



Return to Table Tennis – Club/Training Environment

In order to allow Clubs/training groups take necessary steps to prepare for a return to sport, the below details are extracted from the forthcoming TTI Document 'Return to Table Tennis – Club/Training Environment'.

This is a non-exhaustive extracted list of requirements and recommendations, intended to facilitate initial facility planning and management in preparation for the return to sport, and to allow for actions around cleaning and sanitization.

It should be noted that personal or local demographics, circumstances, conditions and facilities, including regarding higher dangers of levels of contagion and transmission, and/or the physical layout of particular premises or facilities, may be such as to indicate a longer suspension of activity for certain localities, groups and individuals, according to those specific circumstances. Individuals or groups who consider themselves to be 'at risk' should, regarding the return to activity, make the decision which best suits their circumstances.

It should further be noted that, by its nature, table tennis activity, in normal usage circumstances, promotes and facilitates social distancing, due to the automatic distance from other players which normal playing activity demands. Participants are separated from each other by a minimum 2.74 metre distance, being the length of a table tennis table. Given the personal spacing involved, table tennis is a low risk activity when guidelines are correctly followed. Table tennis is not a contact sport, and does not by default require large group activity.

Each Branch/Club/venue should have a designated 'COVID-19 Officer', who will lead action in this area. The Officer may also have existing responsibilities in other areas, as a Coach or on Committee. Responsibility for disseminating and displaying information in an age/ability appropriate and clear manner for all sectors/demographics within their Club/group, including those with disabilities, sits with the designated 'COVID-19 Officer' appointed by the Branch/Club/venue. In the event of the absence of the designated Officer, the Lead Coach shall act in their place.

Additional details, including personal actions and requirements, self-declaration forms, attendance logs, suspected case management, and risk assessment protocols, will be contained in the complete document.

General Principles

- Before any return to play, and regularly thereafter, the following areas and equipment should receive a deep clean, and on a daily or weekly basis thereafter (depending how often the facility is used);
 - All playing surfaces, net posts, table sides;
 - All barriers, especially touchpoints;
 - All tables, benches, chairs, arm rests;
 - All technical equipment touch points, PA, recording equipment;
 - All door knobs, handles, push/pull panels/bars, banisters and rails;
 - All tap handles, shower switches, cistern flush mechanisms, hand dryer buttons, and equivalent;
 - All elevator buttons;
 - All light switches;
 - Any and all other potential touchpoints
- Tables should be aligned side to side, and not back to back, to ensure players do not back into one another;
- Tables should be spaced minimum 2 metres apart, ie that the nearest point of the longitudinal side of tables to each other should be 2 metres. With the centre line of each table located ~.75 metres from each side line, the mid points at the playing end of each table half will then be spaced 3.5 metres apart.
- The capacity of the playing hall will be determined by the number of tables available in accordance with the measurements above. There should be nobody in the playing hall apart from the players on the tables and the coaching staff. Only two players are allowed per table. Coaching staff numbers should be limited as far as is possible, not more than one coach per 6 players. Groups should not exceed the maximum playing numbers.
- Access to the playing space should be via an ante-room, changing room, hallway or lobby space, where social distancing can be maintained, wherein all participants will apply hand sanitizer before accessing the hall and equipment.
- Where activity takes place in a public or non-exclusive multi-sport environment or facility, specific extra steps may be required to adhere to the hall management guidelines, including, but not limited to, site specific equipment or space management protocols, and/or additional time/space booking slots, to ensure suitable best practice is maintained.