



## **CLUB RULES**

### **Introduction**

The Committee of the Club, under the Form of Constitution of Houghton Tennis Club, is responsible for establishing and maintaining rules for the effective day-to-day operation of the Club. These may be amended by the Committee from time to time. Set out below are the current rules as adopted by the Committee on 02.06.19. The rules are binding on all members.

### **1. Colours**

The Club logo is as shown at the head of this page.

### **2. Admission of Members**

Any person who wishes to become a new Member of the Club must submit an application in such form as the Committee shall from time to time decide. The application will be passed to the Hon Treasurer who, once the new member has paid the required subscription will issue confirmation of membership to the new member, including registering them to use the online court booking system. Each new member will be issued with an electronic copy or hard copy of the club rules. Payment of subscription fees shall imply agreement to abide by these rules.

### **3. Categories of Membership**

Membership of the Club shall be divided into such categories as the Committee shall from time to time determine. Details of the current categories, their terms and privileges, are available from the committee. A full list of current members and their membership category shall be posted and maintained in the clubhouse.

### **4. Temporary Membership**

Temporary membership may be granted to non-members in accordance with the terms of the lease existing between Houghton Tennis Club and Houghton Field Association.

### **5. Subscriptions**

The scale of annual subscriptions and visitors fees shall be determined from time to time by the Committee and is available upon request.

Annual subscriptions shall become due and payable on 1<sup>st</sup> April in every year, in accordance with payment options determined from time to time by the Committee and detailed in the renewal notice.

If any subscription shall remain unpaid on 1<sup>st</sup> June, the member concerned shall be deemed to have resigned and each such member's electronic access fob shall be rendered inoperative. Lapsed members may, at the discretion of the Committee, be re-admitted to membership on payment of all arrears.

## **6. Social Members**

Social Members shall be allowed all rights and privileges as if they were Full Members, except that they shall be non-playing members.

## **7. Resignation**

Any member may resign their membership by giving notice in writing to the Committee to that effect. Except in exceptional circumstances approved by the Committee, there shall be no refund of subscriptions paid.

## **8. Clubhouse**

1. Members must adhere to the permitted hours of use of the clubhouse as determined by the Planning Department of Harborough District Council. These are as follows: "the clubhouse shall be open to Tennis Club members only between 9.00am and 10.30pm Monday to Saturday and between 9.00am and 8.00pm on Sundays and Bank and Public Holidays. In addition, the clubhouse may remain open until 11.30pm on a maximum of 18 weekdays between May and July on occasions when Summer League matches are played. No persons are permitted to socialise on the veranda after 10.00pm."
2. Membership of Houghton Tennis Club is conditional upon the implicit acceptance by each member of the use of CCTV surveillance covering the clubhouse and courts. Members also implicitly accept the Committee's right to use CCTV footage as evidence, when considered by the Committee to be appropriate, in any instances of misbehaviour, vandalism, theft or the like, and to share such CCTV footage, if appropriate, with outside agencies such as the police or the Club's insurance company.
3. Access to the clubhouse is only afforded to adult members although junior members may also use the clubhouse facilities when one or more adult members are present. It is the responsibility of the last adult member vacating the clubhouse to ensure that no junior members remain in the building and that the door is securely closed.
4. Adult members may bring alcoholic drinks into the clubhouse for their own consumption but are responsible for ensuring that any drinks not consumed are removed from the building when leaving, along with any empty bottles or cans.

## **9. Visitors**

The Club and individual members may, subject to the following conditions, introduce visitors:

1. Every visitor, either playing or non-playing, shall be considered to be the guest of the member introducing them and shall be accompanied by the member except whereby they are a guest of the Club.
2. It is the responsibility of any member introducing a visitor to pay the visitor's fee to the Honorary Treasurer or the Chair of the club. Any unpaid visitor's fees will be deemed to be a debt owed to the club by the introducing member until the fees are paid.
3. No person who has been expelled from the Club, or whose conduct or presence in the clubhouse shall be considered by the Committee objectionable, or prejudicial to the interests of the Club, shall be introduced as a visitor into the Club.

4. Unless otherwise sanctioned by the committee in the case of specific individual(s) no playing visitor may play at the Club on more than four separate days in any one Club year, except as provided for in 5 and 6 below.
5. Non-members participating in coaching or playing in practices, matches or tournaments run under the auspices of the Club or County or National Association fall outside rules 8.2 and 8.4 above.
6. Where members have friends or relatives staying with them who are not normally resident in or near Leicester, the Committee is empowered to offer temporary membership (see Rule 4).

