

SUNDRIDGE PARK LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH RACKETS CLUB

TENNIS BYELAWS 2008

1. General

- 1.1 The summer tennis season runs from May to September.
- 1.2 The winter tennis season runs from October to April.
- 1.3 The hard tennis courts and the artificial clay courts will be open for play from 09.00 a.m. till 10.00 p.m (or dusk, if earlier). Certain times on certain courts are pre-allocated – see below for the details.
- 1.4 The grass courts are open only in the summer tennis season, and there are restrictions on when they can be used and by whom – see below for the details.

2. Court Availability

- 2.1 The Club coaching team have priority use of some courts at times through the week. You can check which courts are affected and when by looking at the charts that are displayed in the clubhouse and by the external blackboard (situated on the far side of the clubhouse, on the way to the squash courts and other tennis courts).
- 2.2 Club Sessions (open to all adult and Junior "A" tennis members) run at the following times. Just turn up and join in. They take priority on the courts allocated for their sessions. More details are given in Section 5 about how Club sessions are run:

Winter season: 1.30pm till 3.30pm on Sats and Suns

Summer season: 2pm till 4pm on Sats and Suns and 6pm till dusk on Tues

- 2.3 Juniors have priority use of Court 16 in both winter and summer seasons. In summer they also have priority use of Court 12 (except during Adult Club sessions). On Sunday mornings (10am – noon) juniors aged 11 or over have priority use of both Courts 15 & 16 for the Junior Club session.
- 2.4 Home League matches have priority on the following courts:

Winter season: Courts 17 & 18 (generally weekends- am/pm)

Summer season: Grass courts 1-3 (or clay courts 9-11 if grass is wet/unfit for play) on weekday evenings and most weekends

Generally the match courts will be listed on the blackboard on the morning of the match, so that you will know which courts are not available that day and when. Sometimes it is not possible to do this in advance but the fixtures list is on the noticeboard in the clubhouse, should you want to check whether there is a home match scheduled that day. If you choose to play on a match court, you may find that you have to vacate it when the match time arrives.

3. Grass Courts and when they can be used

- 3.1 The grass courts are open for play only in the summer season (May to mid September). Whether they do open, and for how long, depends on the weather. Generally speaking the aim is to open the grass courts for play

At weekends – from 11am until dusk

On weekdays – from 1pm until dusk

However the groundsman has the Tennis Committee's authority to decide whether (due to weather, use, or the need to rest the surface) particular grass courts should be opened later, closed earlier or rested for a full day.

3.2 Grass Courts 1, 2 and 3 are reserved for League matches only until after the Club Finals Day (usually mid July). During July, if not needed for a League match, these courts may also be used for Club tournament matches.

3.3 Unless they are singles matches in the Club tournament, singles matches should not be played on grass courts at peak times (after 6.30pm and any time at weekends) if there are people waiting to play doubles. At off-peak times (Monday-Friday, before 6.30pm) singles matches can be played on those grass courts which are open.

4. Court Bookings

4.1 Courts which are pre-allocated for coaching, Club sessions, junior priority or matches may not be booked by other club members at those times.

4.2 Floodlit courts can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance (see Section 6 for how to do this).

4.3 Court 19 only can be booked at weekends only up to 2 weeks in advance. The booking sheet for Court 19 is in the Floodlight Book (kept in the rack near the Squash Honours Board). Just enter the names of the players or the organiser in the slot you wish to book. If you want to cancel your booking, please do so as early as possible, by crossing out your name. Other members can then take the court. When you arrive, please put your name on the external blackboard with the times that you have booked.

4.4 No other courts can be pre-booked. Instead you will need to come to the Club and play on one of the non-pre-allocated courts that is then free. When you have chosen which court to play on, write your name on the external blackboard for that court with your start time. You can then use that court for an hour, and if no-one is waiting to take the court from you at the end of that hour, you can extend your use by another hour.

If all courts are occupied when you arrive, you can book the next slot on your preferred court by writing your name on the blackboard in the appropriate column along with your intended start time. You may do this only if at least two of the players who want to make the booking for that next slot are physically present at the Club at the time of booking, and remain at the Club until their booked start time arrives. When the next slot arrives, you can ask the existing players to vacate the court, and are then free to use that court for an hour. If no-one else is waiting to use it at the end of that hour, you can extend your use by another hour.

