

Cringleford Tennis Club: Competitive Team Tennis Policy

Mission Statement (approved at April 2024 EGM)

Our mission is to promote and encourage the playing and enjoyment of tennis for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to the population of Cringleford and surrounding areas by offering a vibrant and sustainable tennis club encouraging player development with both competitive and social tennis in an inclusive and friendly environment.

Cringleford Tennis Club successfully mixes extensive social tennis with both internal and external competitive tennis activities. It enters several externally coordinated Men's, Ladies, Mixed and Veterans events and leagues throughout the entire year. The club committee, through its *Match Secretary*, conveys responsibility for arranging the participation of its various teams, which represent the club externally, to nominated *Team Captains* and their deputies (including *Match-Day Captains*).

While all teams are expected to participate competitively, the ethos of the Club's lowest ranked team (e.g., Men's E team, Ladies C team, winter league D-team) is to be organised to give all club members an equal opportunity to try out competitive team tennis rather than adhering to a "play to win" focus.

This policy provides transparency in the club's selection procedure of Captains as well as providing Captains with guidance on their role and responsibilities.

Team Captains are selected using the following **ground rules for identifying captains**:

- The process for nomination of a team captain must involve the club committee as represented by the club's *Match Secretary* ...
 - Immediate past captains are to be consulted for suggestions for a successor. At the same time, in a sufficiently timely manner, a call will be issued offering the opportunity for interested parties to discuss interest in the role with the *Match Secretary*. The *Match Secretary* will then consider this information and, where necessary in consultation of the club's officers (*Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary*), approach suitable candidates. Successful candidates must also ensure they nominate a vice captain.
- The term of office for a *Team Captain* will typically be time limited, but can be renewed or extended at the discretion of the club's officers ...
 - There will also be opportunities for shorter, interim terms of office, which can be agreed with the *Match Secretary*. Any renewals or extensions will be discussed considering any interest in the role shown by other club members.
- A *Team Captain's* position is reviewed annually ensuring the role is being fulfilled suitably ...
 - Typically, a committee-led light-touch review to ensure everything is running smoothly.
- *Team Captains* must ensure transparency in nomination of team squads in consultation with the *Match Secretary* and other *Team Captains* ...
 - Transparency should be maintained by ensuring any training/coaching activities for potential squad members are open to club members and communicated through the club's PR officer. New members joining the club will be introduced to *Team Captains* (or a designated group of players comprising several members of the current committee), who will be asked to assess playing ability and recommend team suitability.
- Squad sizes should be of a similar magnitude thus offering all membership-paying club members appropriate opportunity based on ability for playing competitive tennis ...
 - Squad sizes should be agreed between *Team Captains* and the *Match Secretary* before being registered with Leagues. Player registration will be done by the *Match Secretary*. All players representing the club in teams must be fully paid-up members of the tennis club for the entire period in which the team event is taking place. The club chairman has requested that *Team Captains* are reminded of the following.

Any member wishing to play for a team will be assessed and placed in a squad appropriate to their ability. All squad members (who are fit and willing to play) to be offered the opportunity to play for their designated team before a member of a different squad is approached to play.

- Current captains should actively ensure they are aware of new players joining the club or players within the club improving their playing standards (e.g., juniors) ...
 - Current captains are encouraged to actively participate in club events (KO competitions, club one-day cup events, box leagues) and asked to attend and organise club nights sessions (at least a couple) during the summer season.
 - It is the current captain's responsibility to arrange timely collection of match fees, which should be passed on to the club treasurer in a satisfactory manner before the end of the financial year.
- In the event of any Captain failing to follow the **ground rules for teams** described below or being involved in any other activity construed as misconduct the Committee reserve the right to remove the captaincy with immediate effect

Team Captains (incl. *nominated match-day* captains) and all team players are expected to support key **ground rules for teams** based around the LTA's code of conduct which is listed on the club's webpage and notice board by the courts.

- Treat everyone equally with respect (club members, the opposition, spectators & officials) ...
 - There is no tolerance for violence or disrespect between team members or with opposition players and officials. This requires respect and care. Respect includes listening to each players opinions and comments, inclusion - no discrimination or stereotyping.
- Communicate openly ...
 - Encouraging open communication helps captains reduce problems.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship ...
 - Remind players to play fairly.
- Refrain from verbal threats and any form of harassment.
 - Captains must ensure they are aware of all the club's current safeguarding policies.
- Proper notice ...
 - Players are encouraged to provide good notice if they cannot take part in a match. This will help finding replacement and ensure matches go ahead as planned.
- Address conflict as soon as possible ...
 - A captain's role is to deal with conflict as soon as it arises, either during matches (with opposition players) or at any other time. If necessary, depending on severity, this may require the involvement of club officers (Chairman, Treasurer & Secretary) who will apply the club's behaviour policies.
- Be appropriate ambassadors ...
 - Remember that every member in our club is also an ambassador. With the fast-paced social media technology available today, it is essential to bear this in mind.
- Respect the environment ...
 - As matches are hosted in communal facilities and outdoors, it is critical players are reminded to respect the space they are in. There can be no tolerance for damaging facilities, courts, or any equipment both at home and away venues. Captains are responsible for ensuring no litter is left behind after matches and reporting any lost property/equipment damage.