

Interclub 2022 Policy re vaccination passports  
(email from Chris Casey (GM) 09.12 2021)

Tennis Northern can confirm that, in consultation and with unanimous agreement from the Tennis Northern Board, both the junior and senior interclub seasons starting next year will not require vaccination passports.

Much time and careful consideration ensuring that we were within Sports NZ guidelines was taken when coming to this decision.

Our board includes two club presidents, a practising doctor and a CEO of a national sport so there was a diverse range of skills and experience to draw from.

Tennis is a safe sport that many people have been playing for the past few months mixing vaccinated and unvaccinated players and with due care there is a minimal risk of any contamination. Cricket has already commenced with no vaccination passport required.

Teams and players will have to adhere to the CVC status of the clubs they visit. If a team is playing at a club that requires a vaccination passport then they must respect and abide by this and only send players that meet this criteria. For matches scheduled at non CVC sites the visiting team may wish to check the vaccination status of the opposition players and, if they have non vaccinated players, they then make the choice as to whether they play or not. Given the very high double vaccination numbers in the Auckland area this should be a rare occurrence. No vaccinated player is being coerced, forced or penalised for not playing an unvaccinated player.

As a sport we want to be as inclusive as possible by not mandating rules beyond what the government requires and, therefore, give players the freedom to choose who and where they play.

We are also pleased that Tennis New Zealand supports this decision.

### **Interclub Covid FAQ**

In light of the Tennis Northern Covid policy announced, here are some FAQ for interclub players that may help with any questions they have. Tennis Northern will be running a **No Fault** abandoned contest rule for interclub this season. Any contest abandoned for any reason will see both teams awarded their average contest points at the end of the season.

**Q** - My club has a CVC policy and non-vaccinated players are not allowed at the club. What happens if the other team has non vaccinated players?

**A** - *The other team must respect and abide by your clubs rules and can only bring vaccinated players. If they cannot or will not field a team of entirely vaccinated players then the contest is abandoned and each team is awarded their average points at the end of the season.*

**Q** - Our club does have a CVC policy that allows non vaccinated players to play. The visiting team are refusing to play non vaccinated players. What can we do?

**A** - *If vaccinated players do not want to play against non-vaccinated players then the contest is abandoned and each team is awarded their average points at the end of the season.*

**Q** - For the examples above can we play a partial contest?

**A** - *Yes if both teams agree to play say just 3 players in a singles contest who are all vaccinated then you can proceed on that basis. No points are awarded for the unplayed matches but bonus points are awarded. We can't do averages on single match results and we have a no fault policy.*

**Q** - If our club policy is CVC for the clubrooms but not on the court can we play a mixed vaccinated/non vaccinated team?

**A** - *Yes provided the non-vaccinated player does not use the club rooms.*

**Q** - Does the no fault rule apply to weather affected contests or defaults?

**A** - *Yes, if your contest is abandoned for rain you should try to re-schedule if you can. If you can't re-schedule then because we have a congested, longer than usual post-Christmas competition we will award average points to both teams at the end of the season. The same will apply to defaults this season only and no fines will be issued.*

**Q** - If we have a contest scheduled that involves mixed vaccinated and unvaccinated players and the home club has a CVC policy can we reschedule for a non CVC venue?

**A** - *Yes we want you to find ways to play, you can change to the other clubs, non CVC venue or if they are CVC as well then contact TN to book courts at Forrest Hill or Albany.*