

## Protocols For Events To Ensure Safe Play

**To ensure safe play, we would like to start with flex scheduling for events, with the goal of eventually organizing more traditional tournaments.**

- Flex scheduling includes players arranging their own match time and report their scores digitally (no group gatherings)

More traditional events would include several other protocols. Through virtual check-in, limiting spectators, and utilizing protocols below, junior tennis competition can be done very safely.

### COVID-19 Tennis Event Best Practices

- Registration will be conducted prior to the event, online only (no in person registration)
- Tournament and match check-in will be conducted virtually either through phone or text message – no contact needed with a tournament desk
- Courts will be assigned via text to players
- Separate cans of balls will be waiting on the court for each new match
- Masks will be worn in compliance with the Governor's Health Orders, currently stated as at all times on courts and off courts
- Temperatures will be taken with non-touch thermometers on a daily basis of all players, volunteers, or referees. Anyone showing a fever will be declared ineligible and be asked to leave the facilities.
  - Anyone who has been sick, shown illness symptoms, been in contact with anyone showing Covid-19 symptoms, or out of the state within 14 days of the tournament will be asked to not participate or attend the event.
- Safe social distancing is to be maintained throughout the tennis facilities. No congregating before or after matches. Participants are to arrive just before and leave just after matches.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the facilities.
- Spectators limited to one parent per participant or if needed, no spectators
- Touch points and seating throughout the facilities will be wiped down continually by event volunteers. Spectators are also encouraged to take personal accountability and wipe surfaces after touching and sitting.
- Players must bring their own water. Water will not be provided at facilities due to Covid-19 contamination risks.
- All Governor Executive Orders will be followed during tournament participation referring players to website <https://cv.nmhealth.org/travel-recommendations/> for specific information.
  - Failure to follow COVID-19 protocol is cause for immediate removal from tournament and grounds, for both players and spectators.
- If you have traveled out of state the 14 days prior to the tournament you are ineligible to play per state quarantine guidelines
- Match Play - players will change ends on opposite side of the court from their opponent
- No handshakes – use a racquet tap instead

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# USTA SOUTHWEST

Northern New Mexico

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## USTA Statement on Possible COVID-19 Transmission on Tennis Balls

ORLANDO, Fla. (Dec. 11, 2020) — The USTA released the following statement regarding possible COVID-19 transmission on tennis balls:

**Question:** Is there any research which identified the potential for COVID-19 to be transmitted on tennis balls?

**Answer:** A recent study determined that the surface of sports balls, notably football, golf, cricket, and tennis balls, are unlikely to harbor SARS-CoV-2 in a manner that is compatible with risk of developing COVID-19 from handling the ball during normal play. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) Sport Science and Medicine Commission, the USTA Sport Science Committee, and the USTA Medical Advisory Group support this conclusion

### Conclusion

Given all the findings about tennis being a low-risk activity, protocols in place to safely run competitive and recreational events, and that an approved event was completed under similar protocols we respectfully request the approval of tennis competitions for both youth and adult.

We appreciate your consideration and should you have any other questions, please contact:

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