



Playing Squash Safely

COVID-19 Accredited Event Protocols

This document gives US Squash's recommendations regarding the safe operation of US Squash accredited events. Understanding that each squash facility is different, US Squash will work with facilities to create safe playing opportunities for participants. Players or spectators failing to adhere to the following policies will be removed from the event and asked to leave the premises.

These recommendations should be used to guide decisions regarding play at US Squash accredited events and should only be applied after local, or state governments have authorized squash clubs to open and for events to be played.

For all people, the advice remains that anyone who feels unwell should stay at home. All vulnerable individuals are advised to continue to shelter in place. Vulnerable individuals are defined as elderly individuals or anyone with underlying health conditions, including but not limited to, high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma or other autoimmune disorders, and those whose immune system is compromised by chemotherapy or immunotherapy. Furthermore, those persons who live with a vulnerable individual should be equally cautious to prevent introducing an illness into the home inadvertently.

While every precaution will be taken to ensure the health and safety of players, it should also be clear that any person attending a squash event does so at their own risk.

By following these guidelines as well as those of local governments and health agencies, facilities and players should be able to make informed decisions as to their participation in a US Squash accredited tournament.

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text, graphics, images and information, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, US Squash makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, you should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if you have specific questions about the return to squash play at your club.



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General Facility Requirements

Only US Squash COVID approved facilities will be approved to host US Squash accredited events. Please see separate guidance ([COVID Approved Facilities – Standards](#)) covering the facility approval process which covers entry and exit, testing, air handling, sanitisation operational protocols as well as facility layout and technology services.

In addition, when hosting events, facilities must enforce the following

- Players and spectators must maintain a 6ft distancing from other people (except household members) when not on court.
- Masks must be worn by everyone in the facility including players on court. Acceptable masks are surgical masks or performance/cloth masks that fit with straps around the head or ears. Masks with vents are not acceptable. Bandanas, gators and buffs are also not acceptable.

The CDC cautions that people engaged in high intensity activities may not be able to wear a mask if it causes difficulty breathing. If unable to tolerate a mask people may not be able to return to play safely at this time. If you exhibit any unusual symptoms such as feeling lightheaded, dizzy, or developing shortness of breath you should stop immediately. Any player with an underlying cardiac or respiratory condition should discuss returning to play with their primary care provider. Any player who has anyone in the home with underlying health problems is cautioned against playing at this time.

- Courts must be cleaned between matches per the sanitisation and hygiene policy in place at the facility. Supplemental court cleaning / air exchange using a portable HEPA filter is preferred.

Entry/Occupancy

- Depending on maximum gathering limitations specified by local, state or federal authorities, players will be able to bring up to one pre-designated person only into the facility with them throughout the tournament.
- Players must enter a valid contact number at the time of registration for the tournament
- Players will be contacted by tournament staff when the match prior to theirs has been completed. They will only be allowed into the facility at that time.

Play

- An area for players bags will be designated for each court and all players should keep all their items in their bags. This area will be sanitized between sessions by a designated staff member.
- No practice balls will be made available.
- Every match will start with a new ball
- Availability of a warm up area will be subject to individual facilities and may not be available. Players should plan to warm up outside if necessary.



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- Players should not shake hands with their opponents or the referees on completion of their match. Tipping rackets is preferred.
- Players should expect to wear a mask during play. (See above)
- Players must not speak or shout when playing.
- Players should use hand signals to request a let.
- Players should refrain from wiping their hands on the court walls.
- Players should bring a towel and extra masks on court (to be stored in a box at the tin) to minimize stoppages during a game should they need to change masks or wipe off sweat.

Refereeing

- The winner of the previous match will be expected to referee the match after theirs.
- All scoring devices will be sanitized between matches.
- Referees should leave the facility immediately the match they are refereeing has finished.

Spectators

- Spectators must stand in pre-designed spaces behind the court to keep to physical distancing requirements while the game is in play.
- Spectators must not speak during the match, including cheering. They may applaud using hands.
- Spectators may coach a player during the interval between games.

Technology

- Facilities must use Club Locker to support their event
- All matches must be live scored
- Live streaming capability is preferred

Food and Beverage

- Players should be prepared to bring their own food and water.