

Club Sports – COVID 19 Response Plan – University of Arkansas

Club Tennis

What does a modified pod practice and/or conditioning look like for your group?

We will split the team into two separate practice dates with coordinating times. Generally, we have between 25-35 people on the team. We would send out a survey at the beginning of the semester to see which day works best and try to work with all our players. This means one group of around 13-17 people would practice for two hours once a week. This would also make it easier for tracing if one member in a practice group does test positive for COVID-19 then we do not have to temporarily stop all practices. We would have four courts to accommodate. If we find that only 18-22 people are showing up consistently throughout the semester we may try to combine practices. This can all be subject to change.

Does your club have a direct relationship with a national umbrella organization? If so, what's your competition schedule projected to be this fall? Do they have any expectations for your operations that must be included in your planning?

USTA Tennis On Campus will not be having tournaments this fall/winter. We will not be traveling or hosting tournaments in fall/winter of 2020. The USTA does not expect anything from us, we register for tournaments independently.

What infrastructure will your organization put in place in order to meet the expectation that all in-person activities track attendance?

We will have both an excel sheet to keep track of attendance.

If your organization typically requires transportation to club practices off-campus, how will you navigate safety practices?

Luckily most of our members have cars, but they often do carpool. If members are carpooling they should limit the amount of people in their cars to 2 or 3 and also wear masks. If someone does not feel comfortable driving others they are not required to. For tryouts, if someone needs a ride we will try to have one or two new members with one officer in a car and they would be advised to wear masks while traveling.

What initiatives are essential to your organization's ability to pursue your mission?

In order for us as a club to pursue our mission of safety of all members we must follow the guidelines provided by the university. We need each player to understand how important it is to follow these guidelines in order to be able to play the sport we love. Players must maintain a distance of 6ft at all times, players must enter the court with a mask, we will provide players with hand sanitizer and prevent players from: shaking hands, fist bumping, etc.

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What new risks might be associated with the way you typically conduct your operations? And how will you consider mitigating these risks? (Specific plans will be required for all in-person events/activities as they are scheduled).

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 we are planning to send out a google form to current members and ask whether they are comfortable playing, what days they would prefer to practice and then we would list mandated rules. They will not be required to tryout. After we have tryouts we are then planning to split up into two smaller practice groups. This not only decreases the risk of contracting/spreading COVID-19 but then we will still be able to have practice for the group who was not exposed. Normally we have practice outdoors T/TH 8-10 pm, so we will have players practice once a week for 2 hours. We are also requiring players to wear masks until they get on the court to play and recommending they wear them in their cars if they are driving other members.

How do you plan to communicate with members of your organization about the steps you will be taking to reduce risks?

We will continue to communicate through GroupMe, email and Zoom. We will also have members filling out google forms before practice on whether they have had any symptoms. We are also planning on sending out a google form to current members about whether they feel comfortable practicing with the team and ensuring that they can keep up with the guidelines. If a member does not feel comfortable or does not want to follow the guidelines they do not need to participate in practices.

How will you create expectations for membership responsibility and hold members (and officers) accountable if they don't adhere to your guidelines AND university guidelines while participating in club activities?

All of the officers agreed that if the guidelines are not followed then members will be asked to leave practice. If members continue to disregard rules and regulations they will be suspended temporarily. As long as we keep an open line of communication members will understand what is necessary for us to be able to continue to play.

Are there organization requirements (from your bylaws) that you need to temporarily adjust/suspend for operations under pandemic conditions? (attendance, service hours, etc.)

We will be keeping the same dues because even though we only practice once a week we are still paying for the courts twice a week. We will also have to invest in new balls and a new ball basket for separate practices, we will also need to purchase masks and hand sanitizer. We will be temporarily suspending the recreation team and our attendance policy.