

## Somerton Tennis Club - Rules and Constitution, Version 23-01

Somerton Tennis Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members and visitors.

Somerton Tennis Club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators, visitors and parents/guardians should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, all parties are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have with any committee member or specifically our Welfare Officer. Please refer to our [website](#) or Club notice board for further information.

As a member or visitor of Somerton Tennis Club, you are required to abide by the following:

### **Rules:**

- 1. General:** These Rules are enacted and enforced by the Club's Committee and may be amended by majority during a committee meeting. Any matters relating to the Club's general affairs and Rules must be referred to the Committee for discussion and adjudication. The Committee shall also decide, at their discretion, upon any matter not provided for in these Rules. Any "Player" (Member, Non-Member, Members Guest, Junior or Visitor via a public booking etc.) agrees to be bound by, observe, and comply with these Rules, a copy of which is available on the Club [website](#).
- 2. Affiliations:** The Club is affiliated to the [LTA](#) and the rules of the LTA and the [Somerset LTA](#) shall also apply.
- 3. Use of Courts:**
  - All the Club's match fixtures, re-scheduled matches, tournaments, social sessions, match practice sessions, coaching programmes, tennis camps, social events and Member & Visitor court bookings will be posted on the Club's "[Court Booking](#)" website. Club organised activities are given precedence over Member and Visitor court bookings.
  - All Players play at their own risk and must decide on a case-by-case basis, before playing, whether courts are safe to use. The Committee at its discretion, may also suspend or prohibit play for any reason.
  - Members can book courts 14 days in advance using the "[Court Booking](#)" website page. Visitors may book the courts at the specified rates, 7 days in advance. Please ensure you cancel any un-wanted court bookings. Visitor bookings must be cancelled at least 24 hours prior to the booked date/time to receive a refund. In the event of cancellation by the Club, Visitor fees will be refunded on request.
  - All members must play within the "[Rules](#)" and where applicable, respect officials and their decisions.
- 4. Official Club Sessions:** These are organised as follows; please check before attending, as times/days may vary:
  - Women's Club Social Sessions:**  
*Tuesday 12noon to 13:00, Wednesday 9:00 to 11:00 & Thursday 19:00 to 21:00\**
  - Men's Club Social Sessions:**  
*Monday 18:00 to 22:00\*, Wednesday 14:00 to 16:00 & Friday 19:00 to 22:00\**
  - Mixed Club Social Sessions:**  
*Wednesday 19:00 to 22:00 & Sunday 10:00 to 13:00*  
*\* These sessions are affected by the summer league competitions and do not run when the courts are being used for Club home league matches (the summer league typically runs from the end of April through to the end of July).*
  - Junior Coaching Sessions:**  
*Tuesday 16:15 to 17:40*  
*Friday 16:15 – 18:15*
  - Adult Coaching Sessions:**  
*Tuesday 17:45 to 19:00*  
*Wednesday 18:00 to 19:00*  
*Saturday 10:00 to 12:30*
- 5. Members Order of Play (Club Social Sessions):** It is expected that Members will make up sets by mixing in (with preference on Wednesday and Sunday mornings for mixed doubles). If the courts are in demand, then doubles should take preference over singles and, if people are waiting to play, those on court should play for no longer than one set of 7 games, with single deuce points, to give others a chance to play.
- 6. Dress:** On the courts, all Players must wear appropriate sportswear and trainers, or as specifically agreed with their coach.
- 7. Behaviour:** Anyone attending the Club for whatever reason, shall at all times whilst on the Club premises, conduct themselves in a manner which reflects favourably on the game of tennis and the Club, particularly when in the presence of Juniors. Persistent audible obscenities, swearing, abuse or misconduct of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Players shall also follow any Code of Conduct set out in Club's policies, such as the Safeguarding Policy, which are published on the Club's [website](#). All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- 8. Court Courtesy:** Players should keep to agreed timings for bookings, training and competitions, or inform their coach or team captain if they are going to be late. All Players should wait courtside for a break in-play to enter or leave court two (furthest away from the Clubhouse) and not walk behind Players during game play.
- 9. Tennis Balls:** Throughout the year, good quality balls will be provided by the Club for all the official social sessions, as noted above by the ball steward. Members must return all balls to the Clubhouse after play.

