

## Ready to Return Q & A

### Introduction

Throughout lockdown, Table Tennis England have provided a series of club and league webinars on a wide range of topics.

As we are hopefully reaching closer to more lockdown restrictions being lifted and allowing indoors sports to resume, the most recent webinar covered the topic of "Ready to Return".

The webinar covered a wide range of information to help our clubs and leagues get ready to return to the sport including feedback from a recent survey about how our members felt about returning to the sport and diagrams of suggested facility layouts with social distancing.

Over 100 people attended the two sessions. During and after the webinar, we had some great questions asked. These have been collated into this FAQ document.

For all information relating to Ready to Return, please visit the following page of the Table Tennis England website; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/ready-to-return/>

### Insurance

If you have other questions about insurance, please contact [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk). More information can also be found on the following page of the Table Tennis England website; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/membership/insurance/clubs-public-liability-insurance/>

- **Does the Table Tennis England Club insurance cover activity on outdoor tables?**

Yes, the public liability insurance covers Clubs for playing in recognised environments. This includes outdoor tables. Please note that, as with playing in your usual venue or setting, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure the safety and welfare of players and spectators.

This activity should be in line with the Stage 1 Guidance.

More information about Stage 1 guidance: <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/ready-to-return/>

- **Is the Public Liability insurance provided by Table Tennis England for Clubs & Leagues affected if Clubs/Leagues choose not to follow the guidelines?**

Failing to follow Table Tennis England guidelines could affect the public liability insurance. This would be considered on a case by case basis, and would depend on the severity and recklessness of the breach.

- **What happens if someone claims they have contracted COVID-19 as a result of attending a session at a Club or League (once indoor activity is allowed)?**

At the moment (until 30<sup>th</sup> July) any liability incurred by the association or it's clubs and leagues as a result of bodily illness or injury from Coronavirus would be covered by the groups Public Liability insurance. The limit of indemnity is £10 million.

The future beyond 30<sup>th</sup> July is uncertain, however further details will be shared as soon as they are available. Table Tennis England will notify Clubs and Leagues of any changes via email and the Table Tennis England website.

## **Facilities**

- **If Government and Table Tennis England say that activity is able to restart, what will happen if schools do not allow external lettings?**

Table Tennis England recognise that this presents a particular and significant challenge to the return of our sport. Alongside other National Governing Bodies, we are in constant dialogue with Sport England regarding concerns about returning. These concerns are then fed into DCMS and Government. Whilst we will be lobbying to allow Clubs to go back to Schools, the ultimate decision lies with the individual Schools / Academy Trust.

We encourage Clubs to contact Schools and start a conversation with them about when a return might be possible. Share with them your risk assessments (check out our templates to help) and the plans you have put in place, and seek to maintain the relationship that you have developed.

- **If our Club is a one room, one table private members only facility, can we reopen on 4<sup>th</sup> July?**

Unfortunately, currently there is no indoor table tennis activity allowed until we progress to Stage 2.

- **Will the suggested venue layouts be amended if social distancing rules are changed?**

We will be updating the recommendations as social distancing guidelines change. However, the recommended larger court sizes are likely to stay the same, but we also recognise that each club venue will be different and courts sizes may need to be tailored to fit. The key element is maintaining social distancing by, for example, allowing enough court space that the ball stays within the court when playing.

- **Implementation of guidance may be more challenging for smaller clubs, what are options?**

Table Tennis England have produced an outline for a 1 table venue, but recognise that others may have less space than this. Clubs are encouraged to assess their facilities and make the necessary changes to adhere to social distancing. For example, an organiser might open up and close, but only 2 people are in the venue at any one time.

If your venue has other guidelines in place, these should be followed.

