



SQUASH ONTARIO

Return to Play Guidelines for Club Administrators, Players, Coaches and Anyone Organizing Squash Activities

Overview:

Squash Ontario will develop and publish updated Return to Play recommendations for all stakeholders in a phased-in approach over the coming months. These will be made in consultation with Squash Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Sport, local and provincial health officials, our insurance provider, our legal counsel and the Squash Ontario COVID-19 Return to Play Task Force. Squash Ontario's goal is to be a leader in the long-term development and implementation of strategies that allow our sport to be played sustainably, safely and responsibly into the future.

Resources:

The COVID-19 Return to Play Task Force is comprised of Dr. Shivinder Jolly, Dr. Anne Smith, Dr. Kirsteen Burton, Dr. Scott Gledhill, Eric Baldwin, Anis Khan, Bree Holt, Gordon Campbell and Jamie Nicholls. This group represents leading health care, legal, and facility management experts that have volunteered their expertise to Squash Ontario.

This Task Force will use the [Squash Canada Return to Play Recommendations](#) as a baseline document to make more specific policies and recommendations for stakeholders in the province of Ontario. These policies and recommendations have been designed to take into account the wide variety of clubs and facilities in Ontario. Squash Ontario will also compile a database of additional reference material and best practices to support those clubs and facilities that require it.

Squash and COVID-19

Squash is an individual contact sport played in close proximity within enclosed indoor spaces, and in Ontario has a significant demographic of "over-50" players. Consequently, squash has many risk factors for exposure to the virus which causes COVID-19, as well as potentially poorer COVID-19 outcomes. Due to these risk factors, all players returning to the sport must do so **at their own risk** and should seek further medical advice where necessary.



PHASE 1 OPENING OF SQUASH COURTS – JUNE 1ST, 2020

Amendment

As of June 17, Squash Ontario's Phase 1 Return to Play Guidelines are amended to permit players who have been living in the same household for the prior 14 days to practice and/or play together, subject to the facility and players adhering to the recommendations and requirements set forth below.

1. Before opening its squash courts, the club or facility must ensure that it is compliant with all requirements of relevant government and health authorities relating to their general facility management – visit Ontario.ca for more information. Clubs and facilities should consult with their insurers to ensure compliance with relevant policies.
2. All lounge areas should be cleared, and touch water fountains should be deactivated and cordoned off (if feasible).
3. Signage that reflects these recommendations and subsequent updates should be clearly posted at facility entrances/exits and by each court.
4. Only one player may solo practice on a singles or doubles squash court in Phase 1. Squash Ontario will provide an update when two members of the same household are permitted to play together on one court under Ontario legislation.
5. Players must sign a declaration of health each time he/she enters the club or facility, and any waiver forms required by the club or facility.
6. Players must wear a mask when entering and exiting the club or facility. There must be hand sanitizer or motion-operated washing stations, hand tissues and garbage bins with disposable liners available outside of, but in close proximity to, the courts. Players must wash or sanitize their hands immediately before entering the court, and immediately after leaving the court. Players should also wash or sanitize their hands before leaving the club/facility.
7. Courts must be booked in advance with sufficient time in between court times for sanitation purposes, and to ensure that players have adequate time to enter and leave the facility. Players must enter the squash court area a maximum of 5 minutes before their court time and exit immediately after finishing practice. It is recommended, where feasible, that clubs and facilities attempt to
 - (i) provide a direct entrance to, and exit from, the squash courts to eliminate the need to pass through communal areas,
 - (ii) provide separate one-way entrances and exits, and/or



- (iii) prop open internal doors (other than squash court doors during play) to limit contact with surfaces. Where four courts or more exist in a facility, court booking times should be staggered to reduce the amount of flow at any given time.
- 8. Players must bring their own equipment including racquet, ball, safety glasses, towel and water bottle. Clubs must either provide a container outside each court in which the player can place their belongings while he/she is on court, or otherwise direct players to keep their belongings inside the court underneath the tin. Any containers must be sanitized after each use. Directing players to keep their belongings on the court will reduce the need for players to exit the court during practice to drink water, towel off, etc.
- 9. No spectators or guests are permitted at the facility; however, there can be one accompanying parent, guardian or other adult for a player under the age of 18. Any accompanying adult must remain outside of the court, wear a mask and maintain a two metre distance from any other person in the facility. A coach who is an employee or contractor to the club or facility can be present in the court area; however, the coach must not enter the court while there is player on the court, must wear a mask at all times (and any other personal protective equipment that may be required under relevant government policies), and must maintain a distance of at least two metres from any other person in the facility. All unaccompanied junior players must be advised of the provisions of this policy, and their parents are responsible for ensuring their compliance. Parents of unaccompanied junior players and unaccompanied junior players must also adhere to all club/facility policies regarding unsupervised attendance at the club/facility.
- 10. When on court, players should avoid touching any of the walls, floors, other surfaces and their face.
- 11. When exiting the court for any reason, players should maintain a two metre distance from other individuals in the facility.
- 12. Between court times, court doors and door handles must be sanitized. If feasible, it is also recommended that the floor and walls be cleaned with soap and water. At a minimum, every court must be fully cleaned at least once per day (including floors, and each wall up to six feet from the floor).
- 13. Clubs and facilities must ensure that any locker rooms, change rooms, showers and clubhouses in the facility remain closed, except to the extent they provide access to a washroom or a portion of the facility that is used to provide first aid. All washroom facilities must be managed as per health and safety regulations.
- 14. If any player and/or parent of a junior player violates any of the above mandates, Squash Ontario may work with individual facilities to impose disciplinary action in accordance with the Squash Ontario's [Code of Conduct](#).

