

## Laguna Woods Village | Conditional Re-Opening of Tennis Center

Effective: September 10, 2020 | Updated: April 15, 2021 | Expiration Date: TBD

### **BACKGROUND**

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a state of emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Subsequently, on March 19, 2020, the governor issued Executive Order N-33-20, which ordered all state residents to stay in place and identified certain essential functions that could remain operational. Additionally, the order stated that individuals must adhere to strict social distancing guidance.

On April 22, 2020, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) issued facility and programming and player recommendations. USTA recommendations are based on guidelines issued by the federal government on April 16, 2020, for “Opening Up America Again.” By following these guidelines, as well as those of local governments and health agencies, facilities and players will be able to make informed decisions as to when play can recommence.

On May 28, 2020, the USTA issued updated facility and programming and player recommendations. These updated recommendations are reinforced by recently issued directives from California’s Pandemic Roadmap and the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) and facilitate the update to this conditional reopening procedure.

Because tennis does not require direct person-to-person contact, players can enjoy the many physical and mental benefits that tennis offers so long as they practice physical distancing by keeping 6 feet apart from other players to ensure a safe exercise environment and follow other safety recommendations included in this procedure.

### **PURPOSE**

Safeguarding our community is of utmost importance. It is imperative that our community self-enforce and strictly adhere to the restrictions mandated by the federal, state and local governments. This procedure is intended to reduce risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, but is not a guarantee of your safety. Residents should use their own good judgment in determining the amount of risk of exposure in using any shared facilities or amenities. Risk of exposure involves many factors out of the control of the Village corporations and management, including the compliance (or noncompliance) and safe/unsafe behavior of others using the same facilities or amenities.

### **SCOPE**

This procedure establishes formal guidelines for the conditional reopening of Laguna Woods Village Tennis Center effective May 18, 2020 (for residents only), and a procedure for operating the Tennis Center during the COVID-19 crisis in compliance with federal, state and county guidance, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The procedure reflects Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advice that older adults

and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know now, those at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people 65 years and older. Activity should always be in line with the federal government's advised physical distancing measures defined by the CDC as keeping 6 feet apart.

Tennis Center management, with support from the recreation and special events director, are responsible for these activities.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. Applicability**

The Tennis Center will reopen to Laguna Woods Village residents only. No guests, nonplayers or spectators are permitted at the Tennis Center. Arrange to play only with family members or others who live in your household or with individuals who are considered to be low risk.

### **2. Hours**

Tennis Center hours are Monday thru Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Additional hours may be added by Tennis Center management once conformance with this procedure, as well as state, county and other applicable safety requirements is evident.

### **3. Singles and Doubles Play**

Singles matches are recommended to minimize incidental contact and unwanted proximity. When playing doubles, players must coordinate with their partner to maintain physical distancing measures defined by the CDC as keeping 6 feet apart.

### **4. Ball Machine use**

To use the ball machine, resident must make a court reservation via Kourts (see tennis provisions item No. 5). At the time of reservation, resident must check-in at Pool 2 to submit their ID card, retrieve key, remote and wipes. After completion of use, return ball machine, lock cabinet return key and remote to staff. Ball machine use is available 12 noon to 5 p.m.

### **5. Facilities**

Tennis Center facilities will remain closed (building, patio, vending machines). Management will adhere to USTA best practices for implementation to remain in compliance with state, county and other applicable safety requirements.

### **6. Safety Requirements**

#### **a. Touch points**

Touch points will be eliminated with the exception of on-court seating benches.

#### **b. Social distancing**

Activity should always be in line with the federal government's advised social distancing measures (defined by the CDC as keeping 6 feet apart), including when arriving at and departing from a court.

- c. Face coverings  
Face coverings must be worn in all areas until play begins on the court. Face coverings must also be worn after play is complete.
- d. Hand washing  
Wash your hands with a disinfectant soap and water (for 20 seconds or longer), or use a hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available before going to the court. Individuals should wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- e. Touching  
Avoid touching your face after handling a ball. Wash your hands promptly if you have touched your eyes, nose or mouth. Individuals should refrain from shaking hands or making a high five.
- f. Cleaning equipment  
Clean/ wipe down your tennis equipment, including racquets, tennis bag and water bottles. Staff will disinfect on-court benches at the beginning and end of each shift.
- g. Sharing equipment  
Do not share racquets or other equipment like wristbands, grips, hats and towels.
- h. Health  
Do not play if you are exhibiting symptoms of the coronavirus: mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing, or other symptoms identified by the CDC; have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or are a vulnerable individual. A vulnerable individual is an elderly individual and/or an individual with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

## **7. Completion of Play**

Upon completing play, individuals must exit through the side gate(s) and proceed directly to their car/cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregating in the Tennis Center or parking lot.

