

GUIDANCE FOR PLAYING TENNIS



**EDGBASTON
PRIORY CLUB**

UNDER COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Updated 26th July 2020

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome members back to the club and onto our wonderful courts, giving you the opportunity to come out of lockdown and play tennis.

To ensure we can deliver you the best and safest experience possible, we set out below key information and court etiquette which are in place both to protect members' health and safety and ensure maximum enjoyment.

This **temporary** guide to playing tennis during Covid-19 is based on the Government and LTA guidelines and is regularly reviewed and updated as further restrictions are lifted and new guidance produced. Members are asked to be patient as we take the necessary time to safely implement any new guidelines in a way appropriate for our own circumstances.

A more detailed Q&A may be found on the [LTA Website](#)

WHO CAN PLAY?

All categories of playing membership can play on the outdoor courts. This includes Racquets, Tennis, Squash and Leisure/Lifestyle members. Indoor courts are restricted to Tennis, Tennis & Squash and Racquets playing members.

This decision will be reviewed at the end of July.

However, please note the following important LTA and government advice:

Do not leave your home to play tennis if government advice means you should stay at home because you or someone you live with has or has had symptoms of COVID-19, or you have been advised to shield from the coronavirus.

WHAT FORMAT CAN WE PLAY?

Singles play and doubles play is now permitted with people from outside of your household, as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible – meaning that four people from different households can now play doubles.

Coached sessions should be limited to groups of no more than 6 people, including the coach(es).

WHEN ARE THE COURTS OPEN?

All indoor and outdoor courts are open from 8am – 9pm (last booking 8pm) weekdays and 7pm (last booking 6pm) at weekends. Grass courts will be opened on the day and as determined by the Groundsteam based on weather conditions.

Updated 26th July 2020

COURT AVAILABILITY FOR RACQUET PLAYING MEMBERS

IN ADVANCE (up to 7 days)

OUTDOOR ARTIFICIAL SURFACES

The following courts are available to book in advance:

Courts: 9, 14,15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27 & 28.

INDOOR COURTS

INDOOR TENNIS CENTRE

From Saturday 25th July, indoor courts 1-6 will be available to book

We are of course very hopeful that the remainder of July and the months of August and September will be kinder from a weather viewpoint so you can enjoy playing in the sunshine on the outdoor courts. However, if inclement weather or the need for overflow use dictates the indoor courts will be available as follows:

During the weekdays in the summer, one indoor court will be used between the hours of 9am to 5pm for Kids Camp. As you will imagine there has been a huge demand for Kids Camp from our family members who have been home-schooling for the last four months.

COURTS 7&8

In order to provide socially distanced fitness classes in significant numbers for all our members, indoor court 7 will be allocated to fitness classes over the summer. This will be reviewed as restrictions are lifted. Court 8 will be used for Kids Camp activities during the day.

Indoor bookings can be made up to 7 days in advance with timing of slots and rules to remain the same as Pre-Covid lockdown, as detailed on Mycourts.

ON THE DAY

Grass courts are released on the day, weather permitting.

COURT AVAILABILITY FOR LEISURE/LIFESTYLE MEMBERS

Whilst there has not been a huge demand for courts from our Leisure/Lifestyle members, we would like to keep this option for those members who have taken to the courts. We want to encourage as many members as possible to fall in love with game and upgrade to tennis/racquets membership in the future.

IN ADVANCE (up to 7 days):

Updated 26th July 2020

Court 27 and 28 on Priory School will be available to book **in advance** for Leisure/Lifestyle members.

ON THE DAY

Any sessions not booked on courts: 9, 14,15, 16, 17, 21 & 22 (these are artificial grass, clay and hard courts) will be available for Leisure/Lifestyle members to book on the day.

A mini-tennis net and a pop-up squash wall are available to use on court 9 for young families to enjoy. There is also a tennis practice wall which can be used to either revive rusty skills or improve your technique.

HOW DO I BOOK A COURT?

Bookings are made through the MyCourts system and all courts must be booked prior to play, walk on play is not permitted. To ensure fair access, courts may only be booked for one hour, regardless of singles or doubles play.

