



Biddenden Lawn Tennis Club Rules of Play and Conduct

Rules of Play and Conduct

The Committee requests that all members of the Biddenden Lawn Tennis Club (the “Club”) abide by the following guidelines in the interests of safety and the harmony of the Club.

1. General Rules

- 1.1. No other game but tennis is allowed on the courts or Club grounds, except under the direct supervision of a coach.
- 1.2. Members, as privileged code-holders, should ensure their usage of all Club facilities, is both responsible and respectful.
- 1.3. Junior members under the age of 16 must only use the Club facilities under adult supervision for their own safety and protection.
- 1.4. Generally, both courts are available for use but availability is limited during Club sessions, junior coaching sessions and

Club and/or league matches. See also paragraph 3 below, Court Priority.

- 1.5. Members are expected to treat fellow members and neighbours with respect at all times, avoiding unnecessary noise and disturbance.
- 1.6. Car parking can be a problem, on occasions, so please park as sensibly as possible.
- 1.7. No food or drink, except water is allowed on court unless as part of an organised event.
- 1.8. Mobile phones must be switched off or placed on silent if taken on the courts.
- 1.9. Players should not walk behind any tennis match in progress but should wait until the game in progress is finished or if waved past by the players on court.
- 1.10. Only the Head Coach (on appointment), his staff or members authorised by the Club Chairperson are allowed to coach at the Club.
- 1.11. Only recognised tennis clothing is acceptable on court. To ensure the court surfaces are not damaged, players must wear appropriate tennis footwear with flat, non-marking soles.
- 1.12. Non-members are allowed on Club premises ONLY as guests of members.

2. Junior Members

- 2.1. Junior members under the age of 16 must be supervised by their parent/carer at all times whilst at the Club or using the courts (with the exception of coaching lessons).

- 2.2. The Club will not be discriminating against juniors – full membership is open to all even though juniors may have to wait until they are 18 to vote at Annual General Meetings.

3. Court Priority

The Committee has agreed the following priorities for courts:

- 3.1. TOP PRIORITY: Inter-Club matches (senior and junior) take the highest priority over any other Club activities, with senior matches taking priority over junior matches. Club sessions and group coaching will be reallocated accordingly.
- 3.2. Club Open Days and group coaching sessions for both juniors and full members will have the second priority.
- 3.3. Third Priority: All courts booked in advance via the Club online bookings system. These include private lessons with permitted coaches.
- 3.4. Junior members coaching have priority on the courts on Saturday mornings (09.00 to 13.00). Junior members have priority on the courts on Monday to Friday between 1600 and 1800hrs unless there is a junior coaching session taking place.
- 3.5. Other priorities may be set out from time to time and will be updated on the website.
- 3.6. Any member may use free courts, but if there are members waiting for a court on which they have priority (for instance prior booking and/or coaching session) they may ask those on court to vacate the court at the end of the game in progress.
- 3.7. Members asking players to vacate a court over which they have priority should act reasonably and courteously when requesting the court and, similarly, players asked to vacate a court under priority rules should do so equally courteously.

4. Safeguarding

- 4.1. The Club aims to create an enjoyable environment for all juniors who wish to take part in tennis or other sport and social activities at the club.
- 4.2. The Club believes that children and young people have the right to be safe, secure and free from threat.
- 4.3. The Club believes that young people have the right to be treated with respect, and to have their concerns listened to and acted upon.
- 4.4. The Club will take steps to ensure that any volunteers or professionals working with children are suitable to do so, through the use of references and background checks. The Club will ensure that all relevant people have been vetted and approved through the enhanced criminal records check process.
- 4.5. The Club has adopted the LTA policy for the Safeguarding of Adults and Children. The Club policy is available on request from any member of the Committee. All members are expected to abide by this policy whilst on Club premises.
- 4.6. The Club has an adult member who is specifically responsible for children, young people and child protection (the “Welfare Officer”).
- 4.7. The Welfare Officer’s name is: Becca Stone; Email: beccajstone@gmail.com or 07812 026171.