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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **YOUNGS OPENS DOORS TO TENNIS UNDER TOGETHER AGAIN RE-OPENING STRATEGY**

**Welland, ON** - Youngs Sportsplex has re-opened its doors to tennis players under physical distancing guidelines in place to ensure a safer environment for everyone. Niagara is currently in Phase-One of the Province's Framework to Re-start the Province, which allows for low-risk sports to operate under strict regulations.

Youngs Sportsplex officially launched its *Together Again Re-opening Strategy* on June 12, 2020. The facility's re-opening strategy is aligned with industry standards and recommendations to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Youngs Sportsplex staff are committed to creating a safe place to play that builds customer confidence.

The following guidelines are now in place for tennis court users at Youngs Sportsplex:

- Players must practice physical distancing and stay a minimum of 6 feet away from others at all times. Handshakes, high-fives and/or elbow taps are not permitted
- In doubles play, switching ends is not allowed
- For singles play, players are to bring their own uniquely marked balls so that, for example, Player A can be instructed to only pick up balls by hand that are assigned to them and Player B only picks up balls by hand that are assigned to them when they are playing together. When returning balls to a partner, players should return them using only their racquet - never their hands. This could be applicable to doubles only if there are 4 unique sets of balls
- Players must not touch the net, net posts, or any other objects that are not necessary while playing tennis
- Players are allowed to sit on the chairs/benches. Only 1 player per bench and no moving the chairs/benches. Once a player uses a chair/bench they should only use that chair or bench for the duration of the rental and no other players should use that same chair or bench
- Players must not share any items including but not limited to towels, water bottles or other personal items
- For extra protection, it is recommended that players wear a glove on the hand that tosses the ball during their serve, noting that wearing a glove is not safe if a player touches their face with it. Alternately, players should be encouraged to use hand sanitizer and proper hand cleaning procedures
- Upon returning home, it is recommended that players be encouraged to sanitize the bottom of their court shoes (prior to entering the home) and then washing their hands

"The re-opening of our tennis courts is an important first step in the re-opening of the entire facility," said Dan Berger, Spectra's District General Manager for Youngs Sportsplex. "We urge guests to observe our new policies and guidelines so that we can be successful in this together. Every precautionary measure we've implemented is to ensure the health and safety of our employee and guests while they are at Youngs Sportsplex. We look forward to welcoming everyone back."

Owned by the City of Welland and managed by Spectra, Youngs Sportsplex houses four indoor tennis courts, an indoor FIFA regulation-sized soccer field, and five outdoor soccer fields. For more information on the facility's *Together Again Re-opening Strategy*, visit [youngssportsplex.com](http://youngssportsplex.com) or call 905-735-8106. For more information on *WellAnd Recovery Moving Beyond COVID-19*, visit [welland.ca](http://welland.ca).

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