The opening time for booking on Mycourts will be changed from 6.30am to 7am with effect from Monday 10th August but we will make every effort to make this available as soon as possible.

If you have any difficulty with using MyCourts please contact Sue Harris (sue.harris@edgbastonpriory.com)

WHAT ARE THE BOOKING RULES AND PROCEDURES?

As promised we have been continually reviewing booking patterns and we plan to start a phased return to 30 minute slots and the standard outdoor booking rules beginning with the Priory School courts and 9, 21 & 22 starting from week commencing 10th August or earlier if possible.

Please note the following additional guidelines:

- Bookings are available 7 days in advance not 14.
- To maximise on the court time available & support your fellow members can you please ensure you book consecutively to avoid any risk of any 30-minute slots being left open.

We will continue to review the booking patterns of courts 21,22,14,15,16&17 and align them with the standard outdoor booking rules when appropriate.

The booking rules for other courts are as follows:

- Members only can book to use the courts and club until further notice. No visitors or guests are permitted
- All outdoor courts are free of charge including floodlights
- Booking sessions are for **60** minutes duration across all courts
- Advance bookings can be made daily up to 7 days in advance

Updated 26th July 2020

- Based on projected high demand and to give all members a fair opportunity members may only make one advance booking a day for a maximum of **60** minutes, regardless of whether you are the booker or the opponent.
- With effect from Monday 6th July a maximum of one additional hour may be booked on the day.
- In order to comply with the Government's track and trace programme, it is absolutely imperative that opponents names are added to a booking. With the uncertainty surrounding the spread of coronavirus, to ensure the health and safety of members and staff we must know who is and has been on site each day.
- Members will be required to enter the names of opponents by 8pm the night before play as an absolute minimum. If the names are not added by 8pm, courts will be cancelled.
- Members must cancel courts as far in advance as possible if they are unable to make their reserved time. If any member is seen to be consistently booking and not turning up / cancelling the booking they may risk having their booking access revoked for up to 7 days.
- Some courts may be allocated in advance by the Racquets Manager or office for other club activities. These will be pre-booked and visible on MyCourts as they are not available for member booking at these times

WHAT HAPPENS TO MEMBERS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE BOOKING RULES?

Thank you to the majority of members who have followed the booking rules. As you will understand these rules are designed to give fair access to all and enable us to track usage from a safety and capacity viewpoint.

Any court bookings without opponents' names entered will be cancelled off the system at 8pm on the previous night. Staff will not chase members to complete this the night before.

In addition, any proven, deliberate entry of false names to gain an unfair advantage over fellow members (sadly this has happened on a small number of occasions) will result in the loss of seven days booking rights.

WHAT'S THE PROCESS FOR ACCESSING THE CLUB AND COURTS?

- Please ensure you wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home to come to the club (or use an alcohol gel if washing hands is not possible) and on your return home.
- **From 25th July access will be available from both Sir Harry's Road and the Priory Road.**
- Please only come to the club if you have booked a court and no more than 15 minutes prior to your start time.

- From 25th July, please ensure you check in for your court via the kiosks in the clubhouse or ITC. All players must check-in for the courts to ensure we are compliant with track and trace.
- Please ensure you maintain social distance (2 metres apart) when walking to and from your court.

HOW DO I STAY SAFE? (BOOK, ARRIVE, PLAY & GO)

To ensure we comply with the social distancing guidelines, please ensure you maintain safe distance at all times, observe the signage and any direction from staff on site.

- Please do not congregate in groups pre or post booking. Always leave safe distance between you and other members when you are walking to and from courts or car parks.
- Limited changing facilities will be available from 25th July in the clubhouse and ITC. Members are advised wherever possible to shower and change at home.
- For safe changeover between court bookings please ensure a safe distance of >2m is left around the court entry point and allow all the members who have completed their booking to leave court before the new booking enters.
- Stay at least two metres away from other players at all times (including during play, when taking breaks and before and after play)
- Avoid changing ends during sets or shake hands. If you do wish to change ends, do so using opposite ends of the net.
- For doubles, consider agreeing in advance which player will take the shot if a ball travels to the centre of the court
- Players are advised 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 before play and immediately after finishing (use alcohol gel if required)
- Players should avoid using their hands to pick up tennis balls from other courts where possible - use your racquet/foot to return them
- Clean and wipe down your equipment, including racquets and water bottles before and after use
- To reduce the risk of spread of the virus we strongly advise members to change their grip on a regular basis
- Equipment including net poles, measuring sticks, net adjusting handles, brushes, benches and waste bins have been removed from courts to protect against common touch points. Please ensure you take all your waste with you and don't leave anything on court.
- Nets will be periodically checked and courts dragged at agreed times by the grounds team and reflected on Mycourts booking system.
- Access gates to court playing areas have been removed to protect against common touch points.

