

## **Ready to Return: League Webinar Q&A**

This Q&A sheet has been produced following the Ready to Return League webinars that took place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

The full recording of the evening session can be viewed here;

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/missed-a-club-webinar-catch-up-here/>

All information relating to Ready to Return, including templates and guidance notes, can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/major-events/ready-to-return/>

Table Tennis England are also offering one to one sessions with Leagues. To book onto one of these, please complete the following short form; <https://forms.gle/LYnMVSGuESUeYJtG9>

### **Venues**

#### **Is the social distancing recommendation 2m or 1m+?**

Table Tennis England still recommend that 2m social distancing is maintained between players.

#### **How can Clubs/Leagues reassure venues that they are adhering to Table Tennis England guidelines? Venues often hire out to multiple sports/users and so do not know the detail of what is required for table tennis.**

The template risk assessment available on the Table Tennis England website includes an overview of the measures that clubs/leagues should take pre-activity, during activity and post activity. This can be adapted by Clubs to show how they are managing identified risks identified by Table Tennis England.

There are also template venue layouts available. These outline the general principles and offer recommendations on venue set up and equipment requirements that are in accordance with Table Tennis England guidelines.

It is recommended that Clubs/Leagues contact their venue to ensure that the steps in place meet any requirements of that specific facility.

#### **How many people are allowed in an indoor sports hall?**

There is no upper limit on the number of people allowed indoors, it is dependent on the space you have available to socially distance safely all people in the playing hall. Please see the local league guidance document for more information.

#### **In a hall with only one entry and exit point, players may need to move past each other briefly, is this acceptable?**

Fleeting passes are acceptable and are deemed low risk.

#### **What is the guidance on ventilation?**

Venue to be kept well ventilated, with any ventilation system kept on and/or windows/doors remaining open wherever possible. Venues should aim to turn any

ventilation on and open any windows or doors at least 15 minutes before player arrival. If a venue has no ventilation system or windows and doors that can be left open, this would be difficult to maintain air flow and air quality. Time spent in that indoor space in that instance should be restricted to no more than 30 minutes according to the latest government advice.

Information about venue ventilation can be found in the Hygiene and Facility guidance document.

UK Active are currently working up guidance for ventilation in the winter months and this will be shared once available.

## **Bubbles**

### **What is a bubble?**

In line with Government guidance, players should play table tennis in bubbles of no more than 6. If there is an active coach within a session, then the coach counts as a person within the bubble. Current guidelines are that bubbles of 6 should play across 2-3 tables. In Stage 4, this will be amended so that bubbles of 6 can play on one table as long as there is adequate space for social distancing of those who are not playing. There can also be multiple bubbles in the same venue at the same time. Players shouldn't swap or move bubbles in the same day.

### **Can people in the same bubble change ends?**

Yes. With the introduction of the bubbles, the guidance was updated to reflect that people in the same bubbles can change ends. Clubs/Leagues may choose to wipe down the tables briefly between changing ends.

### **If a league is playing 3v3 with junior players, do parents have to be included within the bubble of 6?**

If the parent is staying with the child, then yes they would need to be included within the bubble. However, if they are dropping off their children and then removing themselves from the area, then no they would not need to be counted.

If there is a vulnerable adult or child that requires adult supervision, then this should be pre-arranged. The adult can stay with the vulnerable person at a 2m distance, only intervening as required to administer medication etc. In this instance, the adult would not be included within the bubble of 6.

### **Where can we find out more about Bubbles?**

The latest information relating to bubbles can be found in the Hygiene and Facility Guidance document on the Ready to Return pages of the Table Tennis England website.

## **Face coverings**

### **Do face coverings have to worn by players waiting in between matches?**

Face coverings do not need to be worn by those who are exercising. There is no guidance from Government about wearing face coverings in between exercise but Government guidance states that face masks do not have to be worn when to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others - including if it would negatively impact on your ability to exercise or participate in a strenuous activity. Players would be expected to where a face covering if they believe after exercising that wearing a face covering would not unduly affect their recovery and not put you at risk of harm or injury.

### **Should umpires wear a face covering?**

If the umpire is a player who is scoring between their own matches, then in line with the above, the umpire does not have to wear a face covering. If the umpire is a non-playing umpire, then they should wear a face covering.

### **Where can we find out more about face coverings?**

The latest information relating to face coverings can be found in the FAQs on the Table Tennis England website; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/coronavirus-and-table-tennis-faqs/>

## **Competition Formats**

### **Is it recommended that a League focusses on one competition, rather than trying to run 2 shorter competitions?**

This will depend on the local landscape. Within Table Tennis England guidelines, there are no limits on the number of competitions that can or should be run. We would recommend that leagues survey their members, and their Clubs to consider the thoughts of players and the facility access available locally. This would help inform decisions on league formats from the League membership.

### **Do Table Tennis England have example surveys that Leagues can use?**

Yes, these can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/templates-for-clubs-and-coaches/>

### **Do Table Tennis England have any recommendations for individual formats where points can be earned for the Club?**

This is not something that is currently available, but following this webinar we will consider whether this is something that we can put together to support Leagues in getting back up and running.

## **Umpires**

### **If a league chooses to use umpires, should this be restricted to one umpire?**

No, there is no need to limit the number of people umpiring to one. Players and umpires should be kept in bubbles of no more than 6, and within that bubble, anyone can umpire. It is recommended that players / umpires have their own equipment throughout the evening and that sharing of equipment is minimised eg. Chairs, pens, scorecards etc.

### **What type of matches were analysed by Table Tennis England when reviewing the risk associated with umpires and contact that they have with players?**

We reviewed local league players in league finals matches, and recorded the number of seconds that the players came within 2m of umpires. The courts were a size reflective of local league and approximately 10m x 5m. This found that players only came into close contact with umpires for approximately 7-10 seconds per game. In these games, the towel holders were also next to the umpire which slightly increased the time that players were in close proximity to umpires.

### **Where can we find out more about Umpiring recommendations?**

The latest information and considerations regarding umpires can be found in the Local League Guidance note which can be found here;

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/key-guidance-documents/>

## **Track and Trace**

### **If players are coming into the club from other clubs, does the home club need to take down all of the details for all players, or just a nominated Club contact?**

It is recommended that all players names and telephone numbers are taken to assist with Track and Trace should this be required. The NHS are responsible for working with the individual who has tested positive and to reach out to individuals that may need to self-isolate. Clubs/Leagues should keep records of attendance, including bubbles, for 21 days so that these can be passed onto NHS Track and Trace if requested.

### **Where can we find out more about NHS Track and Trace?**

Further information about NHS Track and Trace, and how this works, can be found on the following Government page; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>