

OutPlay Player information and guidance to ensure compliance with Covid-19 related squash regulations v1.5 20th May, 2021

Introduction

After the ending of latest squash shutdown, the Committee is excited that we have been able to negotiate a return to sessions for our members. It has taken time and effort to allow this to happen.

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 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 and others (who operate our venues) 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 our regular sports centres, starting with Finsbury Leisure Centre Norman Street EC1. **Please note, that at present are just three courts in operation** because of GLL concerns around ventilation in the windowless “dungeon”. There are also two courts at Ironmonger Row that we have used occasionally. We might ask to use these if there is sufficient demand at some point.
- Commencing Sunday 23rd May 2021 until further notice, the sessions at Finsbury will be from **4-6pm on Saturdays and the same times on Sundays (Sunday opening times have changed)**.
- Other venue restarts such as Victoria will be announced – we are trying to secure our original slot at Victoria (10am-12pm) for Saturday morning. **At present we don't have a Wednesday session** as the Dunhill centre at St Thomas's has now sadly closed. We are looking for an alternative. One option is Oasis in central London, but there will be a cost hike associated with hiring it.
- Sessions will vary in cost depending on the numbers of players and courts. But the pricing will most likely be **£8 or £6** depending on numbers (£8 or £10 for guests). To make things more straightforward and to help cover our costs with fewer attendees, **there will be no discounts** for now. We will keep this

under review.

- **Payment will be by card only** and taken on the day, we won't be taking cash.
- Note that Finsbury centre is just within the Congestion Charge zone (7am-10pm) and ULEZ zone (24 hours) both of which now operate **seven days a week**. If you are lucky, you may be able to park just outside the zone and walk to the centre.

How do I get to play?

- At present, we are not able to operate 'turn up and play' sessions so to play you will have to register.
- We will form **two WhatsApp groups** – one for Saturday and one for Sunday. We will then provide a registration link for the forthcoming session.
- **Make sure you are registered on (at least one of) them!**
- Booking will be on a first come first serve basis. We will try to choose the same day(s) each week to open the bookings for both Saturday and Sunday.

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 to cancel without 24 hours' notice or fail to turn up (without good reason) will be charged the full amount for the session. Please don't leave without playing, it makes our job much harder if we need to chase people down for payment**
- If you feel unwell for any reason you should not play.

How many players will there be at a session?

- For now, to ensure compliance with current Covid-19 rules (yes they still exist) we will be limiting numbers to a maximum of six per court at any one time. At the moment, this means 18 players on Saturday pm and 12 on Sunday.

How will the sessions run?

- Each session will have a session leader. 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 the pre-Covid era. 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 promptly but no more than ten 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 may be checked-in 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.
- There will be no 'peg' system. You will need to bring your own racquet and ideally bring a spare. 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 as there are no showers available at Finsbury.
- Toilet facilities are available **but the changing rooms and showers are closed for now.**
- On arrival, the session leader will split players into up to groups 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/her control.
- Hand hygiene, thorough washing and sanitising remains the most effective method of preventing the spread of COVID-19. **Players must sanitise hands and disinfect balls before play, at 20-minute intervals, and at the end.**
- **Only four players (plus a coach if coaching) can be on a single court at any one time.**
- You can play squash normally (so no need to limit who serves, playing of sides etc).
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- During the game players may want to wipe away excessive sweat between points.
- Protective eyewear or visors are strongly recommended at all times.
- Players must not wipe their hands on the court walls.
- After 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 reader (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.

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 Finsbury and indeed other centres' 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 or employees of the centres in question. We want the sessions to be fun and enjoyable but if necessary, we will 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 Finsbury staff. Ideally you should remain socially distanced from the other player.

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

- Yes. Some general restrictions are still in place but we will be able to eat and drink after sessions. 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 Finsbury 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 again.
- 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

20th May 2021