the track and trace process. Your personal details will remain confidential between the session leaders, covid officers, and the Sports Federation safety officer.
- The club's **Covid officers** are Hayyu Imanda (president), Oliver Nunn (facilities officer), and Cameron Bowie (men's Blues captain & welfare officer). We are the points of contact for anyone to refer in the club's Covid-19 response. Our single point of contact is oultc1879@gmail.com.
- As per 25 September 2020, all Oxford University sports clubs have been instructed by the University's Covid-19 Silver Group that to reduce the risk of infection and protect our community, **travel to and from Oxford for sporting fixtures cannot be permitted**. This means that no Oxford University sports teams should travel outside of the city of Oxford for a sporting fixture against another team, nor should they host fixtures against visiting teams from outside Oxford. This restriction remains in force until further notice.
- Please follow the venue guidance of your session's venue.

2 VENUE GUIDANCE

2.1 Iffley Sports Centre

All entries to our courts at the Iffley Road Sports Centre have to be **through the main reception**, with no exception. There is a one-way system in place, and a staff in the entrance to the sports centre who will guide you. In entry, you have the option to scan an NHS Track & Trace QR code, sanitise your hands, and have your temperature measured. There is an access controlled gate which will let you in upon scanning your bod card. You are expected to **arrive ready to play** for your session, and **leave when your session is finished**.

In timetabling the sessions, our committee has taken into account the changeover time required between back-to-back sessions. **The time scheduled for your session is the time that you are expected to be on court**, so it is important that you schedule your arrival time accordingly to ensure you are on court on the session start time. Please bear in mind that though the courts are deceptively right by Iffley Road, you will need to go down the road through the sports centre reception and up by the track, a journey that may take up to 10 minutes by foot from Iffley Road.

If you arrive early, you can wait outside before entering reception, or wait on the grass patch by the side of the athletics track until you see that the previous group has left the courts.

Unless you are exempt, **please wear a mask** when passing through the indoor area of the sports centre. The changing rooms and toilets in the main building will be open, as well water fountains, though we advise players not to use them to limit contact. **Social distancing** is enforced on all areas of the sports centre.

When dragging the courts and using the line sweeper please use the gloves provided in the pavilion and immediately dispose of them after use, or assign one person to drag all the courts. Alternatively, disinfectant wipes will be available should you prefer to use them.

Non-Club Organised Social Play

You may book courts outside of the club sessions, details of which are on our website. Note that when you do so, this counts as “social play” and this is subject to the rule-of-six (or two households) even though you play across multiple courts. You are responsible to note down the players who are with you and inform the covid officer if any member of the group tests positive in the 48 hours after playing in Iffley.

Tennis Pavilion

We are delighted to confirm that the tennis pavilion will be open for use. However, it is important to note that the pavilion is open for **logistical reasons** only, and not for any social occasion. The tennis pavilion will be cleaned every morning. The toilets will be open, and should our members need to use them, we advise them to use the pavilion toilets instead of the main sports centre toilets as we expect less use.

The pavilion has a **maximum capacity of six** at any one point, and please wear a mask whenever inside, unless you are exempt. There will be signs to remind you of these restrictions.

There is strictly **no sharing food and drink** in the pavilion. After a session has ended, the players are expected to leave the sports centre immediately and not linger in the pavilion, including in cases where there is heavy rain and maximum capacity is easily reached.

Rackets can be borrowed from the pavilion, but **must be wiped down thoroughly** with disinfectant **before and after use**. We will provide the necessary cleaning equipment, clearly marked in the pavilion.

If you require access to the pavilion for logistical reasons (e.g. rackets during unsupervised sessions), the procedure is the same as last year – you can swap your bod card with the pavilion keys at reception; for the case where someone has already picked up the keys, you can hand your bod card to them if they leave earlier, so they can have it swapped in reception. Hand sanitisers will be readily available should you wish to use them.

2.3 Florence Park

Your captain will have the access codes to enter the courts. Please ensure that everyone in the team has arrived, and that the previous users of your court have left, before entering.

Social distancing is enforced at all times, and do not touch balls belonging to other sessions (tap them back with your racket). Do not linger before or after play. Court bookings end at **55 minutes past the hour**.

Please refrain from using public transportation unless necessary.

3 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you notice any player or staff members not respecting the rules, please bring this up to your session leaders or the Covid officers. Players who do not adhere to these guidelines will be met with consequences.

Our resources page on our website (<https://www.oultc.org/tips-and-tricks>) contains resources for mental health and wellbeing. If you have any welfare concerns, you can contact our welfare officers Celina (celina.hartmann@worc.ox.ac.uk) or Cam (cameron.bowie@jesus.ox.ac.uk). Your colleges and departments will also provide you with the same support, if you require them.

To protect the wider university community, here are the steps that we will take in response to a positive case within OULTC:

- If the individual is part of a team which uses cabs to train indoors, as transportation sharing constitutes as a close contact, the covid officers will inform the other players who were in the same cab within 2 days before the individual shows symptoms or tested positive to instruct them to immediately self-isolate for 10 days.
- If there are 2 positive cases in the same team confirmed within 7 days, whole team will be advised to self-isolate and team sessions cancelled for the 10 days. The sessions will be available for other teams to use.
- If there are 3 cases of social members testing positive within 7 days, then social sessions will be suspended for 10 days.

I hope this document provides a clear guidance of the necessary actions that every member should take as they are attending OULTC sessions. If you require further clarifications, please contact the Covid officers at oultc1879@gmail.com.