

FTA April 29, 2020 Update

Dear Fairbanks Tennis Community,

The snow is almost gone and we are sure many of you are wondering when we will be able to get out and play tennis again. You might also be wondering about how Covid-19 will impact FTA's 2020 program and registration process.

Below, we provide answers to the following questions tennis players in Fairbanks and North Pole might have:

- 1. When will the Dan Ramras Community Tennis Courts open?**
- 2. *Is it safe to play tennis?***
- 3. *Is FTA holding the FTA Block Party and Kids Free Tennis scheduled for May 31?***
- 4. *Will FTA offer any tennis instruction this summer?***
- 5. *When will I be able to register for FTA programs?***
- 6. *Once registration is open, how do I register for FTA programs?***
- 7. *Will there be High School Tennis this fall?***
- 8. *When will FTA provide more information?***
- 9. *Who can I contact if I have additional questions or comments?***

1. When will the Dan Ramras Community Tennis Courts open?

The tennis courts are operated by the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). FTA is in regular communications with the appropriate parties at the FNSB to stay informed.

Here is the most current information from the FNSB:

“When the snow is gone, we will follow the governor’s mandates and FNSB Administration requirements regarding essential operations.

We do understand the importance of this facility to many of our community members. When we have clearance to operate facilities and the staff to accomplish the tasks, we will have the courts washed, nets up and port o potty delivered.

At this time, I can not give you dates or a schedule for opening up the courts.

Also of note for FTA planning, Mary Siah Recreation Center is closed for major maintenance until at least the first week of August. This facility will not be available for most of the summer season.”

2. Is it safe to play tennis?

Please review the following information published by the United States Tennis Association regarding the safety of playing tennis during covid-19.

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/national/usta-statement-on-safety-of-playing-tennis-during-the-covid-19-v.html>

3. Is FTA holding the FTA Block Party and Kids Free Tennis scheduled for May 31?

At this point we are anticipating being able to offer free tennis instructions for children and adults on May 31 as originally scheduled. The FTA Block Party (food and socializing) may be reduced or postponed depending on the Health Mandates in effect at that time.

If this changes, we will inform the tennis community as quickly as possible through our electronic channels. Advanced **online** registration is NOT required for this event. Registration will be handled in person on the day of the event. Please check our website for the most current information.

4. Will FTA offer any tennis instruction this summer?

At this point we are anticipating being able to offer group instruction starting on May 31. If this changes, we will inform the tennis community as quickly as possible through our electronic channels, including this website.

5. When will I be able to register for FTA programs?

Because of the fluid situation surrounding Health Mandates in response to Covid-19, we have decided to adjust our **registration windows as shown below:**

Activity	Registration Start Date
May 31 KFT/Block Party	In-person registration
June Weekly Sessions (start June 1)	May 24, 2020
July Weekly Sessions (start June 29)	June 21, 2020
Middle/High School (start July 29)	July 19, 2020

This allows us to monitor the situation and gives us a one-week window before our programs are scheduled to start. June and July programming is scheduled by the week and later weeks may be opened even if the initial week is not.

Please keep in mind that registration for all paid programs is managed through our online registration system found on our website at www.fairbankstennis.com. Registration for June and July sessions stays open until the first day of instruction or event.

If health mandate restrictions are lifted sooner than May 24, we may open registrations sooner. Information will be made available through our electronic channels.

6. Once registration is open, how do I register for FTA programs?

All paid FTA programs are managed through our online registration system (fairbankstennis.com).

If you don't have an account for our online registration system, we suggest you spend a few minutes to set up your account now – that will save some time later, when the registration period opens. To set up your account, go to fairbankstennis.com and click on “Register”.

If you already have an account from last year and registered for FTA programs online, there is no need to do anything (other than making sure you remember your login information).

7. Will there be High School Tennis this fall?

FTA is actively planning for the High School Season. Decisions regarding HS tennis are made by the FNSB School District and ASAA in accordance with state and local health mandates. We are in contact with the appropriate entities to stay informed regarding fall sports decisions. We will pass along additional information through our electronic channels.

Here is the latest information from the FNSB School District:

“We are hoping we will have fall sports but at this time, all ASAA sports are cancelled until the ASAA Board of Directors meets in early May to discuss whether or not districts can have sports or not. Much of those decisions will be made by the Governor and we will have to follow whatever ASAA and the Governor's mandates say about bringing groups of kids together, more than 10 at a time, etc.”

If you would like to be on a contact list for HS Tennis, please email fairbankstennis@gmail.com with the subject “High School Tennis Interest List” and provide your name, email address, and school. Also, please review the June and July programming for HS-age events.

8. When will FTA provide more information?

We will share information as soon as it becomes available. The FTA Board plans to meet on May 10 to discuss the situation at that time and we will provide any available updates after that meeting. The next regular FTA Board meeting is scheduled for May 20 and we will also provide updates after that meeting.

9. Who can I contact if I have additional questions or comments?

Please contact a member of the FTA Board of Directors should you have any additional questions or comments:

FTA Board of Directors

Sabine Siekmann (President) – sieksabi@yahoo.com

Peter Beardsley (Vice President) – peter@nortechengr.com

Charmagne Alder (Secretary) – charmagne.alder@gmail.com

Liane Kondrak – liane@kondrak.com

David Park – dpark114@gmail.com

Junior Representatives

Klara Kondrak

Fiona Beardsley

Peter Park

Zia Siekmann

Key Committee Chairs:

Summer committee (Sabine Siekmann)

High School committee (Peter Beardsley)

Fundraising committee (Liane Kondrak)