

## **Metro Masters Tennis Association Inc.**

### **Health Protocols – Omicron Covid-19 variants Spring 2022 season**

The Association recommends that all players ensure that they are up to date with all vaccinations and boosters or receive the latest booster 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 managed carefully in the Spring, 2022 season by all passengers and drivers wearing masks if possible.
- Minimum distance of 2 metres between players should be maintained particularly opening/closing gates and doors.
- Clubhouses can be opened for supper if the home team are happy for this to happen, and outside if more convenient. Change room, toilet facilities and filling of water bottles is to be made available with the health regulations as they currently stand. All spectator areas preferably should be outside the clubhouses, and visitors generally discouraged apart from club officials in the clubhouse. Masks are an option to be always worn whilst indoors, and all windows opened to increase ventilation.
- 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.

- Players are encouraged to 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 can 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.**

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 these highly infectious strains to fellow players in our competition, their families, and the wider community.

**Please remain vigilant, and hopefully if these suggested protocols are followed, we can again enjoy the Spring, 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