

ITF RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS USE OF INFRARED THERMOMETERS

Note: this protocol is subject to change, without notice. Last updated – January 2023.

Where the temperature of all participants ~~must be~~ checked daily prior to entry to the site: ~~The use of~~ a non-contact infrared thermometer (NCITs) ~~is required for this purpose~~ should be used, as it avoids direct contact. This document describes the protocol for temperature screening at ITF tournaments (where implemented).

Benefits of using NCITs

- The risk of transmission of Covid-19 is reduced (compared to contact thermometers) by allowing some separation between the participant and the NCIT user;
- They are simple to use;
- NCITs are easy to disinfect;
- Results are available quickly and easy to interpret;
- Repeated measures can be taken quickly.

Limitations of NCITs

- The temperature reading may be affected by the use of a NCIT.
- The use of NCITs necessarily brings the user and the person being screened into close proximity, which presents some risk of transmission. Incorrect use can increase that risk.

Temperature measurement

Note: the instructions below are generic. The manufacturer's instructions should be followed.

Preparation

- Temperatures should be measured in a sheltered area, out of direct sunlight.
- Ensure that the ambient conditions are within the acceptable range for the NCIT.
- Store the NCIT in the measurement location for sufficient time for it to adjust to the environment.
- Clean the NCIT between periods of use, following manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure that the NCIT has a direct view of the forehead, with no blockage.
- Advise participants to not wear items that could increase the temperature of the forehead (e.g. headbands, hoods).
- Ensure that the participant does not artificially reduce the forehead temperature (e.g. using ice) before the measurement is taken.
- The same brand/model of NCIT should be used at all entrance points.

Collection

- A suitably-trained tournament employee must collect temperatures. (Local law may require a medical professional for this purpose).
- Hold the NCIT perpendicular to the forehead, not from the side.
- Ensure the correct distance between the NCIT and the forehead (according to the manufacturer).
- Hold the NCIT at arm's length.
- Do not touch the NCIT sensor.
- Record the result as either 'pass' or 'fail'. Do not record the actual temperature.

Acceptable readings

Participants whose temperature is under 38°C (100.4°F) should be granted access to the site.

Action on failure

Any participant with a temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or above should be (a) shown the reading on the display and (b) subject to a second measurement, under the following conditions:

- After a delay of at least 15 minutes.
- After resting between measurements.
- After the participant has been out of direct sunlight.
- In a separate location (where possible).

If the second measurement is also 38°C or above, then the participant concerned must not be permitted access to the site. If that person is already on-site, then they should be evacuated to their accommodation in accordance with the ITF *Management of Covid-19 Cases at the Tournament Venue Protocol* (which may still be followed if the accommodation is within the perimeter of the site).

If the second measurement is below 38°C, then the participant may be admitted to the site. If the second reading is noticeably lower than the first, but not below 38°C, then a third and final reading may be taken, with a further delay of at least 15 minutes. If the third reading is below 38°C, then the participant may be admitted to the site.



Example product

Search 'contactless and digital infrared thermometer'. Thermometers that carry the local quality assurance mark (e.g. 'CE' mark in Europe) should be used, where possible.

References

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/general-hospital-devices-and-supplies/non-contact-infrared-thermometers>