

May 4, 2020

To all club members:

Beginning Wednesday May 6, Squashworks will reopen with some restrictions and changes in operation. I appreciate all the feedback, suggestions, and support I have received. I have consulted with my family, my business partners, the county health department, other squash club owners around the country, and several of our squash playing doctors and healthcare professionals. All of them have helped me to come up with this plan to reopen the club. I appreciate their guidance. The quotation marks are directly from the County Guidelines for “Phased Reopening of Gyms and Fitness Centers.” Here are the changes:

1. Change to club opening and closing hours: Weekdays (7am – 7pm); Weekends (8am – 5pm). Hours may be changed again depending on activity and demand from the membership during this time of "Moderate Risk."
2. Club Members should not come to the club if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 (fever, cough, difficulty breathing).
3. Only 10 people will be allowed in the club at one time.
4. Members who want to come exercise are welcome. The club is reopening for that purpose; however, the ideal visit to the club now, during this time of “Moderate Risk,” is for members to come dressed to exercise and then leave as soon as you finish. Our normal interactions of hanging out at the club, watching SquashTV, and socializing with each other for extended conversations is discouraged at this time. The locker rooms and showers are available if you need, but the Steam Rooms are closed.
5. While exercising, members must keep 10 feet of physical distance.
6. Only 1 squash player per court for now. As we ease back into squash, only one player will be allowed to practice by themselves on each court. Why? Because the county guidelines require “10 feet of distance” in all workout areas. It is impossible for us to play regular competitive squash and keep 10 feet of physical distance. Perhaps soon and continuing to stay within the guidelines, I may allow practice/drills for two players as long as both players maintain 10 feet of distance at all times; but for now, only individual practice and hitting is an option. Having coached squash for over 20 years, I wish all club members would spend more time practicing by themselves. It is essential to your improvement. Now is your opportunity!
7. Please reserve your court in advance...don't just show up at the club. Again, we are keeping the numbers in the club to under 10 at one time.
8. Lessons are on hold for now. When the decision to allow (2) players on the court is made for drills/practice, I will resume lessons with the 10 feet of physical distancing.
9. Club Members “must always wear face coverings over the nose and mouth to effectively reduce the spread of respiratory droplets.” Coverings can be removed “while engaged in heavy physical activity during which a face covering could adversely affect breathing.” Basically, while in the club, and not exercising, we all should wear face coverings.

10. After exercising on the machines or weights, Club Members must sanitize the equipment with disinfectant. Squash players should disinfect surfaces of the court that they touched...door handles, back glass, and walls.

11. Steam Rooms are closed for now! Members can still use the locker room and showers but must keep 6 feet of physical distancing.

12. Members who are in the “high-risk” category for severe illness from Covid-19 are discouraged from coming to the club during this “Moderate Risk” phase of reopening (from the CDC website: over age 65, chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised, severe obesity, chronic kidney or liver disease).

To help you better understand the guidelines, I have included a link below to the Salt Lake County document on “Phased Reopening of Gyms and Fitness Centers,” the Governor's “Leads Together 2.0 – Phased Health Guidelines,” and the CDC's “People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness.”

Salt Lake County document,

https://slco.org/globalassets/1-site-files/together/fitness_orange.pdf

Governor's document (page 13, guidelines for gyms and fitness centers),

<https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/Health/Phased%20Health%20Guidelines%20V4.0.1.pdf>

CDC Document for people at higher risk for severe illness,

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

I am grateful for our state and local leaders for their guidance and plans to combat the damage from this pandemic, most importantly for public safety, but also for the economy. I know we have all been following the news and have witnessed how our national leaders, other state's leaders, and our own Utah state and local leaders have approached this crisis. There has been a wide-range of responses, from both sides of the political spectrum, to the pandemic and the social upheaval it has caused.

As the owner of this small squash club and the de facto leader of our squash community, I have tried to keep politics and other divisive topics out of the club. My goal has been to create an environment where we can focus on our shared love of squash rather than on things that divide us.

I know some of you will feel that I should keep the club closed and won't be coming in for several more weeks or months; others will feel that I should allow a return to full club and squash activity. A majority of you, like me, are conflicted somewhere in the middle. We are all in this together...all of us a bit unsure of what is the right course to take. I want all of you to know that I am trying to do the best I can. Hopefully, you can appreciate it is a difficult needle to thread. If you feel comfortable putting your toe back in the reopened Squashworks, I look forward to seeing you soon. If you prefer to stay away for bit longer, I understand. One way or another we will all get through this together.

Thanks for your support of the club. Hoping for all you to stay safe and sound.

Sincerely,

Craig