- **Is there any guidance available for Clubs with only one entrance / exit?**

We recognise that each club will be different and based on the individual requirements of the facility. The key thing would be to avoid pinch points in narrow spaces generally, or entrances and exits. This could be implemented by;

- Including it within the session organisers role to ensure people are not gathering near entrances and exits
- Allowing time between sessions – one group have left the premises before others arrive
- Briefing members in advance, and advising them not to gather or wait near the entrance / exit
- Having clear signage at the entrance and exit to maintain social distance
- Stagger the drop off time / arrival time at sessions.

- **When we reach stage 2, is it anticipated that an 'organiser' will be required to support Club sessions?**

We strongly advise that there is a dedicated person leading on the covid-19 guidelines during and after the session, this could also be a player.

A template role description for a COVID-19 Officer is available in the Ready to Return Guidance on the Table Tennis England website.

- **Do Table Tennis England have a template risk assessment available for Clubs/Leagues? Is there support available for completing this?**

Table Tennis England have developed a risk assessment template and an associated method template. These will need to be adapted to suit your venue. The templates can be found in the Ready to Return section of the Table Tennis England website.

We would recommend engaging with your facility or venue and understanding whether there are any risk assessments in place. Clubs with their own facility will need to make the risk assessment relevant to their whole facility, whereas hirers may only need to consider the session environment.

Staff would be happy to give feedback on draft risk assessments where required. Please contact a member of the Development & Volunteering Team, or if you are unsure who to contact email [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk).

- **What should we use to clean our equipment?**

Anti-bacterial spray can be used on the underside of the table, and court surrounds. However, this should not be used liberally on table surfaces, particularly on new matt surfaces. For regular session cleaning we recommend diluted mild (non-astringent) soapy water delivered via a spray bottle, 2-3 sprays per end, then wiped dry using paper towel.

- **Does equipment need to be cleaned before and after every session if it is not going to be used again for several days?**

It is recommended that equipment is cleaned both before and after all sessions. It is also important to emphasise good hand hygiene and ensure players to use hand gel on arrival.

- **In smaller one table venues, would you suggest the two people clean before they leave, and the next two clean before they play as well? Thank you**

The designated organiser for the session should undertake to do this

- **After a session, what needs to be cleaned? Is it just tables and bats, or is it surrounds, chairs, door handles etc.**

All potential touch points in the club room should be cleaned with antibacterial spray and wiped dry with paper towels, other than the table surface (see above).

- **Can chairs be used by all, or should they just be kept for one person?**

It is ok for all to use chairs, but players should be discouraged from handling them unnecessarily, tops of chairs should be wiped before and after sessions.

- **Is there any research ongoing into the length of time that the virus remains on table tennis surfaces such as balls / tables?**

It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on any surfaces, but it seems likely to behave like other coronaviruses. A recent review of the survival of human coronaviruses on surfaces found large variability, ranging from 2 hours to 9 days.

The survival time depends on a number of factors, including the type of surface, temperature, relative humidity and specific strain of the virus.

## **Club Sessions**

- **When we are able to return, will parents need to stay with juniors attending sessions?**

Not necessarily, usual safeguarding procedures should be followed in relation to junior sessions, including having a licenced coach.

More information about safeguarding; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/safeguarding/safeguarding-guidelines/>

Throughout June, Table Tennis England delivered a series of webinars focussed on safeguarding. These can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/missed-a-club-webinar-catch-up-here/>

Table Tennis England's Safeguarding Manager can also be contacted for questions or queries relating to safeguarding; [judy.rogers@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:judy.rogers@tabletennisengland.co.uk)

- **Do Clubs need to keep track of people who are attending the Club?**

It is good practice to keep track of people coming into the Club, as well as how to contact them. This enables members to be contacted should a case of COVID-19 arise in the membership.

