

4 June 2020

To all ESRA Racquetballers

Planning our return to the court

Most, if not all of you, will be aware that the Victorian State Government has announced that from 22 June 2020 all indoor sport and recreation activities may reopen with up to 20 people per space and up to 10 people per group or activity at any one time.

The sports of Squash and Racquetball are covered by this announcement, but **this does not mean that we can simply walk into our venues on 22 June and expect to play. There are a number of hurdles which must be cleared before any of us can hit a ball against a wall.**

Specifically:

- Squash and Racquetball has produced a “Plan for Operating a Squash and Racquetball Venue under COVID-19 Restrictions as at 3 June 2020.”
- The Plan has been submitted for approval by the Victorian Government
 - This approval is expected by 12 June 2020
- Each venue offering the sports of Squash and Racquetball must produce its own Operating Plan which must also be approved by the Victorian Government.
 - These plans are being drawn up in conjunction with, and ahead of approval of the S&RV Plan.
- S&RV will circulate the approved Operating Plan to all stakeholders including Venues, Clubs, Associations and players as soon as it is approved.

We encourage all players to contact their home Club / Venue once the approved Operating Plan is available to ascertain the Venue Specific Rules relating to booking of court time and all aspects related to Player Numbers, Social Distancing and Cleanliness.

What can we, as players, expect on 22 June ?

Only symptom free patrons and staff will be permitted to enter Squash Courts

- Only two people will be allowed on each court. This will allow:
 - Singles match play or rallying
 - Solo training
 - One on one coaching
 - Coaching of 2 players by a coach outside the court under certain conditions explained below
- Doubles play is strictly prohibited
- There are to be no spectators
- The maximum number of people in the centre will be the maximum number permitted on court plus the minimum number of staff members required to operate the centre safely
 - A coach training 2 players on court is included in this maximum number which may reduce the number of players allowed at that time

- There are a number of strict measures relating to social distancing and cleanliness which must be adhered to at all times.
 - Pre-booking of courts will be required
 - Walk up bookings will not be allowed
 - Players will not be permitted to enter the venue until their allocated time, or until allowed by a staff member and must exit within 5 minutes of their time expiring
 - No socialising will be allowed within the centre

These restrictions mean that it is not yet possible to resume ESRA Pennant competition.

It does however mean that we will soon be able to get back on the court and once again enjoy our chosen sport(s). We will work with Squash & Racquetball Victoria and all stakeholders to ensure that we can resume ESRA Pennant competition at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

We are mindful that a number of our cohort fall within the “vulnerable” category, based on age and / or pre-existing health concerns. We will survey all players in coming days to better understand who among us are ready to get back on court immediately and who wish to delay their return until a later date. This information will assist us to form Teams and Grades for the resumption of Pennant.

We look forward to the time when we can once again enjoy the full competitive and social aspects of ESRA Racquetball.

Sincerely,

The ESRA Committee