
TENNIS

Team Selection Policy

The following policy outlines how teams for Somer Valley Tennis matches will be selected by the Selection Committees. The aim of this policy is to provide a fair and transparent process regarding Player selection to represent Somer Valley Tennis in matches.

For definitions of terms used within this policy and footnotes within, please see the Appendix.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement:

Somer Valley Tennis are committed to diverse and inclusive tennis; these values are embedded into our club's culture and behaviours (see the Diversity and Inclusion Policy for further information). These values are reflected in the selection process.

The Selection Process:

1. The Selection Committee should establish when all players are available for each match, preferably by email (or another written method agreed by the Management Committee).
2. The Selection Committee will select players for matches using the following principles:
 - The Selection Committees' judgement regarding player ability/suitability for a team**.
 - The pool of available Players and their eligibility for teams*.

Note: *Junior Players can be considered providing the Somer Valley Tennis Junior Travel Consent policy is followed.*

- Any conduct issues (see Members Code of Conduct).
3. The Selection Committee will aim to notify all Players and nominated reserves of selection within a reasonable amount of time prior to the match (typically via email).
 4. The relevant Captain will set up a WhatsApp group for their specific team for a specified match closer to the match date to enable the team to communicate and coordinate.
 5. If a member is unhappy with selection decisions, they can seek clarification/appeal in writing (text/email) to the Chair of the Management Committee who is independent of selection.

Diversity and Inclusion of Selection (Single Team vs. Multiple Teams):

Where possible, the Selection Committee will make every effort to spread selections across the matches between Players within the pool to ensure that everybody has the opportunity to play.

One Team for a League category:

Priority will be given to inclusion and diversity of Player selection.

Multiple Teams for League category:

Some teams will prioritise inclusion and diversity of Player selection; others may restrict selection to protect league positions for promotion and relegation***.

Review of the Selection Committee Process:

From time-to-time, the Somer Valley Tennis Management Committee will review the team selections made by various Selection Committees. The frequency of the review will be based on the number of clarifications requested by Players; these will be reported to the Management Committee at their monthly meetings. The Team Selection policy will be reviewed annually as a minimum.

SIGNED:



Chair
Somer Valley Tennis Club
May 2024

Appendix/Footnotes:

*Player eligibility is determined by appropriate membership type and registration, as well as concordance to rules for the match(es) they are playing in (e.g. Avon League's rule 3g "Team-tying").

** Prior performance at on-court Club activities where performance is objectively recorded may be utilised to assist selection decisions. This includes Club tournaments, Box Leagues, previous League Matches, Squad nights. Some activities may be more heavily-weighted than others when making selection decisions.

***The proportion of teams aiming for diverse selection and inclusion should represent $\geq 33\%$ (rounding-up) of the total number of teams entered into a League or tournament.

Players selected for these Teams should have played 4 or fewer matches in any of the higher Teams. For example, if Person Y played 1x match 1st Team, 1x match 2nd Team, 2x matches 3rd Team then they should not be playing below the 3rd Team for the remainder of the season unless there is a lack of availability of eligible Players for these Teams and Person Y's selection would prevent non-fielding of a team (also known as a "walk-over" in the Avon League).

Policy Definitions:

Team Co-ordinators (Ladies, Men and Mixed) – team Coordinators are an optional position within the Selection Committee elected at the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM). All existing Club Members are eligible for consideration to the role. They support the Captains with selection and assist in coordination of the respective Ladies, Mens, and Mixed Teams. Co-ordinators typically will collate Players' availability and draft initial selection documents in concordance with the Selection Policy.

Team Captain – is a volunteer selected to act as Captain for a specific team within a competition. Each team can have a specific Captain for an individual match but equally they may hold captaincy for the duration of a competition/league. All existing Club Members are eligible for consideration.

Match – a club match where members are representing Somer Valley Tennis; a match can be an LTA-recognised league, an inter-club friendly, or competition/tournament.

Club Coach – an LTA-registered level 3 or higher Coach associated with Somer Valley Tennis, either as a Member of Somer Valley Tennis or an associated-coaching provider. They are an optional position within the Selection Committee.

Selection Committee – a group of individuals consisting of the appropriate Team Captains for a given League competition (e.g. Men's Summer League, Mixed Open Winter League). Selection Committees may also include a Team Coordinator and a Club Coach. They collaboratively decide on the most appropriate player selections to represent Somer Valley Tennis in matches.

Player – all current full members of Somer Valley Tennis are eligible to play in any match. However, for League tennis the Member must have a current Advantage number and/or WTN (World Tennis Number) linked to the Somer Valley Tennis LTA affiliated Place to Play.

Junior Player – a tennis Player under the age of 18 years old. The Selection Committee needs to ensure the clubs' Junior Travel Policy and Junior Travel Consent forms are followed.

Member – a Player with a fully paid membership with Somer Valley Tennis (and LTA registration). For players to be considered for League tennis, membership and registration must be completed a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the league match they are selected to play in.

League Match – a match played within the Avon Country Leagues Tennis (organised by Avon Tennis) – Summer, Late Summer, or Winter Leagues.