If you are playing a tournament match, you may keep your court for the full duration of the match, even if this is longer than one hour. Please write "tournament/league match" against the booking on the blackboard so that other members who are deciding which court to wait for know that you may be on the court for longer than an hour.

5. Adult Club Sessions

Adult Club sessions are intended to mix up the players who attend and introduce new members to the existing members. The Club sessions are open to all standards and there is no charge. Please make welcome any members who attend Club sessions for the first time. There is usually an organiser (done on a rota basis by existing members) to help rotate the pairs and introduce players to each other, but this organised part of the session may not last the whole time, and there may be some sessions without an organiser.

Doubles matches are played to 7 games (a short set) and then players rotate with those who are waiting for a court. If there is no-one waiting, two sets can be played.

The sessions take place as follows (and on whichever courts have been allocated by TC to the Club Session on the court allocation schedule which is posted in the clubhouse):

Winter season: 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Sats and Suns

Summer season: 2pm till 6pm on Sats and Suns and 6pm till dusk on Tues

"A" Grade Juniors are welcome to attend Adult Club sessions.

6. Floodlit Courts

- 6.1 Courts 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19 have floodlights. There are planning restrictions which govern which floodlights may be used – both according to season and timing. These restrictions are explained on the tennis noticeboard, and on reminder notices adjacent to the floodlight timers. Please do not use the floodlights outside the permitted times and months as serious consequences may follow.
- 6.2 The charge for floodlights on all courts (except court 14) is £12.00 per one and a half hour session. Court 14 is free of charge if Court 13 is in use as lighting is limited.
- 6.3 Floodlit sessions start at 5.30pm, 7pm and (for some courts) 8.30pm.
- 6.4 Floodlight Tokens can be bought from the bar. Insert them into the correct meter for the court you are going to use. The meters for courts 9-12 are in the cupboard by the kitchen and the meters for courts 13, 14, 17, 18 & 19 are situated in the lobby of Squash Courts 1 & 2. Please insert tokens a couple of minutes before the start time for your session in order for the lights to warm up or remain on. If you put them in after the lights have gone out it can take at least 10 minutes for them to come on again.
- 6.5 Courts can be booked up to two weeks in advance in the Floodlight Book (kept in the rack near the Squash Honours Board) by entering the names of the players or the organiser. If you want to cancel your booking, please do so as early as possible, by crossing out your name in the Floodlight Book. Other members can then take the court. Please note that the Club loses revenue if the floodlit courts are not used and reserves the right to charge people who do not turn up for the session they have booked or cancel very late, except in case of bad weather.

7. Etiquette

- 7.1 Predominantly white clothes are preferred, although not insisted upon.
- 7.2 Shoes should be tennis trainers with soles that are suitable for the surface of the court being played on.
- 7.3 When play is in progress please wait until a point is finished before entering the court, picking up a ball on another court or returning a ball.
- 7.4 When playing on the clay courts, please wipe your shoes on the mats provided before and after play (to save transfer of debris onto the clay surface or of clay out onto the grass). After your match, please drag the surface using the lightweight drag mats provided. It will help preserve the clubhouse carpet and flooring if you would also use the shoe brush to remove any residual clay granules before coming into the clubhouse.
- 7.5 Senior players should set a good example to juniors over etiquette – this is how they will learn.

8. Bringing Visitors to the Club

- 8.1 Adult tennis members and "A" Grade Junior members may bring visitors to play at the Club. There is no limit to the number of visitors you may bring through the year, as long as each visitor comes (whether as your guest or the guest of another member of the Club) no more often than five times in each Club year (which runs from 1 April to 31 March the following year).
- 8.2 The member must pay the appropriate visitor's fee of (for adults) £3.00 (Mon-Fri 9am – 6pm) or £5.00 (evenings & weekends). For juniors the visitor's fee is £1 per visit. Hand the money in to the bar, or the Club office (if open), or failing both of these, hand it to a member of staff to pass on to the office.
- 8.3 The member must also enter his or her name and the name of their visitor in the visitors' book which is in the rack by the Squash Honours Board. The bar staff who accept your visitors fee will initial the book to show that they have done so.
- 8.4 Junior B & C members can only bring a visitor if prior approval has been given by a member of the Junior Committee.

