

OutPlay Player information and guidance to ensure compliance with Covid-19 related squash regulations v1.3 5th September 2020

Introduction

After six months of squash shutdown, the Committee is excited that we have been able to negotiate a return to squash sessions for our members. It has taken time and effort to allow this to happen. We are in a privileged position - as very few if any clubs that use local authority venues in London have been given the greenlight to restart.

This player guidance is designed to provide you with all the information you need to get back on court with OutPlay. It is essential that you read it, understand it and agree to abide by it.

Whatever we as individuals may think about the real risks associated with Covid-19, if members were to be found to be in breach of the guidance and wider Covid-19 regulations (as set out by England Squash (the sport's governing body) or GLL (who operate the venue) we could be banned from using their facilities. This would prevent us from playing for the foreseeable future and do long term damage to the club.

Where and when will be playing, how much will it cost?

- We will be playing at the Oasis Sports Centre 32 Endell St, WC2H 9AG which has three squash courts next to each other with a sufficiently large seating area to accommodate players who are not on court
- The sessions will be running on Thursdays 6-8 pm and Saturdays 12-2pm from Thursday 3rd September and Saturday 5th September 2020 onwards
- They will be booked on a rolling monthly basis until further notice and/or until our other usual venues become available to us
- During September, sessions will cost £8 which is a subsidised rate. There will be a flat rate for everybody. Only paid up members will be able to play. Payment will be by card only and taken on the day. We will need to review the rates after September
- Note that the centre is within the Congestion Charge zone and ULEZ zone which now operates all day every day from 7am to 11pm

How do I get to play?

- We are not able to operate 'turn up and play' sessions so to play you will have to register via a link to that will be sent out in the WhatsApp groups. Make

sure you are registered to at least one of them!

- We will try to choose the same day(s) each week to open the bookings for both Thursdays and Saturdays
- Booking will generally be on a first come first serve basis – subject to our ability to manage who can play whom (see below)

What if I can't play?

- If you are unable to play, you will need to cancel your booking with a minimum of 24 hours' notice from the session you were booked in for. This will allow someone else to have the chance to come and play
- Members who fail cancel without 24 hours' notice or fail to turn up (without good reason) will be charged the full amount for the session
- If you feel unwell for any reason you should not play

How many players will there be at a session?

- To ensure compliance with current Covid-19 rules we will be limiting numbers to a maximum of 18 at any one time. For the first session scheduled for 3rd September we will be piloting with up to 12 players. And on Saturday 5th, this will go up to 15 players

How will the sessions run?

- Each session will have up to two session leaders (to cover whilst either one of them is on court). They will have been briefed on the Covid-19 rules that we are having to implement. Please follow their instructions at all times.
- The sessions will operate quite differently from previously. For example, there will be no 'peg' system – and there will be some restrictions around who you can play and how you play. We cover the main points below. (For full details of what you will need to agree to, please go to: <https://www.englandsquash.com/back-to-squash/guidance-for-players>).
(Note that we will operate slightly different rules in some areas and our rules covering them as set out in this document will take precedence)
- Having booked your session on-line in advance, you will need to turn up to Oasis promptly but no more than five minutes early
- On arriving at the reception, you will need to say you are here for Outplay Squash. You do not need to pay anything at reception and you should not be

required to provide your details as we will have collected them already. Attendees will be checked again by the session leader. If there are any problems you can contact one of the Committee or the session organiser via the relevant WhatsApp group

- Please come ready to play – there are no changing facilities available. You will need to bring your own racquet and ideally bring a spare. You won't be able to borrow or hire racquets if your racquet or strings break! Bring towels for keeping sweat off plus drinking water etc with you. You may want to bring a change of kit with you as well. Ideally you should take your kit bag onto the court with you when you play
- Whilst there is a water fountain it is for bottle refills only. Toilet facilities are available but we have been asked to minimise their use by Oasis so please try and go before you arrive!
- On arrival, the session leader will split players into up to three groups (or 'bubbles') with up to six players each – one for each court. Please be supportive of the session leader. He or she will need to balance a range of factors when allocating player to a bubble. Not all of these are within his or her control
- Each player will be given a ball which you must keep for the duration of the session. You must not handle someone else's ball while on court (or anywhere else for that matter!). Players should determine between them who is going to serve. That player serves for the entire game (irrespective of who wins points in rallies). Swap servers (and balls) when you next play your opponent. At the end of the two-hour session you will need to sanitise the ball and return it to the session leader
- Players can only be part of one bubble at a time and only two players can be on court at any one time
- The Committee and/or session leaders will need to decide which players go into individual bubbles. We will do this because we have to take into account players who have played in the same bubble in the last seven days and those who may be in close contact outside of squash. This means (in nearly all cases):
 - Players who are in the same household must play in the same bubble
 - Players who are in relationships with each other must play in the same bubble (even if they don't live under the same roof!)
 - Players who are in the same (non-squash) Covid-19 bubble for other reasons (eg providing assistance, care, other forms of support etc)

