

Ready to Return: Q&A

Following Ready to Return webinars on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th July 2020.

All guidance documents and templates, along with the recordings of the Ready to Return Webinars can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/major-events/ready-to-return/>

The latest Table Tennis England Coronavirus statement can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/coronavirus-update/>

The Q&A is broken down into the following sections;

1. Facilities and Venue Set up
2. Cleaning
3. Bubbles
4. Track and Trace
5. Club Members
6. League Play and Competitions
7. Coaching
8. Operations

Facilities and Venue set up

What steps does a Club need to take to establish how many tables and how many people are able to attend a particular session?

First work out how many courts your venue can hold referring to the venue layouts and the recommended court size of 9 x 4.5.

If you consider that there are 2 people per court, Clubs are then able to have an additional 50% in the hall waiting (1 extra person per table) and adhering to social distancing guidelines.

E.g. If you have 4 courts, 2 people per court is 8. Add another 50% makes 12 in the hall at one time.

Can Clubs vary the court sizes? How flexible are the recommendations? Eg. Is 8.5 x 4 appropriate?

We recognise that individual facilities vary significantly and clubs may need to some flexibility to adjust their court sizes slightly outside the recommended levels. If Clubs would like to discuss their individual facility, Table Tennis England are offering one to one sessions with Clubs. You can book one of these sessions here;

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuegAGZGpel8oN9g6Pf0PNPQyG0k_pecQ2xV9T_rfgt1_HNsQ/viewform

Anything that can be used to separate courts is an advantage as it will stop balls moving across courts and players coming closer together whilst playing. Curtains that run across

your hall are an example of this and if you have a multi table venue but nothing suitable to place between courts, speak to the table tennis trade companies who may have discounted ex tournament barriers for sale.

Is it essential to have walkways between tables if there is a one-way system implemented?

This does depend on the layout of your venue and if you are unsure please speak to a Table Tennis England member of staff.

There are some concerns from Clubs who play in Schools. Are there any recommendations for Clubs who play in Schools?

We recognise that there are challenges for Clubs that play in schools and individual schools with vary on their approach to reopening. It is recommended that Clubs make contact with schools to talk about the steps that you are taking and sharing your plans for returning. Reassuring them of the steps you are taking to comply with Table Tennis England and Government advice; risk assessments, session management and layouts etc.

Should air conditioning be used in the facility?

Ventilation is an important aspect of your facility upon re-opening and if you have an air conditioning unity rather than a ventilation system, this can be left on to help with cooling the room, but only if you have windows and/or doors open so fresh air is being circulated. If windows and doors are closed, air conditioning units should not be left on.

How will Clubs know if they are meeting the air quality guidelines?

Please visit the below link, particularly if you have your own facility and are looking for more guidance of air quality levels.

https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Stage-2_Clubs-with-own-facilities-V1.pdf

Cleaning

Are there any guidelines for Clubs on the level of cleaning that is required between sessions?

Cleaning the floors is not required between groups, but cleaning of equipment should be completed between groups. For example, tables, chairs, barriers, touch points.

Options for enabling this are; Clubs to have a dedicated person for cleaning equipment between sessions or it is a requirement for players as they leave the court.

What does 'regularly' mean in relation to washing the balls?

It is recommended that Clubs use a set of balls for each session, and that these are washed between in each session.

The guidance from UK Active is that touching the ball for short periods of time is relatively low risk.

What does 'soapy water' mean in relation to cleaning?

Proprietary cleaner can be ordered from table manufacturers. Alternatively, mild soapy water can be used eg. Washing up liquid mixed with water from a spray bottle.

It is recommended that Clubs contact table manufacturers for advice on particular tables.

If equipment is being left for several days between sessions, should it still be cleaned after every session?

It is best practice to wipe equipment down after every session.

Bubbles

How many people can be part of a bubble and who should be counted in that number?

There must be no more than 6 people in your training bubble, if this is a coaching session a coach would be part of that 6 and there would therefore be 5 players, plus 1 coach.

Are there are restrictions on the number of households that can be part of a bubble?

No, there are no restrictions on the number of households that can be part of a bubble of 6 in a table tennis session.

This guidance has been approved by Chief Medical Officer and Public Health England.

Do bubbles in Clubs have to stay the same throughout the time that restrictions are in place, or can they be mixed?

The bubbles must remain in place for the whole session, but they can be swapped for subsequent sessions, as long as you are able to accurately keep a record of the bubbles for each session to support track and trace.

Do people in the same bubble have to have a break between changing partners?

No, there does not need to be a break between players swapping round when they are in the same bubble.

There does however need to be a minimum of a 10-minute gap between sessions with different groups of people. This allows for cleaning and also gives players the chance to leave, ahead of the next group arriving.

Can a coach oversee multiple bubbles?

When coaching, a coach currently needs to be part of a bubble of six people. Therefore five players and one coach would make a bubble of 6.

What if the Coach is just facilitating a session? They are walking between bubbles but maintaining social distancing?

The above answer is also the case here.

What is the difference between a Coach and an 'Organiser'?

An organiser is someone who is setting up the session and ensuring any necessary steps are being taken to ensure social distancing and hygiene measures are being met, therefore an organiser can oversee a session of multiple bubbles. A coach would be someone that is actively providing coaching and instruction for the session and would need to form part of a bubble as outlined above.

Can a one table venue be used by a bubble of 6?

At the moment our recommendation for a one table venue is that there are four people present in the hall, but this will vary depending on the size of your venue. Please speak to a Table Tennis England member of staff if you are unsure.

Can there be more than one bubble of 6 in the hall at any one time?