8.5 Social and squash members of the Club may play tennis up to five times in each Club year, on paying the same visitors fee. However, they cannot bring a visitor to play tennis with them, whether that person is willing to pay the visitor fee or not.

8.6 Tennis members may play squash up to five times in each Club year, on paying the same visitor's fee. Again they cannot bring a visitor to play squash with them, whether that person is willing to pay the visitor fee or not.

8.7 Members may bring visitors to Club premises as spectators without payment as often as they wish.

9. Tournaments

9.1 The Club runs tournaments throughout the year, both for adults and juniors. Some are open just to members, some are open to players from outside the Club. Consult the Club diary for the full programme of tournaments and watch out in the clubhouse for the sign up sheets, which will also give an idea of the standard of play that is needed to enter.

9.2 Any member who wishes to run a tournament should approach the Tennis committee first. Any such tournament should be open to all relevant tennis members (adults, A juniors, B/C juniors). If the tournament takes place at a weekend, Midweek Tennis members may take part so long as they pay the appropriate visitor's fee. Non-members who wish to take part should also pay the appropriate visitor's fee.

10. Adult Teams

We enter Ladies, Mens and Mixed teams in Kent and North Kent Leagues in both Summer and Winter seasons. Anyone who would like to be considered for playing in the teams should approach a member of the Tennis Committee or look at the notice board for relevant notices.

11. Junior Tennis Members

11.1 'A' Juniors are aged 10 or older and have been specially invited to join the A status (based on their level of play). They have all the playing privileges of adult tennis members. The Tennis committee will decide, in conjunction with the Club coach, which junior members play well enough to be invited to take up Junior A status.

11.2 'B' Juniors (those aged 8 or more, but who are not "A" grade Juniors) have priority at all times for play on the courts designated for juniors (see section 2.3). They may also play on any other hard court that has not been preallocated. However, if adult tennis members arrive to play on that court, the juniors must give it up immediately to the adults. 'B' juniors are not permitted to play on the grass courts.

11.3 'C' Juniors may play on any court, but only if they are playing with and under the supervision of an adult member, and if there are no adults waiting to play on that court. 'C' juniors are not permitted to play on the grass courts.

11.4 Junior Club Sessions are held on Sundays from 10am to midday on Courts 15 & 16 for children of age 11 upwards.

11.5 Family evening is on Fridays from 6.30pm. There is a coached session for juniors (at modest pay-and-play prices) and adult members can make up games on other courts, both with their own children and mixing in with other families. Some families also play squash. There is usually a BBQ or other simple food afterwards.

11.6 We enter junior teams in the North Kent and other local leagues, as well as mini tennis teams at all 3 levels into the County tournaments. The coaches generally take the lead in suggesting when a child is ready to join such a team.

11.7 Junior tournaments are run at the Club. Some are open to members only, others to players from outside the Club. Watch the newsletter and noticeboards, or ask your coach, for further details.

12. Access to the Clubhouse and Bar

The clubhouse is open to members from 9am until the bar shuts (generally 11pm). You will need your security card to gain access to the clubhouse (and thus to the toilets and the bar). When the bar is closed you can make a cup of tea or coffee in the kitchen area – please put a small donation towards the costs into the container.

The bar is generally open lunchtimes and evenings for use by members and their guests. Non-members may not use the bar unless they are a guest of a member (due to the terms of our alcohol licence). Please do not buy alcoholic drinks for people under 18 as we are not allowed to serve them alcohol under our licence. The bar sells coffee, sweets and snacks, tennis balls, grips and dampers, squash balls and (at weekends) filled rolls.

The First Aid box is in the kitchen, along with a stock of accident forms, for completion in the event of an injury or accident on Club premises.

If you would like to display a notice on one of the Club noticeboards, please speak first to the Club Administrator, Simon Tyrrell-Lewis. We have a strict policy of displaying only notices that relate to Club business or events, and sometimes other charitable appeals with which one of our members has a connection. We do keep a list of services that members might like to market to each other, and have a section in the Newsletter for adverts of this nature (at a modest cost).