



TENNIS

TEAM SELECTION POLICY – reviewed August 2023

The following policy outlines how teams for Somer Valley Tennis matches will be selected by the nominated ladies, mens and mixed Team Co-ordinators and the selection committees.

The aim of the selection committee process is to provide a fair and transparent process to select players to represent Somer Valley Tennis.

Policy Definitions:

Team Coordinators (Ladies, Mens and Mixed) - Team Coordinators are elected at the AGM They oversee the selection and coordination of the respective ladies, men's and mixed teams. The coordinators will collate players availability and draft initial selections based on the club selection criteria. The Co-Ordinator will chair a selection committee who between them, will agree the final selections.

Team Captain – is a volunteer assigned by the Team Coordinator to act as a captain for a specific team within a competition. Somer Valley Tennis has a number of ladies, men's and mixed teams, each team can have a specific captain for an individual match or hold the captaincy for the duration of a competition/league. The Team Coordinator may also act as a Team Captain if they wish.

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

Selection Committee – Will be chaired by the respective Team Co-Ordinator and include the appropriate team captains and appropriate club coach. Team Captains can request selections, but these must be ratified by the respective coordinator.

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 or/and WTN (World Tennis Number) linked to the Somer Valley Tennis LTA affiliated Place to Play. This is essential before any member is considered for selection for a league match.

Junior Player – A tennis player under the age of 18 years old. Team Coordinators and Captains need to ensure the clubs Junior Travel Policy and Junior Travel Consent forms are followed.

Member – a player with a fully paid-up 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.

The Selection Process

1. The Team Co-Ordinator, assisted by the respective Team Captains should establish when all players are available for each match. This should preferably be by email, or another written method if agreed by the management committee. Players choosing not to reply may forfeit the chance to be selected to play.
2. The **Selection Committee** will select the teams using the following principles:
 - The opinion of the coach on players ability to compete at the intended match level.
 - The pool of available players with the appropriate tennis skills and experience.
 - **Junior players** can be considered and included in the pool of players providing the Team Coordinators and Team Captains follow **Somer Valley Tennis Junior Travel Consent policy**.
 - Prior performance of the player in club tournaments, box leagues, league matches, squad nights, club nights, etc.
 - Successful and/or consistent tennis doubles pairings based on performance and suitability to compete at the right level.
 - For league matches, attendance to coaching/practice sessions intended for league matches.
 - Commitment of the player to attend club events and submit availability for club matches.
 - Any conduct issues a player may have (eg On court behaviour, match attendance, etc). All players representing Somer Valley Tennis must adhere to **Somer Valley Tennis Code of Conduct**.
 - Where possible, the coordinator will make every effort to spread selections across the matches between players within the pool to ensure as many members get to play. In order to protect Somer Valley Tennis league positions for promotion and relegation, the selection committee may select accordingly. The coordinator will also ensure adherence with Avon League's rule 17 (or similar in alternative League's) by selecting accordingly.
 - A player may indicate to the team coordinator prior to a match or league season, which team (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc...) they would ideally like to play, or not play for. The reason for this request is up to the individual. If a player requests to play for a higher team the selection committee can ask for evidence to support this request. The Selection committee can take this into account, but the player must accept their request may be rejected, or if successful may reduce the number of times the player will be selected to play, especially if their requested team has competition for places.
3. The captains will aim to notify all members of selections made at least 2 weeks in advance of each match and at least 1 week in advance of the first match of the league season. This includes the nominated reserve players for each match.
4. If any member is unhappy with the selection decisions made by the selection committee, they can seek clarification and/or appeal in writing (text/email) to a club coach associated with

the selection committee. The coach will investigate and provide any clarification that is required. The decision of the coach is final.

Review of the Selection Committee Process.

From time to time, the Somer Valley Tennis Management Committee will review the team selections made by the various selection committees. The frequency of the review will be based on the number of clarifications requested by players from the coaches, and these will be reported by the Team Coordinators as part of their normal monthly reports to the management committee.

The Team Selection policy will be reviewed annually as a minimum.

Payment of Match Fees (added August 2023)

All members are expected to pay their matches fees immediately on the day of the match, or within an appropriate amount of time to the captain of the team on the day.

If a HOME rubber is started then players are expected to pay that match fee, if for any reason eg opposition injury, court issues, the match is not started then the home players will not be asked to pay a fee.

If **'where match fees apply'** a player fails to turn up to play, then they will be expected to pay their match fee plus that of their partners. If, there are mitigating circumstances then the committee will request an explanation and by agreement come to an appropriate resolution. If a complaint arises then the club Complaints Policy comes into effect.

Somer Valley Tennis is committed to providing a fair and transparent team selection process. Somer Valley Tennis aim is to ensure that as many members as possible who wish to play competitive or social matches are able to do so and at a level that suits their ability.



Signed.....

Amanda Stonier
Chair of Somer Valley Tennis
August 2023