



## Considerations for Safer Racquetball Tournaments

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**USA Racquetball understands that the opportunity to return to the courts safely will occur in some cities and states sooner than others.** USA Racquetball recognizes that COVID-19 is affecting different areas of the country at different levels and phases. In conjunction with the Federal Government's "Opening Up America Again" approach, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>, and if your area racquet club is within local government mandates to open, racquetball can once again provide exercise, stress relief, reconnection, and in-person social interaction. We want to do our part with these considerations to help keep players safer on and off the court. Please ensure that your local government mandates allow racquetball in its current phase of "Opening Up America Again."

USA Racquetball has created this list of racquetball tournament considerations in conjunction with information from the following groups:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- **National Strength & Conditioning Association (NSCA)**
- **United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC)**
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

When planning a racquetball tournament, there are many variables to consider: athletes, spectators, host facility, tournament staff and processes, government mandates, etc. By taking into account these considerations, as well as recommendations from local governments and health agencies, racquetball clubs and tournament directors will be able to make safer and more informed decisions on how to plan for and host a racquetball tournament when the events are able to again be offered to the racquetball community.

### **RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Guidelines are going to be different in different regions. **Confirm you are up to speed on government mandates in your area.** If you are hosting a "larger event," please also confirm airline schedules and host hotel protocols.
2. Consider having your racquetball tournament outdoors. Your event will be better ventilated, and it will be easier to accomplish social distancing. Whether your event is outside or inside, **meet with the municipality or club owner/manager well in advance to identify their guidelines and requirements.** Discuss what impact this tournament will have on other programs or members in the area/complex/club. Recognize what

additional considerations need to be implemented with the potential expanded usage of courts and facilities.

3. **Procure set-up supplies ASAP** – consider long lead-times for things like hand sanitizer, masks, and gloves (2-3 month backorders on some items). You may also need to order more racquetballs for your event than you have used in past tournaments.
4. **Use the R2Sports site for your event to let athletes know in advance how they can prepare for the tournament and know what to anticipate.** Ask players to bring their own towels, water, etc., and share any rules/guidelines that would help them prepare for the tournament. *Anyone feeling ill should not attend the event.*
5. **Write a welcome letter** outlining precautions taken, guidelines, procedures, and how everyone can work together. Simplify and streamline registration and check-in procedures to minimize contact. Ensure everyone has a copy of the welcome letter.
6. **Ensure that your tournament staff is up to speed on required “new” procedures** and that everyone is healthy and able to fulfill their roles in setting up, hosting, and tearing down the tournament. Let them know about social distancing, process streamlining, gloves/masks, handwashing, sanitizing, etc. *Anyone feeling ill should not work at the tournament.*
7. **Are you serving food at your tournament?** Communicate with any catering providers on safety protocols and food handling. Employ strong safety measures and avoid self-service.
8. **Establish protocols for keeping athletes safer.** Maintain social distancing. \*\* Schedule longer match times and more time in between matches. Stagger match times to reduce off-court interactions. This will permit additional time for players to recover and will allow for less congestion outside each court in between matches.
9. **Establish protocols for keeping spectators safe.** Maintain social distancing.
10. **Maximize signage to ensure everyone (facility staff, tournament staff, athletes, spectators, members, et al.) is informed about tournament expectations and guidelines.** This is new territory. The signs will serve to educate and remind everyone of protocols for handwashing, social distancing, traffic patterns around the facility, no high-fives, etc.

\*\* For clubs and players, please refer also to the USA Racquetball companion document entitled **Considerations For Safer Racquetball Play.**

Be sure to check back with USA Racquetball periodically for updated content as it comes available.

*These considerations should not be considered all-inclusive and should not be interpreted as medical advice. Clubs, tournament directors, and players are encouraged to take additional safety measures as may be recommended by local governments and health agencies to make racquetball as safe an activity as possible in the midst of uncertain times.*