## **10. Dress Code**

Whilst on court, members, visitors and coaches are required to wear recognised tennis clothing or similar sports clothing, subject to the following:

- Jeans are not allowed on court.
- All footwear worn by players on court should be tennis shoes or trainers suitable for use on court surfaces.

## **11. Occupation of Courts**

All courts are available to members from 8.00am during daylight hours, unless formally reserved for Club events such as Club practices, matches, tournaments or coaching.

Where Club events are being played, courts shall be reserved for the duration of the event.

The Committee may, at its discretion, reserve certain courts for the purpose of coaching or use by junior members.

Members must book courts in advance using the club's online booking system and not just turn up to play without booking a court beforehand.

At the end of the booked time on court members may continue their play if the court they are occupying is not booked by another member

## **12. Playing Rules**

The rules for playing tennis at the Club shall be those adopted from time to time by the International Tennis Federation.

The Club shall be bound by the rules and regulations of the Lawn Tennis Association insofar as they are not inconsistent with the Articles of Association of the Club.

## **13. Conduct on Court**

All members shall conduct themselves at all times with due consideration for others. In particular the following are not permitted. There shall be:

- No swearing on court
- No smoking on court
- No chewing gum on court
- No spitting on court
- No alcohol on court

- No glass bottles or breakable glassware or crockery of any kind are permitted on court.

Only if essential should mobile phones be switched on while playing. This should be agreed with playing partners. Phone conversations must not distract players on adjacent courts.

No game other than tennis shall be played on the tennis courts.

#### **14. Coaching**

Only coaches approved by the committee shall be permitted to provide tennis coaching at the Club.

The schedule of coaching provision, as well as the charges for providing coaching and courts reserved for coaching shall be agreed between the approved coach or coaches and the committee and be published by the Committee from time to time if the committee decides this is appropriate.

Coaching by non-approved coaches shall not be permitted.

Approved coaches may coach non-members, who shall have no other rights to the use of the Club facilities other than when participating in coaching run by approved coaches.

#### **15. Balls**

New balls shall only be provided by the Club for such matches and events as are sanctioned by the Committee. Team players shall make a match-by-match payment to the Club to assist in recovering the expense incurred by the Club, the level of such payment to be determined by the Committee from time to time.

#### **16. Smoking**

By law, smoking is not permitted indoors at the Club. Smoking is not permitted on tennis courts.

#### **17. Dogs**

Dogs, other than guide dogs, shall not be admitted to the clubhouse but may be allowed on the veranda if kept on a lead. No dogs shall be allowed on courts.

#### **18. Complaints and Reporting Procedures**

Any member with a complaint relating to any matter concerning Houghton Tennis Club should refer it in the first instance to any Committee Member. See also clause 20 below.

#### **19. Safeguarding**

The Club has a Safeguarding Policy and a Diversity and Inclusion Policy that all members have access to in the clubhouse and can be sent electronically. The Club has a Safeguarding lead and their details are displayed on the club notice-board.

Members are required and expected to behave appropriately at all times, and in particular in relation to vulnerable members (adults and children). Members are required to use vigilance and awareness concerning inappropriate behaviour by others at the Club and to report any concerns to the club Safeguarding Lead or via the LTA Safeguarding process.

## **20. Adherence to the Rules**

These rules are binding on all members of the Club. Whilst maintenance of the observance of these rules is formally the responsibility of the Committee, it is incumbent on all members to assist with this endeavour.

The Committee reserves the right to discipline as appropriate any member found to be in breach of these rules, subject to clause 18 above.

Under the rules and requirements of the Lawn Tennis Association, any member dissatisfied with disciplinary action taken by the Committee has recourse to the Appeals Committee of the LTA.

## **21. Officers and Committee Members**

The names of all current Officers and Members of the Committee are displayed on the notice-board in the clubhouse.

Their powers and responsibilities, the rules for their election etc., are defined in the Club Constitution of Houghton Tennis Club. A copy of this document is available upon application to the Committee.

## **22. Interpretation of Rules**

The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these rules, and the decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation, or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by these rules, shall be final and binding on all members.

Any matters not provided for either in the Articles of Association of the Club, or these rules of the Club, shall be decided from time to time by the Committee.