

# FORMBY LAWN TENNIS CLUB

## RULES

1. The objects of Formby Lawn Tennis Club (“the Club”) are to provide facilities and arrangements for playing, and to promote and encourage participation in, the sport of Lawn Tennis and other sports. The Club is open to, and welcomes, membership from the whole community, without any discrimination. The Club is non-profit making, and any surplus funds must be re-invested in the Club for future needs. Distribution of Club assets, either in cash or in kind, is not permitted, to members or third parties, apart from donations to charities or clubs with similar objects that are registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs.
2. All members have a responsibility to observe and uphold the Rules and Regulations and to do all possible to maintain and protect the good name and facilities of the Club. Unless specifically excluded in another Rule or Regulation, all members have the right to propose Club Officers, Committee Members and new members, vote at Club meetings, access and responsible use of the Club facilities, participate in social and tennis events organised by the Club (subject to age limitations) and introduce visitors in accordance with Rule 27. Persons of either sex are eligible for full membership of the Club. No person shall be denied membership of the Club on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, age, disability, sex, occupation, sexual orientation, religion, political or other beliefs.
3. Conditions of Membership
  - 3.1 Each member agrees as a condition of membership:
    - a) to be bound by and subject to the rules of the Club
    - b) to be bound by and subject to the Rules and the Disciplinary Code of the LTA as in force from time to time
  2. Rule 3.1 confers a benefit on the LTA and, subject to the remaining provisions of this rule, is intended to be enforceable by the LTA by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999. For the avoidance of doubt, the members do not intend that any term of these rules, apart from rule 3.1 should be enforceable, by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999, by any person who is not a party to this agreement.
  3. The Committee may terminate the membership of any person, or impose any other sanction they determine to be appropriate, in connection with the breach of any condition of membership set out in this rule.
4. Members of the Club shall be one of the following categories:
  - (a) **FULL** Members, who shall be those members who are not members of any other category and shall be not less than 30 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> September of the year of election.
  - (b) **LIFE** Members, who shall be members or other persons who have rendered outstanding service to the Club. The name and address of any person proposed for election as a Life Member shall, for not less than two days before the election, be posted on the notice board in the Clubhouse and such election shall be by a majority of those present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting. Life Members are not required to pay a subscription.
  - (c) **COUNTRY** Members, who shall be persons who have been Full Members but who are now neither working, residing nor temporarily residing within 25 miles of the Club premises. They do not have the right to propose Club Officers, Committee Members or new members, nor to vote at Club meetings.
  - (d) **YOUNG ADULT** Members, who shall have reached the age of 18 and shall be under 30 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> September in any year. They have the same voting rights etc as Full Members.
  - (e) **JUNIOR** Members, who shall be under 18 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> September in any year. They do not have the right to propose Club Officers, Committee Members or new members, nor to vote at Club meetings. A Junior Member automatically becomes a Young Adult on 1<sup>st</sup> September following their 18th birthday. However, a Junior Member who has attained the age of 18 years may, between then and 1<sup>st</sup> September following, at the discretion of the Committee, be elected to Young Adult Membership subject to the payment of the appropriate annual subscription in respect of the full year to 31<sup>st</sup> January. A special rate of subscription (to be determined under Rule 20) may apply to Junior Members under the age of 7.
  - (f) **TEMPORARY** Members, who shall be persons only temporarily resident in the neighbourhood of the Club premises. They do not have the right to propose Club Officers, Committee Members or new members, nor to vote at Club meetings. They shall not be entitled to compete in any Club tournament without the express permission of the Committee. No person shall be permitted to continue as a Temporary Member for more than two months, unless re-elected. No Temporary membership may be granted when the number of Full and Intermediate Members is at the maximum permitted.
  - (g) **ASSOCIATE** Members, who shall only be allowed to play as visitors. They do not have the right to vote at Club meetings. Any Associate Member who resides more than 25 miles from the Club premises shall pay one half the normal Associate subscription. An Associate Member may not play, unless first signed in as a Visitor by a Full or Intermediate Member on no more than 6 occasions per year, as described in Rule 27. A Visitors Fee will be charged as it is for all Playing Visitors to the Club.
  - (h) **FAMILY** Family Membership will include all family members residing at the same address.

