

## Ready to Return Q&A

This document contains a collation of questions asked during the 'Ready to Return' webinars that took place on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

For the latest Table Tennis England statement, please click here; [Coronavirus update— Table Tennis England](#)

The latest Official Ready to Return Guidance document can be found here; [Key guidance documents— Table Tennis England](#)

### Junior Coaching

**Q. Please can TTE advise on the definition of coaching in relation to 12<sup>th</sup> April. Do U18s have to be accompanied by a registered coach or can a club player support them during a session?**

A. If it is an U18's coaching session the coach should be licensed (DBS checked) and have a minimum Level 1 qualification. A club player could support a coaching session run by a licensed coach, if this is required to enable a session to happen. However, clubs should look to reduce the number of adults present wherever possible.

**Q. How many adult coaches can be at sessions?**

A. There is no limit, but this should be no more than needed to facilitate the session and not to be there just as practice partners.

**Q. Have the age groups changed, does U18 now mean U19?**

A. The age group changes coming into place within table tennis are separate and should not be considered when thinking about a return for U18's to table tennis. For the purposes of returning to play from the 12<sup>th</sup> April, the following should be taken into account:

Table tennis indoors to re-start for children under the age of 18 and Disabled People in bubbles of up to 15. **It has been confirmed that the exemption for under-18s includes young people who were under 18 on 31st August 2020.**

**Q. A club has space for 6 tables, in their junior coaching session not everyone has turned up and they have 2 empty tables – can these 2 tables be used for 1-2-1 coaching at the same time?**

A. Yes, as long as social distance is being maintained there is nothing to stop you running different activities on the other tables.

**Q. Is an Adult coach or volunteer allowed to attend Junior sessions to support – and if odd numbers can they do a 1-2-1 session with that junior?**

A. Yes, no limit on numbers of adult coaches as long as they are needed to enable the session to happen. Not to be used as an opportunity for adults to practice/play!

**Q. Can children in bubbles play doubles – can they do drills where 2 at one end of the table? Or is it always to be 1v1?**

A. 1v1, unless in a household or support bubble. The only exception to this would be if you were delivering within a school curriculum session (classroom bubbles)

**Q. Any guidance for coaches with regards to PPE?**

A. Coaches and volunteers don't need to wear facemasks when indoors (personal/club choice) as they are actively participating within the sport. Any other adult/parent entering the venue would be advised to wear a facemask. Further information regarding face coverings can be found on the Sport England website [Frequently asked questions on the national coronavirus restrictions | Sport England](#)

**Q. If a junior plays at a number of clubs – should they be limited to only playing in one bubble at one club in a 24hr period**

A. There are no restrictions as to what, or how much, activity they are able to do in any 24hr period.

**Q. Can a junior attend a coaching session at our club at 3pm and then go to another club and play with a completely different bubble at 5pm.**

A. Yes

### **Adult Sessions**

**Q. Is a support bubble the same as a family member?**

A. A support bubble is a support network that links 2 households. You can only form a support bubble if you meet certain eligibility rules. More information on this can be found here; [Making a support bubble with another household - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Q. From 12<sup>th</sup> April – can adults in a support bubble play indoors?**

A. People from the same household or in a support bubble can play together indoors or if receiving one to one coaching.

**Q. When can we expect small groups of adults to return to play?**

A. From 17<sup>th</sup> May as outlined above

**Q. If the players have had both doses of the covid 19 vaccine will this relax the rule of six when playing in doors?**

A. No, as vaccine passports don't currently exist.

**Q. Can a club refuse entry to a player if they have not had a vaccine?**

A. This is not something we are advising currently and these would be decisions for clubs individually.

**Q. Should people take a lateral-flow test before playing?**

- A. There is not currently any regulation to say you should and is a personal choice. As a club, you could ask or advise members to do so – but this is not something we are currently advising.

**Q. Any guidance for running sessions for older people, 60+**

- A. There is guidance available for Bat&Chat Live in the form of zoom sessions that could be run, which could help getting people active before returning to physical sessions. There is also advice from Age UK, which can be found here <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/staying-safe-and-well-at-home/home-exercises/>

**Q. Any advice or guidance on what clubs can do to encourage players to come back to sessions.**

- A. We have a couple of videos online, which are from clubs and players that have gone back and talk about how comfortable they feel. We would advise sharing the steps you are putting into place to make your facility safe, such as risk assessments, players code of conduct etc, as reassurance to your members.

