

RETURN TO ATF 14 & UNDER JUNIOR CIRCUIT PROCTOCOLS

The overall objective of this document is to describe the measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of participants at ATF 14 & under tour events. The below mentioned protocols are broadly based on the covid-19 protocols issued by ITF

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility to host tournament

In order to be eligible for addition to the ATF calendar, the following criteria must be met:

1. Government legislation must permit a tennis event to be held in the host country.
2. The host nation's borders must be open to international visitors, giving sufficient and reasonable access to that nation to players, as determined by the ATF. (for conducting Grade 2 events)
3. The organisers should declare in the application form that the covid-19 protocols and guidelines will be met in full.

Tournament framework during the Covid-19 pandemic

The framework below forms the basis for the minimum standards that all tournaments must meet in order to adequately protect the health and safety of participants in relation to Covid-19.

1. Physical distancing must be respected at all times by all participants and spectators.
2. Personal hygiene measures must be taken by all participants.
3. Methods of identifying potential cases of Covid-19 prior to entry to the tournament site and of identifying participants who may have been exposed to Covid-19 during a tournament must be implemented.
4. Consideration must be given to additional protection for vulnerable individuals.
5. The minimum number of participants required for the tournament to operate should be permitted on-site.
6. Players and support personnel must isolate from other participants and spectators, to the greatest possible extent.

Risk mitigation

The Covid-19 virus presents an elevated health risk to all participants. Steps to reduce that risk must be taken by all ATF tournaments and participants.

Note: nothing in this document precludes tournaments from going beyond the minimum specified standards where it considers it appropriate to do so, or where so required by local legislation.

PROTOCOLS INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Pre-event

1. Participants should establish and continue to review whether the host country has imposed any entry requirements, such as recent certificates of Covid-19 tests or restrictions based on travel history.
2. Participants will be required to confirm that they have read these ATF *Return to International Tennis Protocols*, will comply with the requirements in full, accept that they provide an adequate level of protection against the risk of transmission of Covid-19, and assume responsibility for any risk of participating.
3. All participants and, particularly, vulnerable individuals who may be at elevated risk of severe Covid-19 symptoms and those who have had Covid-19 are advised to consult with their personal doctors to determine whether it is safe for them to travel to, and participate in, each tournament.
4. Players and support personnel are advised to review the terms of their travel insurance and, where appropriate, consider taking out insurance against Covid-19-related risks (e.g. travel, health).
5. Participants should not travel to tournaments if they have had a positive Covid-19 test within the last 7 days, or if they have or have had any symptoms of Covid-19 within the last 7 days, or if they have been exposed to anyone who has Covid-19 or symptoms of Covid-19 within the last 14 days.

Off-site

6. Participants must minimise the time spent in locations to which the public has access, and especially locations that are crowded, noisy or in which close contact with the public is required. Face coverings must be worn at all times when indoors.
7. Participants must avoid dining in locations to which the general public has access (e.g. local restaurants/bars).
8. All participants must self-check their health daily, before leaving their accommodation and must not travel to the tournament site if any symptoms of Covid-19 (and, particularly, fever, new or persistent cough, loss or change in sense of taste and smell) are present, or if there has been any exposure to Covid-19.
9. Face coverings must be worn and physical distancing must be practiced at all times while using transport.

Site access

10. Before entering the tournament site, all participants must complete a daily self-declaration of being Covid-19 symptom-free and not having had any high-risk contacts in the last 14 days, and be subject to daily temperature screening. Only those

participants who comply with, and meet the requirements of, screening are permitted on-site.

11. Participants must comply with case management protocols if they fail to meet self-reporting or screening requirements. Participants must report positive Covid-19 tests or Covid-19 symptoms that happen within 14 days of the date on which they left the tournament venue.
12. Following a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, or following exposure to Covid-19, participants must comply with the ATF 'return to competition' protocols (as set out in the case management protocol).

On-site

13. All sign-in will be allowed remotely (online/telephone) also for the safety of the players. This will be subject to player being present physically in the city of the tournament.
14. A maximum of one support person per player will be permitted on-site for individual events, except for players who need essential physical assistance during competition, in which case such additional essential person(s) is permitted.

Competition

15. ATF practice and match protocols (available as a separate document) must be observed throughout a tournament.
16. Use of locker rooms (including for players, officials and ball persons) will be determined by the available space, such that physical distancing can be maintained at all times. No player support personnel are permitted in locker rooms, except for support personnel required to provide essential physical assistance.
17. Non-Covid-19 medical treatment will be limited to the reasonable time necessary for completion. Players must wear face coverings while obtaining medical treatment.
18. Participants must wear face coverings during anti-doping testing. Anti-Doping staff must comply with physical distancing, hygiene measures and daily screening.

Temperature Screening

The temperature of all participants must be checked daily prior to entry to the site. The use of a non-contact infrared thermometer (**NCITs**) is required for this purpose, as it avoids direct contact. This document describes the protocol for temperature screening at ATF tournaments.