- (i) The number of Full and Intermediate Members shall not exceed 300. Normally, the number of Junior Members shall not exceed 200, of whom not more than 110 shall be of one gender.
5. The Officers of the Club shall consist of: Chair, Captain, Vice-Captain, Ground and House Sub Committee Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Membership Secretary and Honorary Match Secretary. Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election.
6. The management of the Club shall (except as otherwise provided in these Rules) be in the hands of a Committee consisting of the Officers and six members who are entitled to vote under Rules 2 and 4. The Committee shall have the power to enter into contracts for the purposes of the Club on behalf of all members of the Club. It shall also have the power to borrow money for the purposes of the Club on the specific authority of a General Meeting. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to a full indemnity out of the property and assets for the time being of the Club and by members of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in or in relation to the management of the affairs of the Club. The Club agrees that each member of the Committee will be required, as a condition of election or appointment, to agree to be bound by and subject to these rules, the Rules and the Disciplinary Code, such agreement to contain an express acknowledgement that the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 applies and that the LTA and the Club can enforce any breach at its option and in its sole discretion. Any person accepting election or nomination to the Committee must declare potential conflicts of interest. The Chair, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and any cheque signatories that may be appointed will meet the requirements of a 'Fit and Proper Persons' test.
7. The other members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Each such member shall serve three years, two members retiring annually in rotation. No Committee Member whose term of office has expired shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee for a period of one year, except as an Officer.
8. Every candidate for election to an Office or Committee position shall be nominated by two members (entitled to so propose in accordance with Rules 2 and 4). Nominations must be in writing and delivered to the Honorary Secretary at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the Annual General Meeting.
9. At all meetings of the Committee three shall form a quorum, except for election of members when five shall form a quorum. The Committee may fill any casual vacancy occurring in its number. The member elected to fill such a vacancy shall hold office only for the unexpired term of office of the member whose place they have been elected to fill.
10. Tennis matches, match practices, team selection, tournaments, coaching, club play, and all other Club tennis programmes shall be administered by a Tennis Sub Committee to be appointed by the Committee. The Sub Committee shall comprise the Captain, Vice Captain and Honorary Match Secretary, together with at least one gentleman and one lady who are Full Members. The Captain shall chair the Tennis Sub Committee, which may co-opt other members from the Committee or outside the Committee, of any age group, with the approval of the Committee. The Sub Committee shall be responsible to the Committee for the observance of the Rules and Regulations, the maintenance of good relations between members and all matters relating to the playing of tennis. It shall have the authority to take prompt action to preserve the good name of the Club in all matters.
11. (a) The Committee shall in each year at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting appoint three of its members elected at an Annual General Meeting as a Bar Sub Committee who shall hold office until the appointment of the Bar Sub Committee for the next following year. The Chair of the Bar Sub Committee shall be appointed by the Committee. Such Bar Sub Committee shall have sole control of the purchase of intoxicating liquor on behalf of and supply thereof to the members of the Club and to other persons (for consumption on the Club premises) whose admission to the Club premises is provided for by these Rules. Two members of the Bar Sub Committee shall form a quorum. The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy occurring in the Bar Sub Committee from members of the Committee elected at an Annual General Meeting.  
(b) The Committee shall appoint each year a Ground and House Sub Committee. It shall consist of the elected Chair, and such other members as the Committee shall decide, either from the Committee or outside the Committee, with the power to co-opt, subject to the approval of the Committee.  
(c) The Committee may from time to time appoint such other Sub Committees as it may deem necessary or expedient and may refer to them any particular affairs of the Club, except as provided by Rule 11(a), as the Committee may determine. Membership of such Sub Committees may be drawn from Committee Members or from outside the Committee; they shall have the power to co-opt, subject to the approval of the Committee. Such Sub Committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Committee for confirmation or otherwise and shall conduct their business in accordance with the direction of the Committee.
12. If the Chair elected at the Annual General Meeting is not present at any Committee or General Meeting, the members present shall elect one of their number to take the chair for that meeting.