should play in the same bubbles as each other

- If you fall into any of these categories, and you don't think we are already aware of your circumstances, please let a member of the Committee or the organiser for your session know by talking to them or emailing committee@outplaysquash.com. We would really appreciate it if you did this at least 24 hours before you are due to play. If you wish us to keep this information private, we will do our best to keep it limited to those involved in making the playing decisions. But as you will appreciate we cannot guarantee that it will be kept confidential. Please also let us know if your circumstances change
- Players within the bubble can play full-court matches but with some game modifications and hygiene measures (see below)
 - Use 'sides' as a way to maintain social distancing throughout the warm-up
 - You will play first to 15 points or to a point level determined by the session organiser on the day (point per rally/ 'American' scoring) with 'sudden-death' at '14 – all'
 - During the game players may want to wipe away excessive sweat between points
 - As noted above the same player will have to serve throughout the whole game
 - Protective eyewear or visors are strongly recommended at all times
 - Players must not wipe their hands on the court walls
 - Players are not allowed to shout or raise their voice

(There may be some variation/other restrictions but the session lead will explain these to you – and we will try and keep them to a minimum.)

- After you have finished your game, please finish promptly. All players will need to spray both sides of the door handle and wipe it clean along with any other areas/surfaces that have become wet during play. You will also need to sanitise your hands after each game.
- Please then stay socially distanced in the seating area outside before your next game
- Payment will be to the session leader by contactless (or chip and PIN) so please make sure you have a card or device to pay with. Please do not leave

the session without having paid. We will not be taking or handling cash.

- Once the entire session is over, we will all leave together via a designated one-way system (via the gym area and fire escape). If for any reason you need to leave early, please let the session leader know

How will you enforce the Covid-19 related rules? What happens if I break them?

- As you can appreciate the rules are designed to minimise the risk of transmitting Covid-19 and compliance with them is required in order to allow OutPlay to use the Oasis facilities. It is therefore really important we all do our best to follow them and that you comply with any instructions from the session leader. We want the sessions to be fun and enjoyable but will need to issue warnings to protect all players and the club.
 - for the first breach players will be given a verbal warning
 - for a second violation, you will be given a final verbal warning
 - if there is a third problem you will be asked to leave the session. You may be suspended from future sessions as well

What happens if I get Covid-19 or think I have it?

- Please do not turn up and play squash if you have any Covid-19 symptoms or believe you may have been exposed to the virus!
- If you test positive for Covid-19 please let one of the Committee members know as soon as possible. You can email us at: committee@outplaysquash.com
- We will then make sure the details of those who you were playing with at your session are passed on to relevant health agencies and that other players are informed.

What if someone has an accident or gets injured for example on court?

- If there is an accident or someone gets hurt, please let the session leader know immediately. He/she will then arrange for first aid assistance from Oasis staff. Ideally you should remain socially distanced from the other player.

Will we be able to go for drinks or to eat afterwards?

- Whilst we won't be able to organise large-scale OutPlay socials players will be free to go for drinks or to eat after the session if they choose to do so. This will be entirely at your own discretion and risk.

What happens if the rules change?

- If any of the rules change, we will let members know via the WhatsApp groups. We will also keep an up to date version of this guide plus our risk assessment for playing at Oasis on the OutPlay website www.outplaysquash.com

What if I have questions?

- If you have any questions, you should feel free to talk to the session organiser on the day or email the committee at committee@outplaysquash.com. We would ask that you discuss any concerns with us in the first instance. We will do our best to address them quickly

Anything else?

- We appreciate there is quite a lot to take in here. But once things are up and running they should operate pretty smoothly. Please bear with us as we get back on court
- As you know, OutPlay is run on an entirely voluntary basis by the Committee and its other members. We all rely on each others' goodwill and co-operation to allow the club to function. So please be patient whilst we get things moving again. If you would like to volunteer to help run sessions please get in touch!

I'm up for it! Where do I sign?

- When you register for any of our sessions, you will need to say that you've read all the relevant paperwork for OutPlay and England Squash – including this document and agree to a disclaimer. Links to all the documents will be included in the registration message.
- All other OutPlay rules and the constitution continue to apply

We look forward to seeing you at one of our sessions very soon!

Yours in sport,

The OutPlay Committee

5th September 2020