

Hi everybody,

The City of Toronto has released updated guidelines for community tennis clubs for COVID Stage 3.   Toronto entered stage 3 on July 31st.

The updated guidelines are attached.  The major updates are:

* Indoor spaces like clubhouses are now allowed to be fully used as long as physical distancing is maintained and face masks are worn   Washrooms and change room areas have to be cleaned at a minimum of twice daily.  High traffic areas and frequently touched surfaces and objects have to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
* Indoor gatherings are allowed with a maximum of 50 people, and physical distancing and face covering must be maintained at all times.
* Balls may be shared while on the court, but players should continue to practise good hand hygiene using sanitizer before, during and after play.
* Members may remain as spectators at the club before or after playing if physical distancing is maintained.
* Benches, tables and chairs may be used while maintaining physical distancing.
* Amateur and recreational tennis leagues and tournaments (singles and doubles) may resume so long as they do not allow prolonged or deliberate physical contact between players, or if they have modifications to avoid physical contact between players.

Otherwise most rules remain the same.

* The main emphasis right now is on maintaining physical distancing.
* Only members are allowed to enter the club (apart from public hours), guests are not allowed.
* Members have to pre-book a court.  Drop-ins are not allowed,

As far as the clubhouse is concerned, it will remain closed for the time being.  The condition to clean it at least twice a day is unrealistic for community tennis clubs.  It is more doable at private clubs that have paid staff on site.

We can now hold tournaments.  We already started to do that with our singles championships and now our upcoming doubles championships.  We shall also hold our scheduled OTA tournaments, one over the last week-end of August and the other one over the third week-end of September.  More details to follow later.

You might also be happy to learn that we are going to replace our tennis nets and posts on the three front courts with new nets and posts.  Our current ones have seen better days.  They have lasted a long time, mainly due to the tender loving care bestowed on them by Peter and D'Arcy.  Whatever money we make from the OTA tournaments will be used to help cover the cost.

Up to now things have gone relatively well.  Thanks to everyone for following all the rules currently imposed under Covid-19. Doing so will allow our club to remain open and we can enjoy playing tennis. If you become aware of anyone flaunting the rules, please let me know.

Enjoy the game!

Regards,
Renate
President