

Our vision

Suffolk LTA shares the same vision as the LTA of Tennis 'Opened Up'. Tennis Opened Up is a vision for tennis to be truly open to all. We want to ensure that everyone in Suffolk has the opportunity to engage and participate in Tennis, at all levels of the pathway from beginner to elite level, no matter their disability, background, ethnicity or gender. Tennis in Suffolk should reflect the diversity of our communities.

The SLTA strategy will focus on five key areas;



PARTICIPATION



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



VENUE SUPPORT



COMPETITION



COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

760,700



Population of Suffolk*

18.3%

of Suffolk's population are Disabled under the Equality Act*



43

registered Tennis venues in Suffolk in 2023



7

No. of Suffolk venues delivering an inclusive tennis session in 2023

Participation-

We want to get more people playing and enjoying tennis. The programmes we support will work with clubs, schools and communities to create more opportunities to play.

How: Through the LTA Open Court programme and accessing other available funding we want to support and invest in programmes across the county that help increase the number of people playing tennis in our communities, and that share the same vision of tennis opened up.

Workforce Development -

We want to increase the number of coaches delivering inclusive tennis opportunities and continue to support those who are already delivering sessions. We want to develop the expertise and knowledge in Suffolk, so that we have a highly skilled workforce within disability tennis.

How: We will provide Coach Education opportunities in the county to upskill our coaches. We will also form an Inclusive Tennis Network that will bring together those coaches working in disability tennis to provide networking opportunities, relevant updates and to share best practice. The Inclusive Tennis Network will also create a network of potential mentors that other coaches can learn and gain experience from.

Venue Support -

Venues play an essential role in ensuring disabled people's experiences of tennis are positive and meaningful. We want to support venues to create inclusive and accessible environments, to ensure no one is left out.

How: We will support coaches and venues to work closely together to help their venue to be more inclusive and signpost to relevant resources and advice. We will promote having 'Inclusion' as a regular item on every committee meeting agenda, with the aim of embedding inclusion in all Suffolk venues.

Competition -

We want to create more competitive opportunities for disabled players across Suffolk. We also want to grow the visibility of disability tennis competition within Suffolk Tournaments.

How: One aim of the Inclusive Tennis Network is to link up different impairment groups to play friendly informal competition. We will promote formal disability competition opportunities through the Inclusive Tennis Network and showing disability competition through our communications. We will link with local tournaments to support and grow events and entries.

Community and Partnership Engagement -

We want to work with organisations to better understand the needs of disabled people in Suffolk so that our offer across the county reflects these needs and reduces the barriers to participation.

How: By connecting with local organisations and community groups to work with their members to understand their needs. We will support links between venues and community organisations to create appropriate opportunities to play.

We believe these actions will create more opportunities and make tennis in Suffolk more inclusive for disabled people and people with long term health conditions. If our vision is not being achieved we will review and adjust this strategy.

For more information about disability tennis contact Suffolk Disability Co-ordinator
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