## **TENNIS PROVISIONS**

### **1. Scheduling**

Court time will be scheduled in 1.5-hour increments with a 15-minute change-over break to ensure there are no congregations of individuals waiting to start as well as to maintain social distancing at the Tennis Center. Tennis Center management may adjust scheduling to satisfy safety requirements.

- a. Reservation times
  - i. 7 to 8:30 a.m.
  - ii. 8:45 to 10:15 a.m.

- iii. 10:30 a.m. to noon
- iv. 12:15 to 1:45 p.m.
- v. 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- vi. 3:45 to 5:15 p.m.
- vii. 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- viii. 7:15 to 8:45 p.m.

## 2. Group size

Groups will be limited in size to four players. Players must maintain social distancing while on the court. Games are limited to singles or doubles matches only.

## 3. Ball machine use

Use of ball machine is available on court 9 from the hours of 12:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. Residents using the ball machine must retrieve key and remote from Pool 2 staff. Resident will need to leave their ID card with the attendant, sign the sign in sheet. After completion of use resident will lock up ball machine, return key and remote to staff.

## 4. Distance Between Groups/Players

Groups must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement at all times even when taking a break. Players must stay on their side of court. Avoid changing ends of the court.

## 5. Reservations

### a. Advance reservations

Advance reservations required. No walk-ons are permitted. Reservations can be scheduled 72 hours in advance online or by telephone.

### b. Reservations by online system

- i. Download the Kourts App on your smartphone from the App Store for iPhone or Google Play for Android devices.
- ii. Open the app, and click "Next" or "Skip" to scroll through the intro slides.
- iii. Click "Me" to log in at the bottom of the page (you will only need to do this once).
- iv. Choose "Connect with Email," and input your email listed in the community directory.
- v. Click "Search" to view a list of community clubs once you are logged in. Note: If your facility of choice delivers a "Verify Membership" message, contact Recreation staff to adjust your profile.
- vi. Click the facility, and click "Filter" to define available reservation space.
- vii. Locate and click the time you wish to reserve.
- viii. Click "**Singles**" or "**Doubles.**"
- ix. Enter the names of players you are playing with.
- x. Click "Add Booking".
- xi. Check your email for confirmation of your reserved date and time.
- xii. Click "Bookings" to cancel your reservation.
- xiii. Contact staff for assistance if you experience a registration system error:
  - o Peter; 949-597-4386, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- xiv. Contact Recreation to prepare your profile for use if you are a new resident by calling 949-597-4273 or emailing [recreation@vmsinc.org](mailto:recreation@vmsinc.org).
  - xv. Visit <https://www.kourts.com/clubs/intro-video> for more information.
- c. Resident identification number  
Each resident must have his or her resident identification number available when calling to schedule a reservation.
- d. Communication with group members  
The resident scheduling the reservation is responsible for informing his or her playing partner of the correct date and time. Players unable to check in with proper information may lose the reservation.

## **6. Tennis Center Check-in**

Players must not arrive more than 10 minutes before reservation time. Upon arrival to Tennis Center, confirm reservation with staff and go straight to the court. Both players in the group may be asked to show resident identification cards upon arrival. Staff will monitor court use and resolve any problems as necessary.

## **7. On the Court**

- a. Social distancing  
Players must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement at all times, including when sitting on the on-court benches.
- b. Balls  
Although unlikely, it's possible that a tennis ball can transmit the COVID-19 virus, as virtually any hard surface can transmit the disease. An extra precaution is required to keep safe when playing tennis:
  - i. Players must play with new tennis balls per match.
  - ii. Open two cans of tennis balls that do not share the same number on the ball.
  - iii. Take one set of numbered balls; your playing partner will take a set of balls from the other can.
  - iv. Proceed with play, making sure to pick up your set of numbered balls only. Should a ball with the other number wind up on your side of the court, do not touch the ball with your hands. Use your racquet head or feet to advance the ball to the other side of the court.
- c. Errant balls  
Return other courts' balls by kicking them or tapping them with your racquet.
- d. Touch points eliminated  
All touch points associated with the Tennis Center must be eliminated.
  - i. Gates must remain open during operating hours.
  - ii. Drinking fountains will be turned off. Players must bring own water.
  - iii. All score tenders will be taken off the courts to prevent touching. Players must keep score verbally.

- iv. All common-area chairs and tables will be removed. Players may bring their own chair.
- e. Other players' equipment  
Players should not handle other players' balls, racquets, towels or other equipment.
- f. Restrooms  
Players must wash hands with soap and water when entering and exiting facility.  
Adherence to 6-foot social distance protocol required.

**8. End of Play**

Players must exit through the back-side gates—not the main front entrance. Proceed directly to the car/cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregation in the Tennis Center or parking lot.