

Great Shelford Tennis Club Rules for court usage during Covid-19 Pandemic

Great Shelford Tennis Club is fully committed to following the LTA guidelines for safe use of our facilities for our members and coaches during the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. In line with Government guidelines for England released on Sunday 31st May, the courts are now open for managed play. In order to re-open the courts safely the committee has carried out two risk assessments both of which are published on the club's website.

Temporary Rules

Members wishing to use the courts must comply with the following temporary rules, based upon the LTA guidance, which will remain in place until such time as the guidelines change. A copy of the three LTA guidance papers (for venues, players and coaches) issued on 31st May 2020 are published on the club's website for you to view.

1. The courts are available for singles and doubles play. Doubles play with people outside your household is permitted as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible. Consider agreeing in advance which player will take the shot if a ball travels down the centre of the court.
2. Coached sessions should be limited to groups of no more than 6 people (including the coach).
3. Do not make any physical contact with other players and maintain social distancing at all times.
4. Avoid changing ends.
5. The clubhouse will remain locked. This means there will be no floodlit play until further notice.
6. The Pavilion will remain locked. This means there will be no toilet facilities available.
7. Members do not need to use their own clearly marked tennis balls – however, if you choose to use shared balls then extra care must be taken to ensure you do not touch your face during play, and you should clean your hands immediately after finishing.
8. Please take related rubbish home with you.
9. It is essential that members use alcohol hand gel prior to entering the courts and touching any of the court hardware. Use of the courts is not permitted unless hand gel is used prior to play. Hand gel should also be used after touching any court gates, fences, benches or other fixture. Avoid touching any surfaces whenever possible.
10. Court slots must be booked prior to arrival. Slots will be limited to 1 hour per booking and will be offset by 15 minutes to limit crossover of players. Please email secretary@gstc.org.uk to request a slot.
 - a. Please respect the court time limitations and leave the courts promptly at the end of your hour. Do **not** wait until the next booking arrives.
 - b. Please be considerate of other members wishing to use the courts when making bookings.
 - c. Coaches will have priority for court bookings between 9am and 4:15pm Monday-Friday.
 - d. At any other time, members have priority. Individual lessons can take place outside these times (subject to coach availability) but it is the responsibility of the member to book the court, not the coach.
 - e. Bookings will be visible on the court calendar on the website.
 - f. Slots will be available to book 14 days in advance.

- g. If you make a booking and find that you cannot keep it, please cancel it to allow other members to use the court time.
11. Respect the coaches. This is their place of work and they must feel safe here.
 - a. Avoid handling balls or other equipment belonging to a coach. If you need to handle the coaches' equipment in your lesson take extra care not to touch you face while playing and until you have washed your hands.
 - b. Understand that courts will be block-booked for individual lessons to allow the coaches to earn a living.
 - c. The 1 hour booking limit does not apply to coaches during their priority hours.
 12. The clubhouse will remain locked and may only be entered in an emergency to access the first aid kit. If the first aid kit is used the committee must be notified as cleaning of the surfaces will be required.
 13. The nets will be set at the correct height and mechanical net adjustment handles will be removed from the courts to reduce the risk of touch contamination.
 14. Any equipment used must be cleaned and wiped down after use. Use your own equipment where possible. Equipment such as rackets can be shared, but if this happens ensure thorough cleaning before and after use. Players should not share items such as towels.
 15. Entrance and exit to the club will be through separate marked gates. Please follow the signs.
 16. Do not congregate after playing. No extra-curricular or social activity should take place.

Player Responsibility

In addition to the above rules, the committee recommends that all members continue to follow good hygiene practices both before arriving at the courts and upon returning home. It is recommended that players wash their hands at home both before and after playing tennis.

Avoid touching your face without washing your hands first. As always please leave the courts in the condition you would wish to find them. Remove all personal rubbish and dispose of it at home.

Players must make their own assessment of risk in deciding whether to play tennis during the pandemic. GSTC cannot be held responsible for any transmission of the virus perceived to have taken place at the venue.

Court Booking

Under the new LTA guidance, we need to institute a court booking system which we have not needed before. We are looking for longer-term online solution. In the interim, if you wish to book a court please consult the court calendar before emailing secretary@gstc.org.uk. Incoming emails are checked regularly but we would appreciate as much notice as possible. Pre-determined slots are:

8-9
9.15-10.15
10.30-11.30
11.45-12.45
13.00-14.00
14.15-15.15
15.30-16.30
16.45-17.45
18.00-19.00
19.15-20.15