13. The property of the Club shall be vested in three Trustees and any moneys belonging to the Club and not required for immediate use may be invested by the Committee in the names of the Trustees in such securities as trustees may legally hold. The Trustees, on the authority of a General Meeting when so required by these Rules, and otherwise on the direction of the Committee, may on behalf and for the purposes of the Club purchase or take on lease any land or hereditaments; erect, build, pull down, rebuild, alter and adapt buildings on any such land or hereditaments; sell, exchange, surrender, lease or otherwise dispose of or deal with any land or hereditaments or other property of the Club; and may execute and sign all such deeds and other documents as may be necessary or desirable for such purposes. When any change occurs in the Trusteeship all proper steps shall be taken as soon as practicable thereafter to vest the property of the Club in the new Trustees. The Trustees shall be notified of and entitled to attend and vote at any meeting of the Committee at which a subject affecting the property of the Club vested in them is under consideration. The Trustees, past and present, shall be entitled to a full indemnity out of the property and assets for the time being of the Club and by the members of the Club for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in or in relation to the discharge of their duties. Trustees must meet the requirements of a 'Fit & Proper Persons' test.
14. The Trustees shall hold office for life unless they shall resign or shall be removed from office by the vote of a majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting. If any Trustee shall die or resign or be removed from office a new Trustee shall be elected in their place by the Club in General Meeting.
15. The Club in General Meeting shall elect a President who shall hold office until they shall die or resign or until another President shall be elected in their place by the vote of a majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting.
16. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in Formby, on a date no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December and at a time to be fixed by the Committee, for passing the accounts, electing officers and members of the Committee, revising and altering Rules, and other general business. The Honorary Auditor shall also be appointed at this meeting.
17. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Honorary Secretary whenever it shall be considered desirable by the Committee or at any other time on receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not less than twenty (20) members who are entitled to vote under Rules 2 and 4. Any such requisition shall state the object and the proposal for which the meeting is to be called. A vote on the proposal shall take place at the end of the meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall convene a meeting for a date not more than 21 days after receipt of the requisition. If the Honorary Secretary shall fail to do so, the requisitionists may themselves convene a meeting.
18. The Honorary Secretary shall give to every member (except Temporary and Junior Members) at their last known place of residence at least 7 days notice in writing of every General Meeting and shall specify in such notice the business intended to be transacted. It will suffice to give a joint notice to members residing at the same address. At all General Meetings ten members entitled to vote under Rules 2 and 3 shall form a quorum. At any General Meeting, unless a poll is demanded by the Chair or by not less than twelve members entitled to vote and present at the meeting, all matters shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting, and in the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote. An amendment of any resolution may be moved at the meeting without notice. If the Chair considers that any such amendment is of such a nature that notice of it should be given to members not present, or in any other circumstances with the consent of the meeting, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to another time, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. If a poll is demanded in manner aforesaid the same shall be taken in such a manner as the Chair directs and the result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which a poll has been demanded.
19. An entrance fee shall be payable on election to all classes of membership other than Temporary and Associate except by those who transfer from one class of membership to another and who have already paid such a fee. The payment of the entrance fee for children under 10 years old may be deferred until they reach the age of 10.
20. The rates of subscriptions, entrance fee and other fees shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting, but may be varied at a Special General Meeting called in accordance with Rule 17.
21. Subscriptions shall be payable in advance and shall be due on 31<sup>st</sup> January in each year. In the case of every new member (except Temporary Members) the entrance fee, if payable, and the first year's subscription shall be payable in advance by cheque with their application. Temporary Members shall pay one month's subscription before the commencement of each month's membership. A discount (to be determined under Rule 20) may be deducted from the annual subscription if paid by 31<sup>st</sup> January, or within one calendar month of the notice of election in the case of a new member or a member who transfers from one class of membership to another. The subscription may be reduced to 50% for a new member joining after 1<sup>st</sup> August, for that year. A family discount may be applied, which shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting, but may be varied at a Special General Meeting called in accordance with Rule 17. The

Committee shall be entitled to treat the membership of any member who has not paid their subscription to the Honorary Treasurer within 8 weeks as having lapsed. All entrance fees, subscriptions and other debts due to the Club shall be deemed to be owing to the Honorary Treasurer for the time being and shall be recoverable accordingly.

22. No member shall be entitled to use the Club premises or facilities, enter any competition, or represent the Club in any event, unless their subscription for the current season has been paid and is in possession of a current membership card.
23. The Committee shall have the power to dispense with the payment of an entrance fee or subscription or any part thereof in any case in which they are of the opinion that it is desirable, in the interests of the Club, or for other reasons, to do so.
24. (a) Election of members, with the exception of Life Members who shall be elected in accordance with Rule 4(b), shall take place at any meeting of the Committee.  
(b) Any other person wishing to become a member shall be proposed and seconded by two Full Members, each of not less than one year's standing, and to each of whom the candidate is known personally. The candidate and the proposer and seconder shall complete and sign a nomination form and lodge it with the Honorary Membership Secretary who shall post the name and address of the candidate, together with the names of the proposer and seconder, on the Notice Board in the Clubhouse. The name shall remain on the Notice Board for not less than 14 days during which time any member shall be entitled to make to any member of the Committee any representations which such member may think fit with regard to the candidate.  
(c) The name of the candidate shall come up for election at the first meeting of the Committee after the requirements of Rule 24(b) have been complied with.  
(d) All elections under this Rule shall be by a simple majority.
25. Members should notify by letter to the Honorary Membership Secretary, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> April in any year, their intention to retire from the Club, otherwise if they play after that date they will be required to pay their annual subscription.
26. Members and their visitors must wear recognised tennis clothing on court at all times. The General Committee shall define "recognised tennis clothing" and make Regulations accordingly.
27. Each Full and Intermediate member may introduce no more than ten playing visitors in any one year on payment of a daily fee. Each visit of the same person shall count as a separate visitor. The same person shall not be introduced more than six times in any one year, except that a visitor residing with a member and normally living more than ten miles from the Club premises may be introduced

any number of times during a month, on payment of a monthly fee. No person shall be permitted as a visitor under this exception for more than two months in any one year. Non-playing visitors may be introduced at any time without charge. The introducing member shall enter their name, the name and address of the visitor and the date in the visitor's book immediately on arrival at the Club. No person whose application for membership has been rejected may be introduced, whether for the purpose of playing or not. Junior members may not introduce visitors playing or non-playing. When being introduced Visitors agree to comply with the rules of the LTA and the Club.

