

# CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN TENNIS

Updated: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021



## COVID-19

### RETURN TO AFRICAN COMPETITIONS' PROTOCOLS FOR TOURNAMENT HOSTS/ORGANISERS & FOR PARTICIPANTS

#### KEY PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS APPLIED THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The overall objective of this document is to describe the measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of participants in African Junior Tennis Events. The below mentioned protocols are broadly based on the covid-19 protocols issued by ITF.

#### MEASURES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS ON-SITE:

- Maintain physical distancing at all times.
- Wear masks (cover mouth and nose) while off-court for all participants.
- Wash/sanitize your hands regularly.
- Avoid touching surfaces where possible.
- Cough into a tissue and discard it immediately.
- Do not touch your face.
- Do not share any personal items.
- Do not attend the venue if you experience COVID-19 symptoms.

## For Tournament Hosts / Organisers

### **General information:**

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.
3. Each host organiser must, on application to host a tournament, confirm that it will implement the minimum standards set out in the 'risk mitigation' section of this document.

### **Tournament framework during the Covid-19 pandemic**

4. Physical distancing must be respected at all times by all participants and spectators
5. Personal hygiene measures must be taken by all participants.
6. 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.
7. Consideration must be given to additional protection for vulnerable individuals.
8. The minimum number of participants required for the tournament to operate should be permitted on-site.
9. **Risk mitigation:** The COVID-19 virus presents an elevated health risk to all participants. Steps to reduce that risk must be taken by all African Tennis Events 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.*

10. It is strongly recommended to check the latest World Health Organisation advice here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
11. Take all necessary action, including isolation, in case an athlete is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms.
12. Isolation room in place.
13. Devise a business continuity protocol (in case of infection). Establish protocols if COVID-19 symptoms are developed on-site.
14. Report all confirmed COVID-19 cases to the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT).
15. The CAT, the relevant National Association and the Tournament Organiser will immediately investigate the potential cancellation if necessary of any African Junior Event in case of a positive tests confirmation on-site.

### **Pre-event**

16. A COVID-19 Officer must be appointed and identified to Confederation of African Tennis and is responsible for all matters related to COVID-19 before, during and after the event. The officer must be in constant contact with the on-call doctor before, during and after the event.
17. Assign an on-call Tournament Doctor, who must have knowledge of dealing with COVID-19 patients and have the means to conduct a COVID-19 test within 24 hours.
18. A risk assessment, relevant to the context of the tournament, and describing the COVID-19 risk factors and mitigation measures that will be taken to protect the health of participants, must be completed in advance of the tournament.

## For Participants

(players / coaches / accompanying persons)

### **Pre-event**

1. Participants should establish and continue to monitor 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 the CAT COVID-19 return to competition 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 / coaches / accompanying persons 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 10 days, or if they have or have had any symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 10 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

19. Details of a local venue (i.e. hospital, testing centre etc.) that provides COVID-19 testing services at participant's expense must be made available to participants.

20. Tournament hosts should make reasonable efforts to obtain insurance to cover cancellation of the tournament due to COVID-19.

#### **Off-site**

21. Official tournament accommodation must be suitable for players and must meet the requirements of the Tour Regulations, Minimum Standards and African Tennis Player Welfare Policy.

22. Such accommodation must be screened prior to it being proposed on the tournament fact sheet; it is recommended that a tournament representative personally conducts a check of the hotel.

23. Where possible, tournaments should propose/offer a hotel that is dedicated (or has a dedicated section) for tournament participants, located close to the tournament venue.

24. Health, Safety and security must be the key factors in the selection of official accommodation, in terms of its physical location, transportation and access.

25. The COVID-19 protocols of official hotels must be made available if requested.

26. Physical distancing must be maintained prior to entry to the site by all participants (which includes players, support personnel/coaches/accompanying persons, officials, tournament staff and any other credentialed individual). Hand-washing with soap and water or sanitizer must be made available at all entry points.

