



BRAMFORD TENNIS CLUB CONSTITUTION

1 Name of Club

The club will be called **Bramford Tennis Club** (Hereinafter will be referred to as The Club). **Bramford Tennis Club** will be affiliated to the **LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LTA)**, the National Governing Body for Tennis in the UK through a process known as Venue Registration.

2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Club will be:

- To offer coaching, social and competitive opportunities in TENNIS
- To promote the club in the local community and the wider TENNIS environment
- To manage Bramford Tennis Club
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club
- To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone

3 Membership

(a) Membership of the club is open to anyone interested in engaging or participating in the sport of TENNIS, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.

(b) The membership shall consist of the following categories as defined on the club website under "membership"¹:

- Adult (18+)
- Adult Senior (60+)
- Couple
- Family
- Junior
- Special Membership e.g. Life member or coaching staff

¹ A range of special introductory membership packages may also be defined to run alongside the "full" membership types by agreement of the AGM to encourage new members

- (c) All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept the regulations, policies and codes of practice that the club has adopted.
- (d) Members in each category will pay membership fees, as determined at the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) Individuals shall not be eligible to take part in the business of the Club, vote at general meetings or be eligible for selection of any Club team unless the applicable subscription has been paid by the due date and/or membership has been agreed by the Club committee.

4 Sports Equity

- (a) This Club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.

- (b) The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- (c) The Club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- (d) All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- (e) The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.
- (f) The Club has a "terms of play" policy which includes the code of conduct for on-court behaviour. This policy applies to all players, visitors, parents and spectators.

5 Committee

- (a) The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee which shall consist of the Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary plus additional roles as required for the effective running of the club e.g. Welfare Officer, Communications Officer,

Facilities Officer, Grants Officer who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

- (b) All committee members should be members or associates² of the Club.
- (c) If required, the committee shall elect a Vice Chair from among its members
- (d) The term of office shall be for one year, and members of the committee shall be eligible for re-election.
- (e) If the post of any officer or ordinary committee member should fall vacant after such an election, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.
- (f) The Committee will be responsible for awarding coaching and supplier contracts, adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- (g) The Committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business e.g. if the committee has appointed a **Head coach**, they may be co-opted onto the committee.
- (h) The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.
- (i) Committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and be held at convenient times throughout the year. Committee members will be expected to attend regularly to remain as an active committee member.
- (j) Only the posts defined as being part of the committee at the AGM will have the right to vote at committee meetings.
- (k) The quorum required for business to be agreed at Management Committee meetings will be at least 50% of the committee.

6 Finances

- (a) The club treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.

² For example, a parent of a junior member

- (b) The financial year of the club will run from *1st Apr* and end on *31st Mar*
- (c) All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.
- (d) An independently verified statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of the treasurer and/or the chair.
- (g) All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.

7 Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings

- (a) General Meetings are the means whereby the members of the Club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club's affairs.
- (b) The Club shall hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) prior to the new season:
 - Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM.
 - Receive reports from the Chairman and Secretary.
 - Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts.
 - Receive reports from other specialist roles involved in the committee
 - Confirm that independent verification of the Club's accounts has occurred.
 - Elect the officers on the committee.
 - Agree the membership fees for the following year.
 - Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.
 - Deal with other proposals and relevant business.
- (c) Notice of the AGM will be given by the club secretary at least 21 days' prior to the meeting taking place.
- (d) Nominations for officers of the committee will be sent to the secretary prior to the AGM.
- (e) Proposed changes to the constitution and any proposals shall be sent to the secretary prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them along with a final agenda at least 7 days before an AGM.
- (f) All members have the right to vote at the AGM.

- (g) The quorum for AGMs will be a minimum of 25% of the adult members or where insufficient club members are present at least 60% of the existing committee.
- (h) The Chairman of the Club shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at general and committee meetings.
- (i) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 10% of the members of the Club. The committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the committee members.
- (j) All procedures shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

8 Amendments to the constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

9 Welfare and Safeguarding

- (a) All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young people will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the club's child protection policy and procedures.
- (b) Any coaching and/or work with children or vulnerable adults at the Club must only be undertaken by coaching staff or volunteers who are **contracted** by the Club for this purpose and who meet the Club's and the LTA safeguarding standards
- (c) The Club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any child protection concerns.
- (d) All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary.
- (e) The Management Committee will meet to hear complaints within 14 days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership or contract.
- (f) The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 14 days of the hearing.

- (g) There will be the right of appeal to the Management Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 14 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

10 Dissolution

- (a) A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through majority vote of the membership.
- (b) The Club will be non-profit making, with any surplus funds re-invested in the Club. No surplus funds to be distributed to members or third parties.
- (c) In the event of dissolution, all debts should be cleared and any net assets given to Inland Revenue approved sports or charities (i.e. another C.A.S.C., the L.T.A. or registered only charities)

11 Declaration

Bramford Tennis Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Approved: *G D Chappell* (Club Chair)

Last reviewed: May 2022

Next review: June 2023