

TENNIS AUSTRALIA & TENNIS NSW COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Further to the statement released on Friday 13th March, confirming that, effective immediately, all Tennis Australia and Tennis NSW operated and sanctioned events, competitions and tournaments were postponed until further notice, we wish to provide some further insight and clarity on the contents of the statement and provide answers to some additional questions that have arisen as a result of this position.

As explained in our statement, we made this decision to take further precautions in the interest of the health and wellbeing of our community.

Our goal is to avoid bringing people together, in order to help contain the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and minimise the inevitable strain on our healthcare system. Social distancing has been proven to help contain the spread and this has ultimately formed the basis of our decision. This decision is based on expert medical advice and is in line with the recommendations of the global tennis community.

We realise this may cause inconvenience in the short-term, however our objective is ensuring our community remains healthy and strong.

The situation is changing rapidly and we will continue to keep you updated on matters that concern the running of our sport. We would like to thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult time for all of us.

We understand you will have many questions as we are in an unprecedented situation. We hope that we can answer a number of these with those outlined below.

What events have been postponed?

All Tennis Australia and Tennis NSW sanctioned tournaments have been postponed. These include all Australian Ranking tournaments (AMT's & JT's) including all of the Junior Development Series delivered by our Regional Committees across NSW.

Additionally, all Sydney Badge fixtures have been postponed and will not be played until further notice.

Locally organised and delivered competitions & tournaments that are either not sanctioned or operated by Tennis NSW can continue to be staged at the discretion of the Club or Association that runs the competition.

If you are unsure whether your local tournament or competition is still running, then we suggest you contact your local organiser, be they club, association or coach operator.

Why did your statement make reference to Member Associations? Aren't all Clubs and Associations affiliated to Tennis NSW 'Member Associations'?

Within the Constitution of Tennis Australia, the 8 State & Territory governing bodies e.g. Tennis NSW are referred to as 'Member Associations'. We realised on Saturday morning that reference to Member Associations was confusing for our own affiliated Associations e.g. Northern Suburbs /

Illawarra but the decision taken was not intended to cascade down as far as these local Associations. We apologise for any misunderstanding caused.

The decision to continue with Club & Association competition, at this stage, remains at the discretion of the respective committees of these bodies. Currently, there is no Government advice stating that grassroots sport should cease although should you choose to continue running your competitions, coaching programs and other activities, we ask that you acknowledge the guidelines posted by NSW Health and take appropriate hygiene precautions.

If Clubs or Associations continue to run competitions or tournaments are we still covered by Tennis NSW affiliation insurance?

The decision taken by Tennis Australia / Tennis NSW does not impact on your affiliation insurance at a local level. As per your current insurance from Marsh, any tennis activity carried out by your Club or your Registered Players will continue to be covered.

What does this mean for the tournament I had entered or am still entered in?

If you had or are currently still entered into an AMT, JT or JDS, then you will receive a full refund less a \$10 administration fee. This administration fee goes to the Tournament Host, invariably the Club or Operator, and not to Tennis NSW nor Tennis Australia. For any events staged by Tennis NSW e.g. 12U Stage Age, Tennis NSW will waive the \$10 administration fee.

Entries for any future AMT's, JT & JDS are now closed until further notice.

For all other tournaments operated by Clubs, Associations or Venue Operators, the decision to postpone or cancel is at the discretion of the relevant Club or Association. We would however ask any Club, Association or Operator that is running a tournament that could involve large numbers of players, parents, coaches and staff to consider the postponement of such an event in line with Tennis Australia and Tennis NSW's position.

Will Tennis Australia and/or Tennis NSW sanctioned or operated tournaments during the Easter holidays go ahead?

All events operated or sanctioned by Tennis Australia and/or Tennis NSW are postponed until further notice. Any Easter Tournaments operated by any other Clubs, Associations, Operators or bodies e.g. Tennis Seniors NSW, are at their discretion. Please check with the respective Tournament venue if you have entered an event that is not a Tennis Australia or Tennis NSW AMT, JT or JDS.

Will the Clay Court National Championships be postponed?

The 12&U and 14&U Clay Court National Championships due to take place in Canberra from 3-8 April 2020 have been postponed.

Why have the Junior Development Series been postponed, as these only attract small numbers of participants?

As these events fall under the jurisdiction of Tennis Australia / Tennis NSW, then all JDS tournaments and any other events staged or run by the Tennis NSW Regional Committees have been postponed until further notice.

The ITF, ATP & WTA Tour have suspended their tournaments until April 20th, so why have Tennis Australia / Tennis NSW chosen not to mirror this position?

The situation remains fluid and to that extent, we believed it was in the interests of all parties that we postponed our events until further notice as opposed to providing a specific date.

I run a local competition or tournament, so what do I do?

We recognise these are very difficult decisions to make. We have made decisions based on the expert medical advice available and in the interests of assisting the current and future strain on the public health system. Tennis NSW Management and Staff will be on hand to support your decision making.

Have you cancelled Open Court Sessions?

We understand that while Open Court Sessions remain in their infancy, the promotion and delivery of these sessions have very much been a partnership between Tennis Australia, Tennis NSW and the local club.

While we have taken the decision to suspend any promotional activity in relation to Open Court Sessions nationally and state-wide, should a local club or coach operator wish to continue this as part of their weekly programming (such as Hot Shots) then this decision would be at the discretion of the club / operator. If you choose to proceed we ask that you acknowledge the guidelines posted by NSW Health and take appropriate hygiene precautions.

Are school competitions, for example The Pizzey Cup, continuing?

No, all schools competitions and tournaments have also been postponed. This is consistent with Government mandates released on Monday 16th March suspending all inter-school sports activities.

What does this mean for coaching and all other tennis activity?

At this time, there is no Government directive in relation to curtailing local grassroots sport. To that extent, coaching lessons and sessions will continue at the discretion of the coaching provider / operator. Please check with your Coach and/or Club ahead of any scheduled coaching sessions.

Again, if you choose to proceed we ask that you acknowledge the guidelines posted by NSW Health and take appropriate hygiene precautions.

Will the Tennis Australia / Tennis NSW affiliation insurance cover clubs, associations and coaches for loss of revenue during this period?

We are currently seeking advice in relation to this question. Once we know the position, we will communicate this to all of our Affiliates.

Some of our Affiliates may be eligible for some economic assistance during this period. You can read more on the stimulus package announced by the Federal Government here: treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses

Where can I get more information?

The health and wellbeing of the Australian Tennis Community is our number one priority, and amidst growing concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19), we've released a set of COVID-19 Guidelines.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide an understanding of the disease and preventative steps for those who participate in Australian tennis activities. We have also provided links to relevant Government sites. They will be updated as this situation progresses.

FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES

For any further enquiries on this matter, please direct them to:

membership@tennisnsw.com.au

Read the Tennis Australia guidelines in relation to COVID-19 here:

www.tennis.com.au/doc/covid-19-guidelines

We also have the a COVID-19 Hygiene poster available to download here:

www.tennis.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Poster.pdf

Latest health updates & statistics from NSW Government

www.health.nsw.gov.au

Latest updates from the Federal Government

www.health.gov.au

Latest resources from the Federal Government

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/launch-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-campaign>