



The Ohio Tennis Coaches Association is excited to see that our sport seems to be one that has a high probability of moving forward starting August 1st. As we get closer to the official start date, we are sure that every conference, school and school district will be putting together a return to play procedure for you and your program.

We as the OTCA Board of Directors wanted to share with you some suggestions on what you can do as your season becomes closer. These are 100% just some suggestions to help you get started and **NOT RULES**. In the end, coaches should follow any policies that their districts put in place.

Social Distancing

- Place tape down on the court 6 feet apart and have your players place their bags and water at the cone and use that as their personal home base on water breaks. (Can also use cones)
- When players arrive for practice, have them place their bags and water on the inside of the fence, yet one person per fence post on the outside fence. These posts are roughly 12 feet apart and this does not require you to have extra cones or tape.

Challenge Matches

- Instead of having all the players arrive and gather to find out whom they are playing and on what court, provide each player this information prior to that day.
- Schedule match times for the challenge matches and the players should arrive no more than 10 minutes to the start of their designated match time.
- If people come to watch, then it should be limited to family members only and if possible no more than 1-3 people.
- Players should have bags at opposite net posts as not to be near each other on change overs.
- Only one person should adjust the scoring device on the change overs.
- Prior to and post-match, do not shake hands. Verbally say nice match and tap racquets.

Equipment

- Each player should have their own bottle of hand sanitizer.
- Players should not share racquets.
- When possible, each player should use only the two balls designated to them for serving.

Tennis Balls

- When picking up tennis balls there are several options:
 - Use ball hoppers yet, make sure they have been wiped down prior and immediate after use. Each player should also sanitize their hands before and after as well.
 - Have players sanitize their hands and then pile the balls on their racquets dump into carts or hoppers. When done, they need to sanitize their hands.

- Have all players push balls into the net with their racquets and then the coaches will pick up using ball pick up devices.

Team Meetings

- When addressing your team as a group, make sure they are spread out and unable to reach each other with their arms.
- Instead of having one big team meeting, break your groups into smaller groups and deliver the message in that manner.

Team Communication

- In an effort to eliminate gatherings, try to communicate as much as possible with the team prior to the start of practice through communication sources approved by your school.

Water and Snacks

- All players should have their own water and NOT share it with anyone.
- All snacks need to be brought by players and eaten by them only.
- If a team does bring snacks to share, they need to be individually wrapped and only one person passing them out (wearing gloves if appropriate).

Once again, these are just some simple ideas we wanted to share with you as you get closer to the start of our first official day of practice. Also, remember, that this **DOES NOT** replace anything you will be receiving from your school/school district.