You might also want to try and establish what concerns people have on returning, please contact us for example questions you could ask.

Videos of how Rowhedge TTC and St Neots TTC returned following the previous lockdown can be found here; [Return to Play: How Clubs and Leagues are adjusting— Table Tennis England](#)

### **Session Logistics**

**Q. Is it still the recommendation to not change ends in matches?**

- A. This guidance was removed back in November. If it was a league match you might want to wipe down touch points in between each match.

**Q. Do you have to clean tables, chairs, hands in between games when playing within your bubble?**

- A. Wipe down when you can, use soapy water to wash the ball every so often. Further cleaning guidance can be found here; [Templates for clubs and coaches— Table Tennis England](#)

**Q. After a session – are players still required to go straight home or can they socialise as long as in line with the government guidelines?**

- A. Advice is still to minimise social contact indoors, but yes, you could continue to socialise outdoors as long as Government guidelines are followed.

**Q. Will you be issuing a downloadable guide, which could then be forwarded to all our playing members?**

- A. There is a players' template code of conduct – which is there to amend/edit as necessary – that can be shared with people prior to coming back and you could ask

them to agree/sign before returning. There are other documents on the 'Ready to Return' section of the Table Tennis England website, including infographics that you could put up in your club that outline the key requirements of the venue.

These can all be found here; [Ready to Return— Table Tennis England](#)

**Q. Do players need to bring their own hand sanitiser to sessions?**

A. The club should have hand sanitiser available, as part of their COVID-19 safety measures, at the entrance of the venue. Encourage players to carry their own too.

**Other**

**Q. Where can I find out more about Sport England Return to Play Funding?**

A. Many clubs will unfortunately lose income when they return to play, due to the need to reduce playing numbers in their venues, and by hiring additional venue time to support existing members.

To date (8<sup>th</sup> April) 53 Table Tennis clubs and groups have received Sport England Return to Play Small Grants funding, ranging from £300 to circa £7000, to help them return to table tennis within the first six months of lockdown restrictions being lifted.

Funding can help cover:

- Costs incurred by having to deliver activity in smaller groups
- Equipment such as barriers, bats & balls, PPE items
- Training of volunteers '

Further details and a webinar on how to apply can be found [here](#)

To discuss whether the funding would be suitable for your club or organisation, contact us for a call back at [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk)

**Q. When will coaching courses resume? Can we hold a course at our club? Can we organise it ourselves?**

A. Coaching courses will return from June 2021, starting with courses that started pre-COVID. Please get in touch with our coaching team; [coaching@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:coaching@tabletennisengland.co.uk), if you wish to discuss holding a course at your club.

**Q. Do Table Tennis England have any example surveys that Clubs can use to gather feedback from members?**

A. Yes, example surveys can be found here; [Templates for clubs and coaches— Table Tennis England](#) There is an example for a League to send to Clubs, and for Leagues to send

to Players. Many of the questions in the League to Players survey will be relevant for Club players too.

**Q. How have Clubs managed membership / Session fees?**

A. This question was put to all of those who attended both sessions. The below is a collation of the answers received at the session.

- *We are looking at various refund options, different percentages or lump sum, because our members pay annual fees. We will put these options and the financial consequences to members to decide at our AGM, possible look at reducing next year's fees, even the year after rather than one huge refund*
- *We gave free "rollover membership" from 2019/20 to 2020/21. Plan is for half-price (@ £10) for 2021/22, and 15 months for price of a year for new joiners this May.*
- *Membership Fees run Sept to August. We reduced fees for 20/21 and won't be charging those who paid for 20/21 for 21/22. Session fees will still be charged as appropriate. This is all subject to ongoing review by the Committee.*
- *We don't have membership fees. Just pay and play*
- *We suspended fees for 2020 and won't collect any for 2021 until we resume.*
- *My Club waived the annual membership fees for this last season. We intend to reintroduce the annual fees from 1 September, as we don't have the reserves to pay next year's hall hire costs without some membership fees and match fees.*
- *We have not collected any for 2020/21. We normally have annual fees. We intend to start in July as casual playing sessions without coaching to build up the momentum for 2021/22 season. We likely to keep the cost the same as we only charge nominally £50 per season containing about 20 to 24 coaching sessions*