28. Play shall be conducted according to the Rules of the L.T.A.
29. No player shall use the Club courts unless wearing lawn tennis shoes and is in possession of a current membership card.
30. The grass courts shall not be used for play before 1.00 p.m. without the sanction of a member of the Committee.
31. Players in possession of a court shall not retain it for more than one "short" set when the court is required by other members.
32. When any home match is in progress or any other competition authorised by the Committee, members and others playing therein shall have absolute priority in choice of courts. Members and visitors occupying a court shall vacate it if it is required for a match in any Club tournament. On Club Tournament Finals Day, Junior Finals Day or any inter-club tournament final, play by other members may be allowed whilst the event is taking place, on specified courts, at the discretion of the Committee or the Tennis Sub Committee.
33. The Committee shall have the power to close any of the courts for the purpose of repair or otherwise when deemed to be necessary. The Groundsman shall have the authority to stop play on any of the courts at any time when it is judged they are unfit for play, with the permission of the Ground and House Sub Committee Chair or another member of the Committee if available.
34. The Club will provide tennis balls for Senior League matches, Friendly matches and Finals Day. Provision of balls for any other event will be at the discretion of the Committee.
35. Dogs should be kept on a lead and under control at all times.
36. The Committee shall have the power to make Regulations as it may think necessary for the conduct and management of the Club. A copy of the Regulations for the time being in force shall be kept posted in the Clubhouse and such Regulations shall be binding on all members of the Club.

37. The Club premises shall be open to members, as and when permitted by the Committee, on all days of the year between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 2.00 a.m. on the following day. The supply of intoxicating liquor on the Club premises is only permitted as authorised by the Committee during the permitted hours of the Licensing Area, except on occasions when special permission may be granted by the authorities. Alcohol may not be supplied to, or consumed by, any person under 18 years of age on club premises. No member may bring alcohol to the Club for consumption on the premises.
38. All members of visiting teams for the day on which the match is played shall be admitted to the Club premises and intoxicating liquor may be sold to them by or on behalf of the Club for consumption on the premises.
39. Smoking is not allowed inside the Clubhouse or in the immediate vicinity (10 metres distance) of the Clubhouse.
40. The Committee shall have the power temporarily to alter or suspend any of the foregoing Rules should it be considered desirable in the interests of the Club to do so, provided that no such alteration or suspension shall continue beyond the date of the next succeeding Annual General Meeting unless confirmed thereat.
41. If at any Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the members entitled to vote under Rules 2 and 4 and present, the property of the Club shall thereupon be realised, and after discharge of all liabilities the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed among members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other Community Amateur Sports Club or Charity having objects similar to those of the Club (and on completion thereof the Club shall be deemed dissolved). In the event of a deficit, all persons who shall be Full Members entitled to vote under Rules 2 and 4 at the date of such resolution, or who shall have resigned or otherwise ceased to be Full Members within the twelve months immediately preceding the said date, shall be liable to contribute to the deficit in equal shares.
42. Subject to the provisions of Rule 40, no Rule shall be repealed, altered or added to except at a General Meeting. The Notice convening any General Meeting at which such repeal, alteration or addition is to be proposed shall contain full particulars of such repeal, alteration or addition.
43. The Club agrees that all unlicensed and unregistered coaches and, so far as reasonably practicable, players and other persons using the facilities of the Club will be required, as a condition of such use, to agree to be bound by and subject to these rules, the Rules of the LTA, and the Disciplinary code, such agreement to contain and express acknowledgement that the Contracts (Rights of Third

Parties) Act 1999 applies and that the LTA and the Club can enforce any breach at its option and in its sole discretion.

44. If in the opinion of the Committee the conduct of any member, either inside or outside the Club's premises, is such as to cause injury to the Club's reputation or is against the interests of the members as a whole it may, if it thinks fit, suspend that person from membership or warn that member as to their future conduct. Where the member is suspended, the Honorary Secretary shall send notice of the suspension to the home address of the member and shall summon them to attend before the Committee. If the Committee, having heard any evidence that may be called, and after affording the member a fair and honest hearing, decides that the offence is of a serious nature, it may either suspend that member for a specified period of not less than 3 months or immediately terminate that person's membership.
45. Any single project with an outlay of in excess of £20,000 or more than 25% of our Working Capital needs the approval of the membership at a General Meeting.
46. These Rules are in force from 9<sup>th</sup> April 1952. (This edition of the Rules includes revisions up to and including 12 November 2019). A copy of the current Rules shall be exhibited in the Clubhouse for reference.