

Safety Mitigation Plan COVID-19

Delta Pickleball Association

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[SAFETY MITIGATION PLAN]

Purpose

This document outlines the Delta Pickleball Association's Safety Mitigation Plan to allow a phased in approach to resume play of pickleball at outdoor facilities within the City of Delta. We believe this plan takes into account the orders of the Provincial Health Officer in relation to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

This plan is a starting point that will be re-visited regularly, depending on the changing nature of the spread of COVID-19 and any changing nature of provincial health orders.

The initial plan takes into consideration the main ways to stop the spread of ¹COVID-19:

- Physical Distancing
- Hand Washing and Hygiene
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Limiting gatherings to less than 20 person

Organization

Prior to beginning play, the club is proposing to start with play at select courts by using alternate courts to allow for better physical distancing.

In order to limit the numbers of players at any one time, the courts would be booked ahead of time, using an online calendar, and each scheduled time would be limited to 1 hour 30 minutes. No walk on's allowed. The use of the online calendar would allow for contact tracing in the future, should a player become infected with the COVID-19 virus to assist in containment. The club will only be booking the courts for times covered by a rental contract/permit with the City of Delta.

Initial play would be limited to singles unless players on both teams are part of a trusted circle of contacts (same household or trusted contacts between players only).

Logistical Considerations

¹ <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks>
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A garbage can will be needed to be close to the courts to ensure the safe and proper disposal of disinfecting wipes, gloves, and other supplies.

Due to limits in supply, the club cannot supply disinfecting wipes, alcohol based hand sanitizer or other cleaning supplies. The players will be required to provide these items.

Seating would be closed, as this is for playing only, not socializing. Any socializing taking place would not be the responsibility of the Delta Pickleball Assoc.

Players not playing within the proposed protocols will be warned, and if they continue, they will be barred from participating until such a time as the provincial health officer removes any restrictions.

Signage should be posted at the outdoor facilities stating limited pre-booked play is now permitted.

Items Controlled by the City of Delta

Will the washrooms be open for use?

Will the equipment lockers be available for use?

Will the bleachers be removed or taped off? A bench should still be available for players to change their shoes.

Will a garbage can be made available?

Pre-Play

Sign-Up Protocols

Prior to signing up on the online calendar and playing, each player will have to answer health related questions about symptoms based on the British Columbia Center for Disease Control guidelines.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. The list of symptoms is available at this link:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

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Players with flu like symptoms, or come in contact with someone with flu like symptoms in the previous 14 days; players covered by a mandatory quarantine order due to travel, or as a result of an order issue by a provincial or local public health officer; or players who have been referred to testing in the past 14 days due to a medical reason without having negative results will be prohibited from being at the courts.

Players will have to agree to keep a physical distance of 2 meters/6 feet outside of the playing time.

Players will not be allowed to arrive more than 15 minutes prior to their allotted time and will have to keep a minimum of 7.5 meters or 25 feet away from the courts and current players. The 15 minutes is designed to allow for an active warm up away from the courts and to go over the pregame checklist.

Physical Protocols

Only every other court (alternate or 'kitty corner') can be used during the initial return to play.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Where there is running water, players will be responsible for providing soap and water, disinfectants, or sanitizers to clean equipment and hands.²

Players will also be responsible for the proper disposal of any of these items.

Appropriate disinfectants and sanitizer can be found listed on the BC CDC website at the following link:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/cleaning-and-disinfecting>

Court Set Up

For times when the courts need to be cleared of water or debris prior to play beginning, players will have to wear gloves or disinfect the brooms or squeegees prior and after use.

Courts requiring portable nets will have to follow the same protocols.

² <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/cleaning-and-disinfecting>

Play

Health Orders and Mitigation

Prior to play, players must confirm they do not have or have not had:

- flu like symptoms
- within past 14 days, contact with anyone with flu like symptoms
- a mandatory quarantine order due to travel or as a result of an order issue by a provincial or local public health officer, or
- been referred to testing in the past 14 days due to a medical reason without having negative results.

Ball Handling Protocol

Players would be required to provide their own balls and it would be suggested to clean the balls before and after each game with a disinfectant wipe or wash them with soap and water. Balls should be transported in a plastic bag or container, to keep them from becoming contaminated prior to the game and to contain any contamination after the match until they can be properly cleaned and disinfected. E.g. Ziplock bag.

Errant balls entering any other court are not to be picked up and handled by persons and should be returned to the proper court by way of moving the ball with a foot or paddle only.

Designated Groups

Play would be limited to the people who have signed up for that court during the allotted time. This limits contacts and keeps the vectors for transmission of the infection to a minimum. Guests or spectators will not be allowed.

Time Limits

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Play will be scheduled on a one-hour and thirty-minute basis with matches and games limited to 85 minutes to allow for vacating the courts prior to the next groups scheduled start.

Players will be encouraged to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to their allotted time for an active warm up, while keeping a minimum of 7.5 meters or 25 feet away from current players.

Post Game Protocols

At the end of a match, rather than approaching the net and touching paddles, we suggest players stand at the kitchen line and wave paddles to simulate the handshake. This is a social sport - let's keep it as social as we can, but still safe.

Injury Protocol

Within your group assess the need for first aid. Call emergency medical services for anything they cannot deal with people present.

Check In – Pre Match Protocols

In order to limit the risk of transmission each player would meet at the kitchen line(14 foot separation), or another area where physical distancing can be maintained, for a pre-match meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to make sure everyone has the same understanding of the current limited rules of play. Items to be covered at the meeting would include, but not be limited to, acknowledging that they:

- have no symptoms of COVID-19 symptoms
- within the last 14 days, have not been in contact with anyone exhibiting symptoms or a confirmed case of COVID-19
- are not subject to a mandatory quarantine order
- understand ball handling protocols
- will play within the designated groups
- will honour time limits
- understand post game protocols
- abide by the Injury Protocol

After Play

Players are encouraged to disinfect their paddles and balls after their time slot using the appropriate disinfectant procedures or soap and water.

Players are required to wash their hands using soap and water or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer.³

³ <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/hand-washing>