Yes, the number of bubbles you can have in a hall is dependent on the space and number of tables you have access to. For example a 6 table venue with 12 players playing and 6 players waiting (as per facility template guidance document) could have 3 bubbles of 6.

Can people in the same bubble change ends?

Yes

If a household has formed a bubble with another household outside of table tennis, are they able to play doubles in a club?

Not at this time.

Track and Trace

How does 'Track and Trace' work for a Club? What is the process if there is report of an infection within a group?

A club must keep the record of any participants and bubbles within sessions for 21 days (after which time normal GDPR guidance applies). If a someone playing at your club did contract Coronavirus, you would need to provide the contact details for other participants to NHS who would make contact with those individuals'.

Do Clubs need to update any GDPR statements to reflect that information may be shared in line with NHS Track and Trace?

Members should be advised on how their information may be shared, including with the NHS Track and Trace Service.

The template codes of conduct have been updated to reflect this (22-07-20)

Can Table Tennis England recommend a booking package for Clubs to manage bookings.

There is guidance on managing session bookings in the Ready to Return section of the Table Tennis England website.

ClubSpark is a Club Management tool for Clubs that enables Clubs to manage sessions through enabling players to book onto individual tables, or particular sessions.

ClubSpark is usually a PremierClub benefit, but has been opened up for Associate Clubs and Leagues to support a return to play.

More information about ClubSpark can be found here;

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/clubspark/>

Is there any guidance for those using ClubSpark on how to ensure all bookings are captured? Using the booking module doesn't allow clubs to capture both players names, or any extras.

If using the 'Booking' module, Clubs can duplicate their resources. Eg. Table 1a and Table 1b. Members can then book the same slot as their playing partner and both names and sets of details are captured.

If a Club is operating by sessions, and would prefer to take bookings on a session by session basis, the Coaching module can be used. This module enables Clubs to set up sessions, and limit capacity eg. Sessions with max capacity of 6 could be created to form a bubble.

Are there any fees associated with ClubSpark? Can these be avoided?

There are transaction fees taken from online payments. The platform uses two payment gateways to process payments;

- Stripe : 2.8% + 25p
- Go Cardless: 1.8%

The transaction fee is split between ClubSpark and the payment gateway

There is also the option to set alternative payment methods, eg cash, cheque and 'other'. Selecting 'other' provides space for details to be added.

Club Members

Is there any guidance specifically relating to the return of older players and volunteers to Club environments?

Clubs are encouraged to refer to Government advice relating to over 70s and those who may have been shielding or have underlying conditions.

Is there any further information or guidance on face coverings? Who should be wearing them and when?

Those not exercising should wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet, such as a community facility. This is most relevant for short periods indoors in crowded areas.

Where should players keep their kit? Particularly towels and water bottles?

It is recommended that players take their kit into the court with them, rather than leaving them on chairs around the facility.

League Play, Competitions

Is there any guidance for Clubs with a large competition calendar? When do competition dates need to be reviewed?

We will need to have progressed to Stage 4 of Ready to Return before we recommend competitions resuming. At the moment the guidance states that we will not move into stage 4 any earlier than the 1st September and have produced a guidance document for local leagues to consider upon returning, which can be found here ([link](#)). This document considers options such as running the season in two halves and operating a two person league season to reduce numbers on one court.

Are there any indications of when leagues might be able to resume?

Currently, 1st September is the earliest that we anticipate leagues being able to return and there are several factors that a league may need to consider before restarting play.

It's important to bring people back to full fitness before returning to competitive play.

What guidance is available for leagues to help in preparing to return to play?

There is a guidance document in place looking at areas to consider upon return. You can find this here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/key-guidance-documents/>

What is the rationale for removing doubles play? And for how long will this be the case?

Due to the nature of doubles in table tennis, social distancing is deemed too difficult to manage safely whilst playing doubles. The ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) have also ruled out doubles for this calendar year.

Once restrictions are lifted, if a League was to go ahead with bubbles of 6, would these matches need to be played on 2 tables or could these be played on one table?

Under the current guidance these would need to take place on 2 tables and for matches to be played on one table, it would require some relaxation of the current guidance.

Coaching

What guidance is available for Coaches?

Please visit the following link for our coach guidance document (link) and we have recently partnered with CIMSPA to give access to a certificated Covid related training free of charge. We will be confirming details of this asap.

Operations

Will Table Tennis England be releasing an insurance statement or 'COVID Disclaimer' that Clubs can use to protect themselves?

Current insurance stays the same until the 31st July 2020. We are waiting on confirmation of the wording in the new insurance documents and will provide these as soon as they are available.

To protect themselves, Clubs should complete risk assessments and method statements to show planning and preparation ahead of returning, and the cleaning checklist to evidence that the cleaning has been done. Templates for all of these can be found on the Ready to Return section of the Table Tennis England website.

Should players be asked to sign something that says that they are playing at their own risk?

A template code of conduct is available in the Ready to Return section of the Table Tennis England website. It is recommended that this is used to ensure that players agree to the guidelines of returning to play and also summarises what the Club will be doing to protect players.

There is a large number of documents on the Table Tennis England Ready to Return page, can the date of last edit be added to the title of each?

Yes, this has now been added. This information can also be found on the bottom right of individual documents. Documents have also been sorted into 'guidance' and 'templates'.

Is this the final guidance or do we anticipate further changes before 25th July?

We anticipate there will be minimal changes made now before the 25th July and if there is anything significant we will inform clubs and leagues by email.

What advice, guidance and support is there for Clubs with their own facility? Those who have large overheads, but face having to open with reduced numbers?

There is Be TT funding available to help support start up costs and initial outlay of cleaning and PPE. There is also a separate guidance document for clubs with their own facility, which you can find on this link; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/key-guidance-documents/>