



**UNIVERSAL TENNIS**  
NATIONAL PATHWAY  
**COVID 19 PROTOCOLS**

**The following protocols apply to all National Pathway events:**

The Tournament Organizer MUST ensure that the tournament(s) are in accordance with all local, state or country laws and guidelines, including any public health ordinances related to COVID 19 (e.g. no fans allowed, social distancing guidelines, masks, sanitization, etc.).

**COVID 19 Protocols are Required by Universal Tennis for all National Pathway Events:**

Players who fail screening or test positive for COVID 19 will need to leave the site immediately and proceed to follow all local government COVID 19 regulations for quarantine, isolation, testing, contact tracing, etc.

If a player tests positive for COVID 19, he or she will be ruled ineligible to continue competing at the tournament and are responsible for notifying the Referee or if they cannot reach the Referee then email [JuniorPath@universaltennis.com](mailto:JuniorPath@universaltennis.com).

Players that test positive must be medically cleared by a licensed health care provider to return to play in a future National Pathway tournament. They also must have a minimum of 14 days past since symptoms and/or positive test. Players also must have no symptoms.

If a player contact-traces to another player or individual at the tournament, the player can contact the Tournament Director, Referee or [JuniorPath@universaltennis.com](mailto:JuniorPath@universaltennis.com) for the necessary contact details to reach those people.

All tournaments will be instructed to prevent any affected player from attending onsite while they are deemed ineligible (still serving a period of quarantine).

If any player is deemed a close contact or has symptoms of COVID 19, they should contact the Tournament Director for advice on how to obtain a Rapid test as soon as possible followed by a PCR test as well.

**COVID 19 Protocols Recommended by Universal Tennis for all National Pathway Events:**

Universal Tennis recommends the following protocols to ensure player, staff, and fan safety:

- Single point of entry and check-in with temperature and COVID assessment checks
- Masks to be worn by all people, including staff, officials and players on premises
- Each player can have a maximum of 1 support team member with them (e.g. coach, spouse, parent)
- All staff, umpires, and players must adhere to social distancing protocols (as defined by local, state and/or national ordinances) at all times (other than on-court)
- Benches, court and umpire chairs to be cleaned by designated cleaning personnel in between

- matches
- All communal areas to be disinfected according to COVID best practices

## **COVID 19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. When should I book travel?**

Players are advised to seek flexible travel options. Players should also seek appropriate travel insurance in the event they contract COVID 19, are required to quarantine, or face any other travel and accommodation disruption while at a tournament.

### **2. What are the Universal Tennis's guidelines for traveling safely?**

Participants should not travel to tournaments if they have had a positive COVID 19 test within the last 14 days, if they have or have had any symptoms of COVID 19 within the last 14 days, or if they have been exposed to anyone who has COVID 19 or symptoms of COVID 19 within the last 14 days (fever, new or persistent cough, a change or loss in senses of taste or smell, cold-like symptoms; congestion or runny nose; sore throat).

Players are advised to follow their own government's advice prior to travelling, and follow local requirements on arrival, including maintaining physical distance and personal hygiene at all times.

Players are advised to pack sufficient face coverings / face masks, sanitiser (conforming to maximum allowable volumes), hand wipes and tissues in their hand luggage, so that these items are available to them at all times. Participants are encouraged to seek appropriate travel and health insurance.

### **3. What are the Universal Tennis's guidelines in relation to accommodation?**

Where possible, players and their support teams are advised to stay in the official tournament hotels, based on the general principle of reducing the number of potential entry points of the COVID 19 virus among the tournament participants.

When staying in alternative accommodation, players should choose hotel accommodations that have strong COVID safety policies and participants are advised to limit the number of people sharing a room to two. In the event that a participant fails daily screening, larger households risk a greater spread of COVID 19, a greater number of people being required to quarantine (thus potentially raising costs for participants), as well as placing the continuation of an ongoing tournament in jeopardy.

### **4. What is the COVID 19 screening procedure at Universal Tennis National Pathway events?**

The minimum screening requirement will see all onsite individuals (players or otherwise) subject to daily screening. The screening is comprised of:

- Daily completion of the [Self-Declaration Form](#) or equivalent digital form to be provided by Universal Tennis.
- Temperature testing. Players will be tested with a thermometer upon entry to the

tournament site to ensure their temperature is below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

Only if an individual passes both parts of the screening procedure will they be admitted to the tournament site. Temperature testing is expected to take place at the entrance to the site. Players or other individuals in possession of a negative PCR COVID 19 test will still be required to submit to the daily testing procedures.

