



# Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Resumption of Tennis Tournaments

11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020



**The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has listed these SOPs with a concerted effort to ensure all measures and protocols mentioned in the SOPs are derived from credible sources and research available in public domain.**

**COVID-19 pandemic related guidelines issued by the Government of India and respective State Government(s), from time to time, take precedence over this document and must be adhered to, at all times.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The AITA's Domestic Tennis Circuit is scheduled to resume from November 16, 2020, and therefore it is critical to put in place adequate measures to provide a safe return to competitive tournaments for the athletes, Juniors and Seniors both. To serve this need, this SOP is prepared to set forth guidelines and measures with which Tennis tournament organisers/State Affiliates of AITA shall be requested to adhere to in order to resume the domestic tennis tournaments in their premises.

## **RECOMMENDED PROTOCOLS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR PLAYERS AND ORGANISERS FOR SAFE RETURN TO COMPETITIVE TENNIS**

- Maximum four players on court at a time, two on each side of the net
- Clean and wipe down your equipment, including rackets and water bottles. Players to only handle their own rackets, hats, towels and tennis ball(s) allotted to the court during a match/practice session
- Players below the age of 10 and above the age of 65 years are prohibited to compete
- Spectators are prohibited to enter the tournament venue
- Parents/Guardians may avoid entrance inside the tournament venue
- **Change of ends may be safely done with the players using opposite side of the net**
- Wash your hands with a disinfectant soap and water (for 20 seconds or longer), or use a hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available, before going to the court. Sanitize your hands regularly, including before and after Tennis, after bathroom use and after touching surfaces
- Do not touch your face, nose, mouth.
- Consider taking extra precautions such as wearing gloves.
- If you need to sneeze or cough, do so into upper sleeve or a tissue and discard it immediately in closed bin.
- Any person exhibiting any symptom attributed to COVID-19 will be immediately prevented from entering the complex even if only mild. Symptoms could be



1. Cough
  2. Sore Throat
  3. Fever (e.g. night sweats or chills)
  4. Shortness of breath
- Arrive as close as possible to when you need to be there. Leave tournament venue immediately after play
  - Provision of alcohol-based hand sanitizer shall be made available at the entry/exit point and at the court entrance, all visitors shall sanitize their hands before entering the venue and courts
  - Avoid touching court gates, fences, benches, etc. wherever possible.
  - Do not spit on the ground.
  - Wear face mask, while off-court, always.
  - Use of showers and locker rooms is prohibited
  - Maintain social distancing and avoid high-fives, handshakes and other forms of greetings which need physical contact
  - Coaching staff should work in only one court
  - For all discussions which demand physical presence, trainees, officials, staff & players shall strictly adhere to the social distancing norm of minimum 6 feet between each individual
  - Use of toilet shall be allowed at a maximum 50% capacity to ensure social distancing in the toilet area as well
  - Compulsory screening will be performed of all persons
  - Any person exhibiting any symptom attributed to **COVID-19** will be immediately prevented from entering the tennis premises
  - All other rules and/or guidelines released by local administration/state will follow

#### **DETAILED GUIDELINES AND SAFETY MEASURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

### **MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO RESUMPTION OF TENNIS TOURNAMENTS**

#### **DISINFECTION OF PREMISES**

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an acute respiratory disease caused by a novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2),



transmitted in most instances through respiratory droplets, direct contact with cases and also through contaminated surfaces/objects. Though the virus survives on environmental surfaces for varied period of time, it gets easily inactivated by chemical disinfectants.

- ▶ Outdoor areas have less risk than indoor areas due to air currents and exposure to sunlight. Cleaning and disinfection efforts are targeted to frequently touched/contaminated surfaces.
- ▶ The disinfection process must be performed by professional staff/agency and procedures must be set in place to ensure the same is performed at regular interval.
- ▶ The schedule of disinfection activity shall be intimated to all players/officials and staff well in advance so that necessary practice/match schedule is prepared based on the disinfection activity and the same shall be appropriately displayed to bring to notice for all.
- ▶ Entrances (doorknobs, handles etc.) to premise, buildings, rooms
- ▶ All common areas which are used by players, officials and staff
- ▶ Playing surfaces, equipment, control panels, floodlights and adjacent areas
- ▶ Public Washrooms and toilets
- ▶ All other surfaces which may be touched by users

### **SANITIZATION AND PRECAUTIONS AT COMMON PLACES/UTILITIES**

- ▶ Sanitizers are placed at entry point of all common areas and facilities
- ▶ All surfaces, which can potentially be touched by multiple individuals, are to be sanitized at regular intervals during the day.
- ▶ Special attention is given to surfaces in wash rooms/toilets by periodical cleaning, swabbing and disinfecting.
- ▶ Mandatory 1.5 to 2 metres ("*2 Gaz-ki-doori*") distance between individuals.
- ▶ Socialising prohibited
- ▶ All players, officials and staff within the premises shall be wearing mask covering nose and mouth at all times while present in common areas.
- ▶ It will be mandatory of all those involved in cleaning and sanitation activities to wear rubber gloves, closed shoes, mask covering nose and mouth at all time.
- ▶ Provision of adequate tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles shall be installed
- ▶ Provision shall be made for adequate liquid soap and water.
- ▶ Regular thermal screening shall be performed for all



## SECURITY PROCEDURES AT ENTRY GATE

- ▶ Minimum access point will be open for entry and exit to and from the tournament venue, respectively. The utilisation of facilities by non-tennis players / trainees /outsiders shall be prohibited till relaxations are announced by Government, based on local conditions.
- ▶ Compulsory screening will be performed of all persons including players/coaches/staff and officials during the tournament. The security personnel manning the entry gate at each shift shall perform regular thermal tests on each person entering the complex.
- ▶ Any person exhibiting any symptom attributed to COVID-19 will be immediately prevented from entering the complex even if only mild. Symptoms could be
  - Cough
  - Sore throat
  - Fever (e.g. night sweats or chills)
  - Shortness of breath
- ▶ Provision of alcohol-based hand sanitizer shall be made available at the entry point and all visitors shall wash their hands before entering the complex.
- ▶ All visitors or vehicles must have valid authorization issued by competent authority to enter the complex.
- ▶ Any person entering the complex must wear mask covering their nose and mouth.
- ▶ Handshakes and other forms of greetings which need physical contact shall be avoided



**STAY SAFE, COMPETE AGGRESSIVELY AND ENJOY RESPONSIBLY**

**ALL THE BEST!**

