

Updating Spalding Town Tennis Club Rules - Information for Members for AGM of 2 July 2015

Dear Member

The Committee is taking the opportunity of the 2015 AGM to put a motion to Members attending that meeting for the approval of the revised rules.

The Changes which are detailed below are felt necessary to improve practicality and relevance in relation to the Club.

Detail of Changes:

1. Rule 1 - Updated to reflect the correct name of the Club.
2. Rule 3 – “Playing Member” changed to “Adult Member” to clearly differentiate from Junior and Social Member classes.
 - a. Date for age assessed classes of membership changed to 1st April to coincide with the start of the Subscription Year.
 - b. Student – definition of “in full time education” added
 - c. Social – definition of “non-playing” added
 - d. Paragraph after list of classes – The last part of the 2nd sentence stating that member subscriptions will be refunded if the club is dissolved (“, but such charge shall be void if within 3 months thereof a resolution of a general meeting for the dissolution of the club shall be passed.”) is considered inappropriate and is removed.
 - e. 3(a) – relating to transfer of income to members. Added is:
“Unless in the form of payments in respect of services necessary in promotion of the Club objectives. In such circumstances the Committee is responsible for ensuring that the cost at a competitive rate and full details are included in the annual report to Members.”
This facilitates the payments to individual who may be members and have been engaged to deliver goods and/or services to the club. A requirement to report details of such payments to members is included to ensure transparency.
3. Rule 4 – Reference to “election” to membership changed to “acceptance”. This reflects actual practice which has been in place for a number of years. (See Rule 5).
4. Rule 5 – Changed to reflect the long established actual routine for reviewing and acceptance of new member applications.
5. Rule 6 – reference to “member” changed to “Adult and Student Member”.
6. Rule 7 – Amended to provide increased clarity with regard to Members resigning and their duty to return club property and pay outstanding subscriptions.
7. Rule 8 – Minor changes to phrasing with no change to content or meaning.
8. Rule 10 - Amended to identified "officers of the club" as Secretary and Treasurer, as well as set the setting the maximum number for the committee at 8, ie 10 including the specified "officers".
9. Rule 11 – Reference to “Chairman” is clarified with the insertion of “of the meeting” to avoid potential ambiguity.
10. Rule 11 (a) is added to prevent individuals who are not paid up members from standing for the Committee and/or voting at meetings of the Club.
11. Rule 12 – “end of the” is inserted before “Annual General Meeting” so that the presiding Chairman and Committee may deliver the AGM before standing down.
12. Rule 15 Trustees – This rule is changed to better set out the relationship of Trustees and the Club and provide additional safeguards for the Club and Trustees.
13. Rule 16 – changed to ensure the Committee meet at least 8 times per a Membership Year.
14. Rule 17 – changed to require that the Committee communicate any Bye-Law changes to members.
15. Rule 22 – Relating to voting at the AGM is amended such that only paid up members may vote.

RULES OF SPALDING TOWN TENNIS CLUB (UPDATED)

1. The Club shall be called "Spalding Town Tennis Club"
2. The club is formed to provide facilities for and promote participation of the whole of the community in the sport of tennis.
3. The classes of membership of the Club shall be as follows:

Adult Member

Juniors – Under 14 on 1st April

Juniors – Under 18 on 1st April

Students (In Full Time Education)

Family membership

(2 Adults – Juniors/students)

Social (Non playing)

Visitors

The annual subscription payable by members of each class shall be set by Annual General Meeting. A Non-playing member may become an Adult Member on payment of the appropriate subscription.

- a. The Income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards promoting the Club objects as set forth in this constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid, or transferred, directly or indirectly, to the members of the club. Unless in the form of payments in respect of services necessary in promotion of the Club objectives. In such circumstances the Committee is responsible for ensuring that the cost at a competitive rate and full details are included in the annual report to Members.
4. Subscriptions shall be paid by 15th May in each year or (in the case of new members and if later) within 14 days of their acceptance and the committee may cancel the membership of any member whose overdue subscription remains unpaid 14 days after a written request for payment.
5. Every candidate for admission as a member shall complete and submit a membership application form. Each form shall be reviewed by the Committee which shall confirm acceptance. Any candidate who is not so accepted may apply to the Committee for the reasons for the rejection and on such application the Committee shall state their reasons in writing to the unsuccessful candidate. Membership of the club shall be open to all persons irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs or of age, sex, disability, except as necessary consequence of the requirements of tennis as a particular sport. The Club may refuse membership or expel from membership only for good and sufficient reason, for example where individual conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute.
6. Every Adult and Student Member shall be allowed to introduce visitors subject to such regulations as shall be made from time to time by the committee and every visitor shall be accompanied by the Adult or Student Member introducing them.