- Temperatures should be measured in a sheltered area, out of direct sunlight.
- Ensure that the ambient conditions are within the acceptable range for the NCIT.
- The same brand/model of NCIT should be used at all entrance points.
- A suitably-trained tournament employee must collect temperatures.

- Record the result as either 'pass' or 'fail'. Do not record the actual temperature. The temperature allowed as pass would be 98.6, but could be higher as per local government regulations.

PRACTICE AND MATCH PROTOCOLS, INCLUDING TOWEL POLICY

Practice and match protocols are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19, by ensuring that all relevant hygiene precautions are taken and, where possible, physical distancing is maintained.

Note: On-court personnel are not required to wear masks, face coverings or gloves, but must comply with physical distancing and hygiene requirements at all times. For the avoidance of doubt, ball persons are permitted on-court. Players should not use tennis balls to cover their mouths when talking to their doubles partner.

COMMON PROTOCOLS

General

1. Players should arrive at the venue as close to their allotted starting time as is reasonable, unless the locker rooms are in use and physical distancing can be maintained.
2. Players should depart as soon as reasonably possible after his/her match, unless
 - Locker rooms are in use and physical distancing can be maintained;
 - The player is competing in another match on the same day;
 - The player is part of a team.
3. All on-court personnel (particularly players) should avoid raising their voices when facing each other.
4. Physical distancing shall be maintained by all on-court personnel at all times.
5. All personal items must be removed from the court, following use.
6. Where a tournament provides disposable (e.g. drinks) or single-use (e.g. towels) items, designated locations to discard these following use must be provided.
7. No shared-use items should be provided.

Physical distancing

Maintain physical distancing throughout.

Personal hygiene

1. Players shall not share any equipment.
2. Players may mark and divide the balls in use, to allow use of separate balls when serving;
3. Sanitiser, disinfecting wipes and tissues should be available for all on-court personnel.

Court hygiene

1. *Tournaments should be prepared for an increased demand for disposable items and towels.*
2. *This would include drinks coolers, unless hands-free access is provided.*
3. *Balls are shared equipment. Players should avoid handling the balls to the greatest reasonable extent.*
4. Disinfect all court fixtures between every practice/match.
5. Provide hygiene notices for players, officials and spectators.
6. Where on-court supplies (drinks, ice, towels, etc.) are provided, these should be replaced or disinfected before and after matches.

PRACTICE PROTOCOLS General

1. Only remote bookings (online or telephone) are permitted
2. If bookings are taken in person onsite it should be carefully handled with all protocols of social distancing being followed.

MATCH PROTOCOLS General

1. Adjoining courts simultaneously for practice and match play, providing that physical distancing requirements are met at all times.
2. *This includes players' and officials' chairs, chair umpires' scoring devices, towel holders and drinks coolers, coolers, ball box, net posts and strap, and team and ATF seating. Ball persons' cushions should be replaced with new ones.*
3. *NAs must ensure that they have enough cleaning staff employed to undertake the cleaning in the minimum time required, and no longer than ten minutes when there is another match due on court*
4. *All on-court food and drink must be removed and replenished after every match.*
5. *Entry and exit points should permit physical distancing.*
6. Ball numbers and changes shall be maintained as set out in the relevant regulations.
7. All on-court and post-match activities (including opening and closing ceremonies, trophy presentations and interviews) must comply with physical distancing requirements.
8. On-court officials are not required to wear gloves or face coverings, but must maintain personal hygiene at all times.

Physical distancing

Pre-match

1. Provide a pre-match holding area that permits physical distancing (where necessary).
2. No player should escort ball persons or other individual onto court.
3. During the pre-match coin toss.
4. By avoiding a pre-match handshake

5. *One person should be responsible for ball changes and should wash or sanitise their hands before and after doing so. Disinfecting the ball cans prior to opening is recommended.*
6. *Until there is evidence of a significant threat to the transmission of Covid-19 via tennis balls, repeated use of balls is not prohibited, although single use is recommended. Where balls are used repeatedly and a 'rest period' between successive uses is adopted, a minimum period of 72 hours is recommended.*
7. *Any request to depart from the Officiating Requirements must be approved in advance by the ATF office. Accommodation that permits physical distancing must be provided for the use of officials between assignments.*

After the match

1. Avoid a post-match handshake with the opponent or Chair Umpire;
2. Do not take selfies with spectators or sign autographs or throw/give any personal items to spectators.

TOWEL POLICY

1. Players must handle their own towels exclusively, i.e. do not request towels from, or give their towels to, ball persons at any point during the match.
2. Ball persons (and officials) are instructed to not handle players' towels at any time during a match.
3. Players are solely responsible for their towels during changeover (to be enforced by the Chair Umpire).
4. Designated locations for towels should be identified on each court, making certain that each player is using a different location for their towel at each end of the court.
5. Following every match, the towel area must be disinfected.
6. Where tournaments provide towels, a central location in which used towels can be discarded must be provided. Do not shake towels.
7. All towels provided by the tournament must be laundered after each match/practice at the highest appropriate temperature and dry thoroughly before further use.