



International Tennis Federation
Bank Lane, Roehampton
London SW15 5XZ
Tel: +44 208 878 6464
Fax: +44 208 392 4745 Web site:
www.itftennis.com
Email: info@itftennis.com

The President

29 April 2020

President & General Secretary
ITF Member Nations

Dear President, Dear General Secretary,

Return to tennis competition

I hope that you are all safe and healthy in these difficult and unprecedented times. I am also sure that, like the ITF team, you are working to address the many challenges that we face due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

There have been some recent positive developments with an increasing number of nations that appear to be passing the peak of Covid-19. So, it is important that we now begin to turn to the task of 'Returning to Tennis' where conditions permit and in those circumstances begin to put measures in place to re-establish a safe return to competition. As such, the ITF COVID-19 Advisory Group has developed guidelines that we would like to share with you. According to official data and expert advice, national competition will likely return before international competition. This current framework addresses national level competition. Specific guidelines for the return of international competition will be provided at the appropriate time in accordance with the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementation of this framework will require active input from each National Association, particularly in relation to working closely with your local, regional and national authorities to ensure that you remain up-to-date on any changes in movement restrictions that affect the ability for your Federation to organise tennis competition and work within any restrictions that remain in place in your nation.

How to return to tennis safely

We believe that no tennis should be organised while government-imposed 'lockdown' restrictions are in place. In addition, any restrictions imposed by government take precedence over advice offered by the ITF. Having said that, we should be ready to support the organisation of events as soon as those restrictions are lifted. An important advantage of tennis is that it can be played while respecting 'social distancing' requirements, although spectators may not be permitted access. For this reason, we recommend that you maintain an active dialogue with your local, regional or national authorities to ensure that you have the latest information and can plan for a return to tennis once restrictions are removed.

It is likely that national-level events will be organised before regional and international events, as internal movement restrictions will be lifted before international restrictions. The ITF recommends the organisation of national-level events once applicable government guidelines and regulations allow. In support of those events, minimum and recommended standards have been developed that should be applied during the Covid-19 outbreak, which are enclosed with this letter. These are designed to protect players, staff, officials and spectators from contracting and transmitting Covid-19, and to support competition organisers in preparing for competitions.



Integrity Protection and Designated Federation Contact

As we work together to ensure a safe return to competition, we must be aware to the threats to integrity that are posed by would-be corruptors of our sport, whether through doping or match-fixing. Therefore, we ask that as you prepare to organise events, you work with the ITF to ensure that we can implement the necessary and required precautions to protect their integrity.

We must be aware of the risk of the collection of unauthorised data and its use for betting on unregulated markets and matches being fixed. For that reason, we ask that you inform us about all the events that you organise, so that we can ensure they are covered by our integrity monitoring programme.

Finally, please provide us with the name of a designated 'integrity contact person' within your Federation, who will be responsible for communication with the ITF on all integrity-related matters, and with the Tennis Integrity Unit and the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme as necessary.

If you have any questions about this letter, or the attached documents, we have set up a dedicated email address for members to use: covid19@itftennis.com.

Sincere regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Haggerty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Haggerty