7. Any member may resign his membership by giving to the Membership Secretary written notice to that effect. At the time of writing the member shall return any property of the Club held by the individual including Club access card/key. The resigning members shall be liable for any Subscriptions outstanding for an amount pro rata for each calendar month or part there of which has passed.
8. If at any time the Committee shall be of the opinion that the interests of the Club so require that they may call a Special General meeting to consider the expulsion of a member. The member whose expulsion is sought shall be given notice of such meeting and of the grounds upon which grounds it is sought to expel them. The member may address the meeting but if two thirds of the members present and voting shall vote for their expulsion they shall there upon cease to be a member of the Club. The Committee may exclude such a member from the club premises until the Special General meeting has been held.
9. Any member on ceasing to be such shall forfeit all right to and claim upon the Club, its property and funds as a member.
10. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the officers of the club; being the Secretary and Treasurer and not more than 8 members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
11. Any candidate for election to the committee shall be proposed by two members. The candidates up to the number of vacancies who shall receive most votes shall be declared elected and in the case of two or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes the Chairman of the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
 - a. Only Adult Members with no outstanding indebtedness to The Club may serve on the Committee and/or vote at Meetings of the Club.
12. At the end of the Annual General Meeting members of the Committee shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.
13. In the event of a vacancy on the committee the Committee shall have the power to appoint a member of the club to fill such vacancy.
14. The President and Vice-President shall be elected by the members and shall hold office until death or resignation unless previously removed from office by resolution of the members.

15. Trustees

The property of The Club shall be vested in four Trustees, their actions in respect of which shall be solely as The Committee may from time to time direct by resolution in writing (of which an entry in the minute book shall be clear and conclusive evidence).

Trustees shall be appointed and removed by The Committee as deemed appropriate from time to time.

Such changes shall be recorded in the minutes of The Club and shall be notified to all voting members.

The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and/or liability arising directly and/or indirectly from their role of Trustee of The Club, unless such risk and/or liability arises from negligent and/or malicious actions by them whether acting alone or in association with others.

16. The funds of the Club shall be under the control of the committee who shall meet as and when necessary but not less than 8 times per Membership Year to arrange the affairs of the Club and examine the accounts. Notice of meetings shall be sent to all members. A quorum shall consist of four members.
17. The Committee may from time to time:-
 - a. Appoint from among their number such sub-committee(s) as they may deem necessary or expedient and may delegate such its powers and duties to the sub-committee as it committee may determine necessary.
 - b. Make repeal and amend all such bye-laws and regulations (not inconsistent with these rules) as they shall think expedient for the internal management, use of the courts and well-being of the Club. All such Bye-Laws and regulations shall, on being communicated to members be binding upon them until such time as they might be repealed by the committee or set aside by a resolution of a general meeting of the Club.
18. Annual General Meetings of the Club shall be held at intervals not less frequent than 15 months upon a date and at a time to be fixed by the Committee for the following purposes:
 - a. To receive from the Committee a Report and Accounts for the preceding financial year.
 - b. To elect the officers for the ensuing term
 - c. To decide on any resolutions which may be duly submitted to the meeting

A copy of the statement of accounts shall be available for the members from the Secretary at least seven days before the full Annual General Meeting.
19. Any member who wishes to move any resolution at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice thereof in writing to the secretary not less than three weeks before the date of such meeting.
20. The committee may at any time for any special purpose call a special general meeting and they shall do so within 15 days of receipt of a requisition n writing of any five members stating the purpose for which a meeting is required.
21. Fourteen days at least before the Annual General meeting or any special general meeting a written notice of such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat shall be sent to every member and no business other than that of the notice has been so given shall be brought forward at that meeting.
22. At all general meetings of the Club President and in his absence a member selected by the meeting shall take the chair. Every fully paid up Adult Member shall be entitled to vote and shall have one vote upon every motion and in the case of quality of votes the Chairman of the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
23. The quorum at all General Meetings shall be seven Adult playing members.

24. The financial year of the Club shall be the last day of February in each year to which the accounts of the club shall be balanced.
25. The accidental omission to give any notice required to given by the rules shall not invalidate any proceedings to which such notice would, if given, have related.
26. If at any time the club in general meeting shall pass a resolution authorising the committee to borrow money , the committee shall there upon be empowered to give effect such resolution including directing the Trustees to make all such dispositions of the club property or any part thereof and enter into such agreement s in relation thereto as the committee may deem proper. All members of the club, whether voting on such resolution or not, and all persons becoming members of the club after passing of such a resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of such resolution.
27. If at any general meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the club shall be passed by a majority of the members present, and such resolution shall be at a special general meeting held at not less than six weeks thereafter be confirmed by resolution securing the votes of not les then two-thirds of the membership of the members voting thereon, the committee shall thereupon or at such future date as shall be specified in such resolution proceed to realise the property of the club and after the discharge of all debts and liabilities the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the club., but shall be given or transferred to the Lawn Tennis Association or the governing body of Lawn Tennis in existence at that time for the benefit of Lawn tennis in the Spalding area and upon such transfer the club shall be dissolved.
28. Spalding Town Tennis Club is committed to the active promotion of equal opportunities on all its activities and to the elimination of all forms of prejudicial discrimination particularly on the grounds of age, culture, disability, special educational need, gender, marital status, ethnic colour,/national origin, religious/political beliefs, sexual identity/orientation, stats/residence and socioeconomic background.
29. These rules may be added to, repaired or amended by resolution of any Annual or Special general meeting securing the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon.