

Metro Masters Tennis Association Inc.

Health Protocols – Omicron Covid-19 variant Autumn 2022 season

The Association recommends that all players be double vaccinated and receive their booster vaccination at the earliest opportunity. This alone does not prevent individuals catching the virus or spreading it to others. It just reduces the severity of the exposure.

We can be reasonably confident that the actual playing of tennis matches will not increase the chances of players contracting the virus if social distancing is practiced. Extra diligence is required when off the courts, and the following guidelines are offered to support Covid safe plans that clubs should already have:-

- Car pooling should be avoided in the Autumn 2022 season, and possibly beyond.
- Minimum distance of 2 metres between players should be maintained particularly opening/closing gates and doors.
- Clubhouses only opened for change room, toilet facilities and filling of water bottles. All spectator areas need to be outside the clubhouses, and visitors generally discouraged apart from club officials. Masks **must** be always worn whilst indoors, and all windows opened to increase ventilation.
- As a rule home club teams are discouraged from providing supper and drinks unless they have sufficient outdoor seating where social distancing can occur. If supper is provided players from both teams can partake if they consider the environment to be risk free. They should not expect reciprocal arrangements from the opposition teams in the return matches.
- All players **must** scan the QR codes on their mobile phones using the Services Victoria app prior to playing, together with officials of the club, and visitors who enter the courts or club surrounds. Visitors and/or club officials also need to socially distance from the players. Most clubs have QR codes in convenient locations for this to occur. If you are not in possession of a mobile phone add your name to another player when they register.
- Players **should** resist shaking hands at the end or the beginning of the set, by touching racquets or acknowledge the opposition whilst socially distancing.
- If the home clubs provide hand sanitiser, they should be used regularly by all players otherwise you can bring it yourself.

If clubs have trouble in fielding teams due to players contracting Covid or having symptoms, any impacted match should be recorded as a Covid washout in the Match Comments.

The entry in the match comments needs to take the form of “Covid (followed by the abbreviated name of the club) i.e., SJ for St.Johns. Clubs are expected to be honest in their discussions with the opposition and have at least two players affected for a Covid washout and have made every attempt to find eligible emergencies. Forfeits for any other reason are treated as normal forfeits, and match results become 6-0 sets, and 48-18 games, apart from the first seven matches in Section 1, and the first five matches in Sections 2-5 when the total games will be entered as 36-18 games.

All captains need to bring to the attention of all players that they adhere to these protocols, and hopefully we can reduce the spread of this highly infectious strain to fellow players in our competition, their families, and the wider community.

Please remain vigilant, and hopefully if these protocols are followed religiously, we can enjoy the Autumn, 2022 season socially, mentally and exercising in a safe and healthy manner.

David Burn

Secretary/Record Secretary

On Behalf of the Metro Masters General/Grading Committees