

## **COVID-19 Policy for Table Tennis NZ Events and Programmes**

*Updated on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

Table Tennis NZ (TTNZ) will follow the COVID-19 requirements as advised by the New Zealand Government, Ministry of Health, Sport New Zealand, and the Host Association/Venue throughout any events (and programmes) we are responsible for delivering.

Indoor gathering limits for any TTNZ events and programmes will be based on the Government guidelines at the date of the beginning of the event or programme unless restrictions are tightened during the course of the event or programme. Please note this may be different to the guidelines at the time of the prospectus being distributed and/or entries opening. TTNZ may restrict the number and/or roles of people who can be in the venue at any one time. For example, spectators and/or coaches may be denied access.

TTNZ will no longer require proof of vaccination. TTNZ may require masks to be worn by all personnel inside the venue unless they are being active. This will be subject to government guidelines at time of event. For clarity, being active includes playing, preparing for a match (warming up), eating, or drinking.

We encourage all participants to take a covid-19 RAT test 24 hours prior to the event. Players that have tested positive for COVID-19 may withdraw from the event by notifying TTNZ of their withdrawal as soon as possible. A player utilising this clause to withdraw will receive a full refund and will be withdrawn from all events. Proof may be sought by TTNZ in this instance. Their playing partners shall also be withdrawn from the events concerned if a suitable substitute is not available. and will receive a full refund for the affected events.

We strongly recommend all players to carry a spare RAT test kit with them when attending a TTNZ event or programme. RAT test kits will be made available for all staff and volunteers at TTNZ events and programmes if required.

If a player is directly affected by COVID-19 (positive case) or showing related symptoms during the event, the player shall be required to inform TTNZ immediately and will be withdrawn from all events unless subsequently cleared by a medical professional. The player shall be entitled to a full refund of entry fees, and their playing partners shall receive a refund for the affected events.

TTNZ will provide players with a full refund of their entry fee if the event is suspended, postponed, or cancelled. If the event is to be rescheduled to another date, then TTNZ will hold the entry fees paid by players unless they advise TTNZ they would like to be refunded.

TTNZ reserves the right to suspend, postpone or cancel the event in line with these requirements. We will endeavour to communicate such instances or any other changes to the event structure as early as possible.

TTNZ will not consider financial reimbursement of any other costs related to the event (i.e., travel and accommodation).

TTNZ reserves the rights to disqualify any player from the event who are deemed to have disregarded any reasonable instruction related to the TTNZ COVID-19 response, including any requirements set out by the organisations mentioned above.

At all times, the health and safety of our stakeholders is first-and-foremost in all decisions.

## COVID-19 FAQs

### **Who does the TTNZ COVID-19 Vaccination policy apply to?**

This policy applies to all TTNZ employees, contractors, volunteers, participants, and spectators.

### **Why has this policy been developed?**

This policy has been developed in order to comply with the Government and Ministry of Health guidelines for running events and programmes while COVID-19 restrictions are still in place.

### **Will TTNZ require people to be vaccinated against COVID-19?**

No, from Tuesday 5 April 2022 there will no longer be a requirement for people to be vaccinated.

### **What else are TTNZ doing to protect people apart from this policy?**

TTNZ will also maintain a range of appropriate and complementary measures for our events and programmes. These include measures such as encouraging physical distancing, mask wearing when appropriate, intensive hand hygiene and health monitoring. We will endeavour to work with any host association on any measures available to protect our people.

### **What safety protocols and guidelines does TTNZ follow?**

We are following the most recent guidelines which have been developed by Sport New Zealand using the Ministry of Health's protocols. In addition to this we will follow the guidelines of the host association of any events we deliver.

### **What about physical distancing?**

At the orange level, we encourage physical distancing where appropriate. TTNZ will do their best to enforce this where it is reasonably practical.

### **Are there capacity limits at the Orange level?**

No,

### **What specifically will TTNZ do to keep me safe?**

Everything we can. We will put in place extensive processes and protocols to mitigate risks with the aim of looking after you, including some or all of the following, subject to alert levels at given times:

1. Physical distancing of 1m (at Red level only)
2. Sanitisation stations
3. Deep cleaning regime
4. Bringing own equipment
5. COVID-19 Conditions of Entry to the facility
6. COVID-19 area-specific signage

### **What hygiene etiquette does everyone have to follow?**

We ask that every person takes responsibility for their personal hygiene and respects the space of others. We encourage the use of a mask where practical, thorough washing / sanitising hands, covering coughs and sneezes, keeping 1m from the nearest person, bringing your own equipment, and not sharing or touching anything that you don't have to.

### **Do I need to wear a mask?**

Mask wearing at the Orange level is not mandatory, however encouraged by TTNZ where practical. TTNZ staff and volunteers at events are required to wear face masks in line with Government policy.

### **Is it okay if I just use a bandana or scarf or a towel as a face covering?**

No, as these no longer meet the recommended guidance.

### **I have a 'mask exemption', do I still need to wear a mask when not being active?**

No, however you will need to present your Mask Exemption Card or letter from your doctor prior to entering the facility or participating in the event. Ideally, this will be presented to TTNZ when completing your registration.

We know that some people have a disability or health condition where they may not be able to wear a face mask safely or comfortably. Mask Exemption Cards are issued by the Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA).

While at the facility please carry your Mask Exemption Card with you in case you are questioned by concerned members or staff. If you have an exemption from wearing a mask, we will still need to determine whether we can continue to operate safely, and whether appropriate accommodations can be made for you to enter the facilities and engage in activities.

**I've recovered from COVID-19 – can I participate in any TTNZ events and programmes?**

If you have been diagnosed as having COVID-19 and have recovered, we may require medical clearance for you at the conclusion of your mandatory isolation period. You can then return to participate in any TTNZ event as long as you follow all COVID-19 processes and protocols including personal hygiene expectations.