#### **Site access**

27. 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 a daily temperature screening. Only those participants who comply with, and meet the requirements of, screening are permitted on-site.

28. Case management and notification protocols must be implemented if a participant does not meet the requirements of the screening, or if any person reports being positive for Covid-19 or reports Covid-19 symptoms within 14 days of the date on which they left the tournament venue.

#### **Monitoring/Controlling:**

29. Accreditation for all participants (which includes players, support personnel / coaches / accompanying persons, officials, tournament staff and any other credentialed individual) involved in the Tournament.

30. Maintain contact details of all persons entering / involved in the tournament and players, accompanying persons/coaches and any other persons entering the venues.

31. Mandatory temperature screening every day (Fever 38°C or above) by Tournament personnel for players, accompanying persons, coaches, tournament staff, officials daily at controlled entrance points (contact less infrared thermometer).

32. Trace contacts in case on-site infection found.

#### **On-site**

33. Tournament staff/security must be trained to implement COVID-19 procedures, including the use of thermometers and Personal Protective Equipment (known as 'PPE') at all relevant times, including site entry and exit and indoors.

34. All sign-in must be remote (online/telephone)

35. The fewest number of on-court officials required to provide the appropriate level of

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. Mandatory temperature screening every day (Fever 38°C or above) by Tournament personnel for players, accompanying persons, coaches, tournament staff, officials daily at controlled entrance points (contact less infrared thermometer).

12. 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.

13. Players, coaches/accompanying persons must be on-site with their own mask (covering mouth and nose) and wear it at all times unless on court. The only exception for not wearing a mask is while being outdoors and physical distancing measures are kept.

14. Following a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, or following exposure to COVID-19, participants must comply with the COVID-19 return to competition protocols (as detailed below).

#### **On-site**

15. All sign-in must be remote (online / telephone), also for the safety of the players. This will be subject to player being present physically in the city of the tournament.

16. A maximum of one support person / coaches / accompanying 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

officiating must be used.

36. Only essential staff movement around the site must be permitted.
37. Adequate ventilation must be provided in all high-use, multiple-occupancy indoor spaces, where possible.
38. All additional activities (player's parties, site visits, additional sports, etc.) must be cancelled. At award/prize giving ceremonies, physical distancing must be respected throughout, including face coverings.
39. In all on-site amenities (hospitality, player dining; player/team lounge, tournament offices), physical distancing and hygiene must be respected at all times.
40. Media are permitted on-site (including journalists, TV camera operators, live scoring etc.), but must comply with physical distancing, hygiene and screening requirements.
41. No visitor may enter the site perimeter boundary, within which access is controlled, unless they are subject to the same screening requirements as participants.
42. All areas of the tournament venue that are used by participants should be subject to regular and sufficiently frequent disinfection.
43. Adequate on-site signage must be provided as an aid to compliance with physical distancing and hygiene precautions at all key points around the venue, but particularly in the toilets and areas where surfaces are likely to be touched.
44. Reliable communication systems must be in place, such as mobile telephones, walkie-talkies or other devices, capable of operation in an emergency.
45. "First aid" medical services must be provided on-site.
46. Masks (covering mouth and nose) compulsory for personnel and officials on and off court. The only exception for not wearing a mask, is while being outdoors and physical distancing measures are kept.
47. Each player must be provided with their own bench/chairs, placed at opposites' sites of the court.
48. Plan for staff absences. Maintain all staff contact details for contact tracing.
49. Officiating requirements are according to existing regulations. The exceptions are that there will be no lines people or ball kids.
50. Balls must be used for one match only.
51. Increase frequency of official transportation, if provided. Cars or buses must be thoroughly cleaned and check the passenger numbers permitted according to the local authorities.
52. The following World Health Organization hygiene notices must be printed and displayed in a prominent position on site:



additional essential person(s) is permitted.

