



# Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club

## COVID-19: RETURN TO PLAY – TIER 4

Following the Government announcement yesterday that our area will be moved into the new Tier 4 level of restrictions effective from 00:01 this morning Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, the LTA have been in discussions with the DCMS to get confirmation of exactly what this means for tennis.

Following these discussions please see below our updated policies and procedures which are effective immediately.

We have indicated the key additions and updates to the previous guidelines with **[NEW]** and **[UPDATED]**.

## Travelling to and from our venue **[UPDATED]**

- Travel restrictions into or out of our area apply. Being a tier 4 location you should not be travelling to our club if you live in another location regardless of what tier the other location is in and travelling from our club to matches or organised events in other areas is also not permitted.

## Pre-Attendance Symptom Check

- Anyone attending our venue (including players, coaches, volunteers and any other visitors), should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms using the information on the NHS website before leaving home.  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
- No-one should leave home to participate in tennis if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of COVID -19, currently recognised as any of the following:
  - A high temperature
  - A new, continuous cough
  - A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste



- Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation.

## Court Booking

All courts must be booked via Clubspark, using the Clubspark mobile app or via the Clubspark website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BrenchleyandMatfieldLTC/Booking>. Turning up to play without booking is not allowed at this time. Our system does not allow you to add all player names in the booking, despite our previous advice, but we are looking into adding this feature in the future.

## Facilities

Members and visitors can access the toilets. The toilet key is located on the hook just inside the clubhouse door. Please ensure you follow the below points when using the toilet facilities and observe social distancing at all times.

- Observe and follow guidance posters displayed in and around the toilet block.
- Use the designated waiting lanes outside the toilets.
- Use the hand sanitiser in the hallway before and after using the toilets.
- Wipe down any surfaces that will be touched with anti-viral wipes or disinfectant.
- Use soap and paper towels and place used paper towels in the bin.

The clubhouse will remain closed. We feel this is the only way at this time to safely ensure social distancing and virus transmission. Benches have also been removed from the courts. Access to the clubhouse will remain available for coaching staff and playing members for operation reasons only, but this access is to be limited to one person at a time and the only reasons to enter the clubhouse should be to turn on/off flood lights, access coaching equipment, retrieve and replace the toilet key and access the first aid kit and accident book if required.

Hands should be cleaned with hand sanitizer before entry and on exit.

We have decided not to remove net winders and not to supply disposable gloves to use the clay sweeper brushes.



If you have your own gloves to wear for these tasks then that would be a good extra measure, but we are choosing instead to promote hand hygiene by using your own hand sanitizer prior to court entry and on exit.

## Tennis activity [UPDATED]

Outdoor tennis clubs can remain open for individual exercise, for use together with other people within your household and support bubbles and for use with one person from another household.

This will limit play to singles if with someone from another household but doubles play can continue if all players are within the same household or bubble.

Over 18's: Recreational competitions including organised club nights will not take place in tier 4. Coached sessions for over 18's remains possible on a one to one basis only.

Under 18's coached sessions remain unchanged from tier 3 and so are allowed for group sizes of up to 15, plus coach(es), in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance for providers of out-of-school settings.

The Government has made clear that businesses and venues following COVID-19 secure guidance can host these larger under 18 groups, provided they take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission in line with COVID-19 secure guidance. Larger group sessions are likely to need to utilise multiple full-size courts in order to maintain social distancing.

Social activity and spectating is not permitted in tier 4.

Attendance of a parent, guardian or carer (non-participant) is allowed but should be limited to one per player, with social distancing strictly observed at all times.

Spectating from inside the clubhouse is strictly forbidden.

Please avoid congregating on or around the court at all times to allow access for others.



## Club Nights / Organised Activity **[UPDATED]**

In line with Tier 4 restrictions all over 18 group activities will not be allowed.  
Organised group sessions for under 18's remains unchanged from tier 3.

Confirmation of over 18's club activity currently not available:

- Wednesday Men's night (6:30pm to 8:30pm) **[NOT ALLOWED IN TIER 4]**
- Thursday Ladies' night (7:30pm to 10:00pm) **[NOT ALLOWED IN TIER 4]**
- Friday BBQ social (7:00pm to 10:00pm) **[NOT ALLOWED IN TIER 4]**
- Friday coached improver session (7:00pm to 8:00pm) **[NOT ALLOWED IN TIER 4]**

We will look to restart these sessions as soon as allowed.

## Court Access

We are a small club in a small village and so are relying on common sense for this element rather than implementing one way paths, two meter boxes and staggering booking start times. We do ask though that you ensure social distancing is followed at all times on and off the courts, paying particular attention to minimise encounters between people in the car park, at court entrances and court access paths.

## Equipment

Take hand sanitizer with you. With our facilities closed we will have nowhere to store and display club hand sanitizer. You should use this on your hands on arrival and exit and to wipe down your equipment, including racquets and water bottles before and after use.

Players should bring their own equipment - it is advised to avoid use of communal rackets.

Players do not now need to use their own clearly marked tennis balls, however, if you choose to use shared balls then extra care must be taken to ensure you do not touch your face during play, and you should clean your hands before play and immediately after finishing using your hand sanitiser.



## Maintain Social Distancing

Stay at least two metres away from other players at all times including during play, when taking breaks and before and after play.

Do not make physical contact with other players (such as shaking hands or high fives).

Avoid chasing the ball down to another court if other players are using it.

For doubles, consider agreeing in advance which player will take the shot if a ball travels to the centre of the court.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not leave your home to play tennis if Government advice means you should stay at home because you or someone you live with has or has had symptoms of COVID-19, or you are in the most vulnerable category and have been advised to shield from the coronavirus.

Should you have any questions at all please contact us using the email address below.

**Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club Committee**