10. **Junior Members:**
  1. Juniors may join in with adult social sessions on the recommendation of the Club Coach or Committee.
  2. Junior Members under 14 must be supervised by an adult. We recommend that parents/guardians know where their children are at all times.
  3. Junior Full Court Members may book courts using the "[Court Booking](#)" website page.
11. **Parents:**
  1. Encourage your child to learn the rules of tennis and play within them.
  2. Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
  3. Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
  4. Never force your child to take part in sport.
  5. Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all.
  6. Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
  7. Publicly accept judgements made by officials.
  8. Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
  9. Always use the correct and proper language.
  10. Be patient - steady progression is unusual in children; peaks and plateaus are common.
  11. Your first question following any match should be: "Did you enjoy it?" not "Did you win?"
  12. At no stage should you communicate with your child or interfere with the on-court helpers and referees during a match – just enjoy the game and let officials take care of the rules!
12. **Guests:** Members may invite Guests to play with them based on the following rules. There are no limits on the number of times a guest may attend with a member. Each Guest and accompanying Member is to sign the Guest book on arrival. Daily Guest fees are displayed in the club house. A Guest fee box has been provided in the Clubhouse. Guest fees should be placed in the box immediately after signing in the guest with a note explaining what and whom they are for, or paid online via the Clubspark website when making a booking. It is the responsibility of the Club Member to ensure that these rules are followed and that their Guests are aware of the general Rules, Policies & Procedures of the Club.
13. **New Prospective Members:** New prospective Members can "Try-Us-Out" on up to three separate occasions, before becoming a Member.
14. **Clubhouse/Court Access:** Furniture, crockery, glasses etc must be left clean and tidy after use. The last users of the premises must see that the Club and respective entrance gate is properly locked, and entrance codes scrambled. There must be no smoking or vaping anywhere on the Club premises.
15. **Children:** Parents/Guardians must see that their children behave correctly and safely when on the Club premises.
16. **Animals:** No animals or pets are permitted at the Club, except "Assistance / Guide Dogs", which must be kept on a lead at all times.
17. **Parking:** Players and Visitors should park safely and with consideration for other Members and our Neighbours.
18. **Curfew:** In respect of our Neighbours, play must cease, and floodlights turned off, by 10:00pm (at the latest).
19. **Suspension or Expulsion:** The Committee shall have power to terminate or suspend the membership of any Member or to exclude any Player or Spectator whom it considers guilty of a breach of these Rules or of misconduct or offensive behaviour to any other Player, whether on the Club's premises or elsewhere.
20. **Data Protection:** Members contact information may be used from time to time for the purposes of notifying members of club information and news. If members do not wish to be contacted, please inform the "Membership Secretary". Membership information will not be passed to any third party or be used for any other purposes other than keeping you informed of Club activities and information. Please refer to our [website](#) for further details of our GDPR policy.
21. **Damage, Injury and Loss:** Neither the Club nor any Committee Member can be held liable for any damage, injury or loss whatsoever, however caused, whilst Players and Visitors are onsite, travelling or away representing Somerton Tennis Club. All Players and Visitors must comply with the Club's Health and Safety Policies and Procedures as detailed on the Club's [website](#). Players or Visitors leaving unattended vehicle's, racket's, clothing or other property at the Club do so at their own risk, and the Club shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury resulting from this or any other cause.
22. **Somerton Sports & Social Club:** Adult membership subscription fees also include annual membership of Somerton Sports & Social Club.
23. **Fees:** Players must pay any fees for training or events promptly.

## Club Constitution:

1. **Name and Objective:** The Club shall be named Somerton Tennis Club providing lawn tennis and social facilities for its Members and lawn tennis court hire for the public.
2. **Constitution:** The Club is constituted by these Rules as a non-profit making Members' Club. In no circumstances during the continuance of the Club, nor after its dissolution, shall any assets or surplus funds be distributed to any Member or other person nor to any organisation which is not itself either constituted as non-profit making or as a charity.
3. **Membership:** The different types of memberships are detailed on our website. Prospective new Members are always welcome. Membership pricing shall be decided by the Committee and will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.
4. **Membership subscriptions:** The membership subscription year runs from 1 April to the 31 March. Subscription enables Members to: Play without further Court fees at any time, except matches, participate in all Club activities and tournaments, represent the Club in matches and bring a guest, up to a maximum of three times, before that person must themselves become a Member. Subscription rates shall be reviewed annually, and changes proposed for the ensuing year shall be approved at the Annual General Meeting. With the exception of coaching sessions, anyone using the courts must be a Member, Paid Visitor or Member's Guest. No refunds will be provided for membership subscriptions.
5. **Accountancy Year:** The Club's Financial Year shall run from 01 April to 31<sup>st</sup> March and accounts submitted to the Annual General Meeting shall be prepared accordingly.
6. **Management:** The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer (Officers), and at least three other Ordinary Committee Members, to be elected annually at an Annual General Meeting. Four Committee Members shall form a quorum. In the event of equality of voting the Chair or Vice Chair in their absence, shall have a second or casting vote. The Committee shall meet at least four times per year.
7. **General Meetings:** An Annual General Meeting will be held every year for presentation of previous years minutes, alongside reports from Chair, Team Captains, Coaching and the Treasurers Audited accounts. In addition, Officers and Ordinary Committee Members are elected for the ensuing year. Any changes to the Constitution should be proposed and decided by majority at the AGM. Any Member may propose a resolution at the AGM by sending a copy to the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting. Junior Members are entitled to be present at the AGM but are not entitled to vote. In the event of any tied voting situation, the Chair or Vice Chair in their absence will have the casting vote. An extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be called by the Committee, with one month's notice, or by a submission to the Chair of a point for discussion if signed by 25% of voting Members. Only fully paid-up Members may vote at an AGM or EGM.