17. Players, coaches / accompanying persons must be on-site with their own hand sanitizer.
  18. Increase the frequency of hand washing with soap or hand sanitizer, in conjunction with regular disinfection of heavily used areas (toilets, changing rooms, showers, restaurants etc) and surfaces.
  19. Mandatory temperature screening every day at controlled entrance points and if they are entitled to participate in the Tournament (contact less infrared thermometer).
  20. No physical contacts and no handshake (before, during or after a match).
  21. Sharing of equipment is prohibited (towels, bottles, racquets, etc.).
  22. At changeovers, go around opposite sides of the net.
  23. Players or tournament staff must clean the bench and/or chair after play (with latex gloves, soap and paper provided by the club).
  24. Strongly recommended to check the latest World Health Organisation advise here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- Competition**
25. Practice and match protocols must be observed throughout a tournament.
  26. Use of locker rooms (including for players, officials) will be determined by the available space, ensuring 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.
  27. Non-COVID-19 medical treatment will be limited to the reasonable time necessary for completion. Players must wear face coverings while obtaining medical treatment.
  28. Participants must wear face coverings during anti-doping testing. Anti-Doping staff must comply with physical distancing, hygiene measures and daily screening.

### **Competition**

53. Practice and match protocols must be implemented.
54. Use of locker rooms (including for players and officials) must be determined by the available space, ensuring that physical distancing can be maintained at all times. No player support personnel are permitted in locker rooms except.
55. Non-COVID-19 medical treatment will be limited to the reasonable time necessary for completion. Players must wear face coverings while obtaining medical treatments.
56. Anti-doping staff (where present) must comply with physical distancing, hygiene measures and daily screening. Participants must wear face coverings during Anti-Doping testing.

### **Hygiene**

57. Ensure that tournament surfaces are cleaned and sterilized throughout the day and regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces.
58. Make hand sanitizer (disinfection bottles) and soap available throughout your tournament facilities (toilets, changing rooms, restaurant, club, entry/exit points etc.) at all time during the event.
59. Ensure that food services meet appropriate hygiene standards, with all individuals handling food wearing personal protection equipment including aprons, gloves, and masks.
60. Players or Tournament staff must clean the bench and/or chair after play (with latex gloves, soap and paper provided by the club). Provision of containers for all disposable items.

### **COVID-19 Officer and the on-call tournament doctor:**

61. Covid-19 Officer or team must be present at all times at the club during the Tournament.
62. Monitoring on-site health protocols.
63. Visitation daily at the club mandatory by the on-call doctor. The doctor will need to be in constant contact with the COVID-19 Officer, tournament staff and local authorities.
64. Have a plan in place to quickly and efficiently implement a mass quarantine procedure if necessary.
65. Take all necessary actions, including isolation, medical screening, and communication flow in case any person involved in the tournament is presenting symptoms of COVID-19.
66. The on-call Tournament Doctor must have knowledge of dealing with COVID-19 patients and have the means to conduct a COVID-19 test within 24 hours.
67. Report all confirmed Covid-19 cases to the CAT.

### **General**

#### **Practice Protocols**

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

#### **Match Protocols**

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 teams' seating.
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. On-court officials are not required to wear gloves or face coverings, but must maintain personal hygiene at all times.

## **MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 CASES AT THE TENNIS EVENT VENUE**

The protocols set out below should be followed for the management of participants who present with COVID-19 symptoms. Local government regulations and public health requirements – where more stringent than this protocol – take precedence

1. Responds to the daily self-declaration questionnaire upon entry to the site that they have any of the following COVID-19 symptoms or self-reports any of these symptoms at any other time: - **Fever (38° C or above).** - **New or persistent cough.** - **A change or loss in the senses of taste or smell.** - **Cold-like symptoms.** - **Congestion or runny nose.** - **Sneezing.** - **Sore throat.**
2. Has a measured temperature upon entry to the site of 38°C or above.

### **Off-site occurrence**

The affected participant must not attend or be allowed access to the tournament site, unless there is a Tournament Doctor available immediately and the site has an isolation room close to the entry point into which the participant can be immediately placed without coming into contact with any other person. In any event, that person must immediately report his/her possible infection to the COVID-19 Officer (or, if the infection/symptoms occur within 14 days after the tournament, to the CAT). The COVID-19 Officer must inform the Tournament / Independent Doctor.