The Self-Declaration Form must be completed every day that the individual is in the tournament. After players have left a tournament, we strongly advise players to complete the Self-Declaration Form for a period of 7 more days, to take account of the delay between COVID 19 infection and the development of symptoms. Tournaments may undertake additional screening procedures, if appropriate or if required by local government legislation.

Failure to comply with testing (including any additional testing imposed by the local government) will result in the person concerned being denied entry to the site and not being permitted to participate in any National Pathway tournament until such time that they comply with those requirements in full.

Participants must not travel to the tournament site if they do not want to provide their personal information or undergo daily screening for COVID 19, start to present symptoms of COVID 19 or if they recently have been exposed to COVID 19.

**5. A key principle of Universal Tennis protocols is having the minimum number of individuals onsite required for a tournament to take place. What does this mean in practice?**

The minimum number of participants required for the tournament to operate should be permitted onsite. Players should arrive at the site as close to their allotted starting time as is reasonable and leave as soon as reasonably possible after their match has finished.

**6. What are the physical distancing rules?**

Face masks (or face covering) must be worn at all times on-site by all personnel including players, except during practice, matches, during gym sessions (assuming physical distancing can be maintained) and when using showers. Physical distancing must be respected at all times by all participants and spectators.

If a shuttle bus is utilized between the official hotel and the tournament site, physical distancing must be observed on the bus and face masks/coverings must be worn.

**7. What are the personal hygiene measures?**

Personal hygiene measures must be taken by all participants and include: regular handwashing, not touching your face, coughing into a tissue or your elbow, and wearing a mask and/or face covering.

**8. During a tournament, should I stay in a single room in a hotel / my accommodation?**

Players are advised where possible to stay in single rooms. Where sleeping accommodation is shared with anyone from outside a household, ventilation using a fresh air supply should be

maintained to the greatest reasonable extent.

**9. Will tournaments be cancelled if a player, support team member, official or member of tournament staff fails screening?**

There are different scenarios of when a player might fail screening or might present symptoms of COVID 19, including whether this takes place onsite or offsite, in isolation or in a group. Decisions about whether tournaments can continue in these instances will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

**10. If I develop COVID 19 symptoms during a tournament, what should I do?**

If you are already at your hotel accommodation, then you should stay there, and you should **not** travel to the site. You should contact the Tournament Director immediately who will inform you of next steps.

If Universal Tennis is made aware that you deliberately made a false declaration about your symptoms, you may be subject to penalty and suspension under the Code of Conduct.

**11. What are the penalties if individuals do not comply with the Universal Tennis's COVID protocols?**

Failure to comply by players and/or their support personnel may result in a sanction under the Code of Conduct including a fine and/or immediate default, denial of access and/or removal from the tournament. Any serious failure to comply, including a false declaration, may result in a Major Offence Charge and a period of suspension.

**12. How many support team members can I have onsite with me?**

Players can have a maximum of one person with them.

**13. Can I still see the physio or tournament doctor for an injury?**

Non-COVID 19 medical treatment will be limited to the reasonable time necessary for completion. Players must wear masks while obtaining treatment.

**14. What are the key protocols on court, during either practice or matches?**

- Physical distancing shall be maintained on-court at all times. The only exceptions to this are calls for medical assistance
- Pre-match and post-match handshakes between players should be avoided: a racquet tap is sufficient. Similarly, players must not shake the Chair Umpire's hand;
- Ball numbers and changes shall be maintained as standard set out in the applicable Regulations;
- One person (normally the Chair Umpire) should be responsible for ball changes and should wash or sanitise their hands before and after doing so;
- During changeovers, players are strongly encouraged to cross on different sides;
- Players should only handle their towels and not ball persons (if any) or other tournament staff;
- All personal items must be removed from the court, following use;
- Where a tournament provides disposable (e.g. drinks) or single-use (e.g.

towels) items, designated locations to discard these after use will be provided;

- Where on-court supplies (drinks, ice towels, etc.) are made available, these should be disinfected in advance of, and after, matches.
- Each court will be cleaned and all common spaces disinfected between matches

**15. Are spectators permitted at National Pathway tournaments?**

Spectators are not permitted except with the approval of Universal Tennis and in accordance with local legislation on mass gatherings.

**16. Government Resources in USA:**

Center for Disease Control (USA): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>