



USTA NORTH CAROLINA

NC TENNIS PARTNERS WITH CHAPEL HILL DISTILLERY TO PRODUCE HAND SANITIZER

Safe Play

USTA North Carolina has partnered with TOPO Organic Distillery to produce hand sanitizer that will be provided at tennis events across the state.

TOPO Organic Distillery is a sister location of the Top of the Hill Restaurant and Brewery in Chapel Hill, NC. Serving as a downtown staple since 1996, Top of the Hill has become the social crossroads in Chapel Hill, where customers can enjoy craft beer and locally-sourced and distilled liquor while enjoying a homegrown meal. TOPO Organic Distillery has been named one of "The South's Best Distilleries" by Southern Living.

Esteban McMahan, the TOPO Spirit Guide, said the distillery didn't previously make hand sanitizer but felt it was important to help the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Small businesses are the heart of towns like Chapel Hill," Gaines said. "We are grateful to TOPO Organic Distillery for their willingness in their part of keeping tennis players safe."

"We already had ethanol on hand," McMahan said. "We had a tank of vodka and a tank of unaged whiskey that were ready to bottle. The first thing we did was re-distill those to 95% ABV (alcohol by volume) and made hand sanitizer to donate to first responders, healthcare workers and those in need."

Recently, USTA North Carolina released information about Return to Play protocol for tennis players and facilities. The protocol details that all individuals should carry hand sanitizer in their tennis bag. The TOPO hand sanitizer will be present at USTA sanctioned events, as soon as they resume, and provided to players and facilities as an additional safety precaution.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an ABV lower than 70% kills bacteria but may not kill viruses. An ABV over 70% is recommended by the CDC to effectively kill viruses.

Learn more about the Return to Play protocol at nctennis.com. Hand sanitizer and TOPO Organic spirits are available for purchase at topodistillery.com for more information.

TOPO uses the World Health Organization's (WHO) Alcohol Formula that "is the gold standard for hand sanitizer formulation," as noted on the TOPO website. The hand sanitizer being produced by TOPO for NC Tennis is 80% ABV, which is drastically safer.

"Our entire team is extremely proud of the fact that during this pandemic we were not only able to help our business survive but we were able to keep our community safe with our hand sanitizer and happy with our beer and spirits," McMahan said.

USTA North Carolina's Executive Director Kelly Gaines said supporting local companies is important.