Clubs are encouraged to look at 'Stage 2 – Guidance for Managing Session Numbers' that can be found on the Ready to Return page of the Table Tennis England website; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/ready-to-return/>

- **Do Table Tennis England have a bookings system available for Clubs & Leagues to help with a return to activity?**

Yes, the ClubSpark Club Management tool is available to PremierClubs, Associate Clubs and Leagues. The platform includes a booking module, and is ordinarily a benefit of PremierClub membership. Associate Clubs and Leagues are able to access the platform free of charge until the end of September 2020. The longer-term options for Associate Clubs and Leagues to maintain access are currently being considered.

A webinar introducing the platform, including a demonstration of the booking module, can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/missed-a-club-webinar-catch-up-here/>

Clubs and Leagues can sign up for the platform here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/clubspark/>

- **Do Table Tennis England have any posters for Clubs to display? If so, how can we access these?**

Table Tennis England have developed a poster that can be used by Clubs to display hygiene recommendations, spatial and facility recommendations, as well as guidance relating to a gradual return.

The poster can be downloaded here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/ready-to-return/>

Please note that this is a fast-changing situation, and so Clubs are encouraged to delay printing posters until we are closer to re-opening.

- **Will players need to wear facemasks when they return?**

Table Tennis England will await official guidance from DCMS on this. We anticipate guidance on this will be included within the indoor sport and fitness guidance released from government.

- **Will Clubs need to temperature check people as they arrive at sessions?**

Table Tennis England will await official guidance from DCMS on this. We anticipate guidance on this will be included within the indoor sport and fitness guidance released from government.

- **Can Clubs still loan equipment for beginners?**

It is strongly advised that players bring their own equipment if possible.

If you have a set of bats, Clubs could consider a long-term loan for players with equipment being returned once guidelines are lifted to avoid moving equipment back and forth between players.

Table Tennis England will follow up with suppliers for guidance in this area.

## **Leagues**

- **What is Table Tennis England's view on doubles matches for the season ahead?**

Doubles matches make it particularly difficult to maintain social distancing. The International Table Tennis Federation have said their doubles events will not take place this calendar year

We recognise that this will have serious implications for Leagues, and are working up a guidance document for leagues to help a return to play under these new guidelines.

Leagues are also invited to book onto a one-to-one session with Table Tennis England; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/ready-to-return-survey-what-we-are-doing-to-support-our-members/>

- **What support is available to Leagues? Particularly for those who are at significant risk if the number of people wanting to play reduces.**

All of the Ready to Return guidance and information is available for Clubs and Leagues including templates and resources.

Table Tennis England are working up a guidance document for leagues to help a return to play, which will include some scenario planning. More information will be shared about this once it is available.

We welcome conversations with Leagues about a return to play, and any concerns there might be associated with this. Either via the one-to-one sessions referenced in the previous question, or get in touch via [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk) and a member of the team will be in touch.

Leagues are also invited to book onto a one-to-one session with Table Tennis England; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/ready-to-return-survey-what-we-are-doing-to-support-our-members/>

- **Can leagues hold an online AGM if it is not in their constitution?**

Leagues are encouraged to review their own constitution, and consider whether an online AGM will be possible in line with the constitution. We anticipate in most cases this will not be an issue, however changes can be made to the Constitution via an EGM if this is required.

More information about hosting online AGMs can be found here; [https://learn.sportenglandclubmatters.com/pluginfile.php/30825/mod\\_resource/content/1/Running%20virtual%20meetings%20incl.%20AGMs%20effectively.pdf](https://learn.sportenglandclubmatters.com/pluginfile.php/30825/mod_resource/content/1/Running%20virtual%20meetings%20incl.%20AGMs%20effectively.pdf)

## **Competitions & Events**

- **How likely is it that local League play will return in October?**

This an everchanging situation and difficult to provide guidance when we are currently unclear exactly when a return to indoor play will be possible.

If indoor play is possible, local leagues will need to decide whether they plan to return and how this might affect their league format for the season. We encourage leagues to have conversations with Clubs and Players about a return to play, and understand the thoughts and feelings of those involved to help shape your plan.

Table Tennis England welcome conversations with individual leagues to explore potential options to a return to play. There has also been a survey out to Table Tennis England members, which you can see here. <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/ready-to-return-survey-what-we-are-doing-to-support-our-members/>

- **How are Table Tennis England preparing for Competitions to return? And when / how will decisions on events be communicated?**

Table Tennis England has announced a framework for confirming national events and leagues, plus a refund policy, as we continue to plan for the 2020/21 season. More information about this can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/competition-framework-and-refund-policy-announced/>

- **Is Table Tennis England considering a change of format for County Championships? If there are no doubles, female entries may suffer.**

More information about individual competitions will be provided as soon as we are able to.

## Coaching

- **If, after the 4<sup>th</sup> July we are able to visit people in their houses, can table tennis be played indoors? Does this present an opportunity for 1 to 1 coaching?**

No indoor play with another household is permitted following Government guidelines.

## Club / League Finances

- **Stage 2 means that we will need to limit our session numbers. This affects our income as a Club, but our outgoings are still the same. Is there any support to help overcome the financial challenges of a return to play?**

There are several streams of support that have been outlined by various agencies in recent weeks. Some of these are detailed below;

- o **Business rates relief and cash grants for small businesses** (including sports grounds/clubs); [https://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/covid-19/Business\\_Rates\\_Relief\\_and\\_Cash\\_Grants](https://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/covid-19/Business_Rates_Relief_and_Cash_Grants)
- o Sport England Community Emergency Fund: Sport England is making up to £195 million of funding available to help the sport and physical activity sector through the ongoing coronavirus crisis, including a £35 million Community Emergency Fund, which made grants between £300 and £10,000 available. This fund is currently paused to new applications, but you can find out more about it by [clicking here](#).
- o **Sport England Active Together** : Crowdfunder and Sport England have teamed up to make £1 million of match funding available to help the sport and physical activity sector through the ongoing coronavirus crisis.  
  
Sports clubs that have had to cease operations due to the ongoing pandemic and in doing so are experiencing short-term financial difficulty, can set up a crowdfunding campaign and apply for up to £10,000 match funding. [Click here for more information](#).
- o **Table Tennis England Be TT Funding** : Support for clubs and leagues to re-engage existing members and potential new members. Be TT funding to fund activity helping clubs and leagues to be in a good position to re-start when restrictions have been lifted. More information can be found by [clicking here](#).

Table Tennis England are also working on further guidance in this area, including options for increasing session fees and adjusting session structures.

## Future support

- **Will the "Ready to Return" guidance be updated to a final version once we know the Governments final decision? Will we be advised so we can download this?**

The "Ready to Return" guidance documents are continually being updated as the Government release new updates about the current COVID19 situation. When we are able to return to indoor sport, we will send out the most up to date version via Over the Net and



a Clubs/Leagues update. The most up to date information will continue to be made available via the Ready to Return section of the Table Tennis England website.

- **If we have specific concerns about our Club or League, can we get in touch?**

If you have specific concerns about getting your club and league back up and running please get in touch. If you are unsure who to contact, please contact [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk).

We are also running specific one-to-on sessions with staff members on this topic. You can sign up here: <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/ready-to-return-survey-what-we-are-doing-to-support-our-members/>

- **Where can we find the information that we need?**

It is recommended that Clubs and Leagues regularly visit the Table Tennis England website, particularly the Ready to Return section. <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/ready-to-return/>

Key updates and announcements will be shared with Clubs and Leagues via the Club & League update emails. They will also be shared with all members via Over the Net.

- **Can we catch up on previous webinars, and are there any more planned?**

Yes, all previous webinars have been recorded and can be viewed on the Table Tennis England website. Details of upcoming webinars can also be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/club-webinars/>

In addition to webinars, throughout July, Table Tennis England will be running a series of Virtual Workshops in partnership with Club Matters. More information about these can be found here; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/virtual-club-workshops-launched/>