DRESS CODE

Only clothing specifically designed for fitness and tennis sports activity is permitted (eg no football shirts) and wear shoes which are flat-soled and non-marking.

ETIQUETTE ON COURT

There are certain courtesies employed by all tennis players to avoid disruption to play:

- If you need to cross a court on which others are playing, wait until the end of the rally in progress, then cross by the net as quickly as possible.
- Do not cross the back of an unscreened court on which others are playing until the end of the rally.
- Return tennis balls which have come onto your court from an adjacent court as soon as possible, but always wait until the end of a rally. Please ensure you return balls using your foot or racquet head – do not pick up other people's balls.
- Do not wander across the back of an adjacent court on which other Members are playing to retrieve your tennis balls; wait until they are returned or ask the players on that court to return them to you once they have concluded playing their point.
- Do not make excessive noise on court, or while walking alongside courts which are in use.

IS THERE ANY COACHING AVAILABLE?

Under the current guidelines coaching may take place up to a maximum of 5 people plus the coach.

A summer programme of adult and junior coaching is live and available to book via [Clubspark](#).

If you are interested in booking more in-depth one-to-one or group coaching please contact leyla.ogan@edgbastonpriory.com who will be able to put you in touch with the right coach for you.

WHEN WILL SOCIAL TENNIS RESUME?

The LTA has recently confirmed that clubs can host activities and club nights on completion of an Event Delivery Plan to ensure safe operation and social distancing is maintained. Having completed the plan we are really pleased and excited to confirm that Social Tennis sessions will return on Tuesday 4th August albeit in a bit different format.

As we are sure you will appreciate Social Tennis needs to be on a more controlled basis in the same way as leisure activities which may feel a bit strange at first but will still be great fun.

The format is as follows:

- Three Sessions per week: Tuesday 10am-12pm / Wednesday 6pm-8pm / Sunday 2pm-4pm.
- Maximum 24 places which must be pre-booked in the same way as Swimming, Gym and Fitness Classes through Mycourts under 'Fitness Activities'.

Updated 26th July 2020

- There will be 4 x 30 minute slots with pairings and rotations planned in advance by Leyla & Abbey keeping players of a similar standard together as much as possible while maintaining a fun element of course.
- During waiting time, table tennis and pickleball will be reserved for Social Tennis use to keep everybody active and warmed up.

So book your place, meet outside the pavilion at least 10 minutes before start time and let the Social Tennis begin. Also remember it's not just about the tennis it's about meeting other members and having a drink, some food and generally unwinding in the Clubhouse afterwards.

BLOCK BOOKINGS

Due to the potential risk of changes to Government and LTA guidelines and the uncertainty when courts 7&8 will return to tennis use, Block Bookings will not be available in 2020. On the basis that we are unable to guarantee bookings, it is not deemed fair to take payments in advance from members for a service that may not be deliverable.

We will review at the end of 2020 for possible reintroduction Q1 2021.

WHEN WILL TENNIS EVENTS RESUME?

We had a full year of events planned for 2020 which can no longer take place due to Covid-19. We will continue to review Government Guidelines this year to assess the possibility of running the following events in Q4:

- Club Championships
- Memorial Tournament
- Festive Tournament
- The Generation Cup in aid of St. Mary's Hospice

The whole events calendar will be relaunched for 2021.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any issues booking courts please contact Sue Harris:

sue.harris@edgbastonpriory.com

For any tennis queries contact Leyla Ogan or Abbey Marshall

leyla.ogan@edgbastonpriory.com

abbey.marshall@edgbastonpriory.com

We look forward to seeing you onto court.

The EPC Team

Updated 26th July 2020