### **On-site occurrence**

The affected participant must report the case to the COVID-19 Officer immediately on becoming aware of his/her (possible) infection. The COVID-19 Officer must inform the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) and transfer the affected individual to a designated location for isolation/quarantine, where he/she should be assessed by the Tournament/Independent Doctor, if available within a reasonable time.

If possible, the affected individual should be subject to a PCR (or approved equivalent) test.

### **Option A**

If (a) a PCR (or equivalent) test is conducted and is positive, or if the result is not available at the appropriate time (immediately, for a match in progress, or otherwise prior to the player's next match), (b) the Tournament/Independent Doctor determines that the affected individual has COVID-19 or cannot rule out that the affected individual does not have COVID-19, or (c) no PCR (or equivalent) test is conducted on-site, then:

- Where the affected individual is a player. The Tournament/Independent Doctor will recommend to the Tournament Referee that the affected individual is ruled ineligible to compete in his/her next match or to complete the match in progress. The Tournament/Independent Doctor will also recommend to the COVID-19 Officer that the affected individual should be evacuated from the site.

- Where the affected individual is not a player. The Tournament/Independent Doctor will recommend to the COVID-19 Officer that the affected individual should be evacuated from the site and is not permitted to continue to participate in the tournament.

The relevant part(s) of the 'Subsequent actions and return to competition' section (below) should be followed.

### **Option B**

If the Tournament/Independent Doctor determines that the affected individual does not have COVID-19 and does not pose an immediate health risk to him / herself or other participants, then:

- Where the affected individual is a player, the Tournament/Independent Doctor will recommend to the Tournament Referee that the affected individual remains eligible to participate in the tournament, where the schedule permits such participation.

- Where the affected individual is not a player, the Tournament/Independent Doctor will recommend to the COVID-19 Officer that the affected individual be permitted to remain on-site and continue to participate in the tournament.

### **Subsequent actions and return to competition**

**1.** Where he/she is not already quarantined, instruct the affected individual to wear a face mask at all times (or, if not available, face covering)

**2.** Notify the local public health authorities (as necessary) and the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT).

**3.** Return the affected individual to their accommodation, ensuring that the appropriate precautions are taken to protect anyone who may come into contact with the affected individual

**4.** If they were sharing a room, relocate the affected individual to a single room with en-suite facilities, if possible. Note: the person with whom the room was being shared must also be quarantined (for 14 days from the date of last exposure to the affected individual), unless it is confirmed that the affected person has COVID-19 (in which case, the quarantine should last for 10 days from the date of last exposure) or does not have COVID-19 (in which case, the quarantine can stop).

**5.** Conduct a Covid-19 PCR (or equivalent) test as soon as possible. Where this is not possible, the affected individual must be quarantined for 10 days after the date on which symptoms started, unless otherwise directed by local requirements or the Tournament/Independent Doctor. If a COVID-19 PCR (or equivalent) is conducted and the results of that test (or an on-site test) are received:

**a.** If the result is positive, the affected individual must be isolated in accordance with local requirements (normally, for 7-10 days from the date of the test). An affected individual may be permitted to return to his/her home, providing that he/she can do so without risking infecting others;

**b.** If the result is negative, then a second test should be taken, no sooner than 24 hours later\*. If the result of the second test is positive, then follow section 5(a).

If the result of the second test is negative, then (provided that a minimum of 72 hours from the onset of the suspected Covid-19 symptoms that triggered this protocol to the date of the second test has elapsed) the quarantine can stop and the affected individual may return to participate in tournaments.

*\*This is based on the 'false negative' rates of PCR (or equivalent) tests. Only a second negative result will be taken as confirmation that the participant does not have Covid-19.*

**6.** If no testing is available, or if a first test is negative, but no second test is taken, the affected individual shall be quarantined for 10 days since the last known date of exposure.