



## **Linkside Lawn Tennis Club Byelaws**

### **Code of Conduct and Rules**

Club members and club officials must show tolerance, courtesy, good manners, fairness, honesty, integrity and sportsmanlike behaviour, in their dealings with other club members, officials, club members' guests, playing and social visitors.

1. The yearly season subscription fees are as agreed at the AGM.
2. The courts shall be open for play until dusk. Extended to 22:00 when the floodlights are in use.
3. When considered to be unfit for play, or when required for maintenance, the groundsman, the Committee or any member of the Committee shall have the power to close any court for the preservation of the ground.
4. The Committee shall have the power to reserve three courts for matches or tournaments.
5. Team matches and Club coaches have court use priority. Team matches are listed on the website ([www.linksidetennis.co.uk](http://www.linksidetennis.co.uk)). Coaches will endeavour to book using the ClubSpark App
6. Club coaches will endeavour to use courts 4-5 and 6-7. However, Members must move to another court if requested to do so by a Club coach.
7. Guests of members may play up to twice in any one membership year. The guest's name must be entered into the guest book before playing and the visitor fee (Adult £5.00 or Junior £2) must be paid online through the ClubSpark App or via Bank Transfer at the time of booking.
8. Any dispute shall be referred for settlement to any member of the Committee who may be present or sent in writing (or email) to the President or Club Secretary. Disputes or complaints shall be dealt with in accordance with the Club's Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures and Rule 8 of the Club's Constitution.
9. Members should pre-book their courts using the ClubSpark App; if they are no longer able to play a booked session, then they must cancel the court as soon as they possibly can. All members shall provide their own tennis balls.
10. No food or drink is to be taken onto court except for water in bottles and other drinks, which must be in sealed drinking bottles.
11. Ball can metal ring pull lids are potentially dangerous and must be safely disposed of in the recycling bin in the Clubhouse or in courtside bins. On no account must lids or any other litter be left on court.
12. Whilst on court all members and playing visitors shall wear designated tennis clothing only, and designated tennis shoes that are suitable for play on the court surfaces.
13. Neither the Club nor any member of the Committee can be held responsible for any loss or injury sustained whilst on the Club's premises. Players make their own decision as to their fitness to play and the playing surface and conditions at the time they play.
14. All users of the synthetic clay courts (6 and 7) must drag the courts after their set or match, clean the lines, and use the footbath on exiting the courts.



15. The last players off all courts are responsible for locking the court gates. The member who unlocked the Clubhouse, must ensure they lock and alarm it on leaving, or agree with a person remaining that they will do this. The member locking up must ask everyone to vacate the clubhouse, locking the bar, kitchen and front door, closing all windows, turning off the lights, setting the alarm and locking the Clubhouse.

24. These rules are to be enforced by all Club Members, not ONLY the Committee Members. Failure to abide by these Club Bye Laws or harassment of any Committee Member or Club Member trying to enforce these bye laws, shall result in the offending member having disciplinary procedures brought against them.

### **Social Tennis Rules**

Social tennis hours are Monday and Friday 10:00-12:00, Tuesday and Thursday from 17:30 to 21:30, and Saturday and Sunday from 14:00 to 18:00, after any club matches have been played. The detailed Schedule of Social Play is available inside with a copy posted outside of the Clubhouse.

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*“Linkside Social Tennis is about playing competitive tennis in a friendly and inclusive atmosphere. This should be underpinned by a fair set of rules that all Members abide by.”*

**1. In order to join in with General Social Play sessions Members must be able to reliably serve, return serve, and rally.** The club welcomes beginners into Social Play and wants the experience to be friendly and inclusive and as such has assigned beginner courts/times, and once judged by a coach to have progressed into General Social Play they may also play on the General Social Play designated courts. Non-beginners may also join to make a 4 and help beginners on their court, if requested by the beginners.

**2. Players waiting to play must enter their names on the “social board” underneath other waiting players. This list is used to select a balanced foursome to play out of the next 6 players, avoiding players who have already played in the same 4.** The “social board” shall always be used during social hours. Upon arrival players should enter their own name at the bottom of the list on the board. The player at the top of the list makes a selection from the next 5 players to form a balanced foursome in the spirit of creating an enjoyable game and they should play on the next available designated court with the list then moving up in order and the process repeated when the next designated court becomes available. If any players in the top 6 are not selected then they will play in the next game joined by those below them to make a balanced foursome (again the top 6 players waiting are considered). If the players under the first player have already played together with the first player, and there are players below them on the list, then they should be skipped to ensure that in the true spirit of Social Tennis, players play in different fours. Those arriving at the Club to play should also put their names below those players waiting to play, even if those waiting have already played. At no time should a player enter the names of others onto the Social Board.

**3. During social hours players will play one set of doubles only. There is no tie-break if the set ends in a draw (6-6). Players must leave the court after one set to make the court available for the next foursome. Players may then re-enter their names on the Social Board if they wish to continue playing.**

**4.If a player chooses to 'sit out' for a period of time during social hours, he/she must remove their name from the board and only re-enter it at the bottom of the list when he/she is ready to play again.** If they decline to play when it is their turn, then they must be moved to the bottom of the list.

**5.There is to be no singles played during doubles social times on Social Play designated courts, unless waiting to form a foursome or during scheduled Singles Social Play.** If 2 people go onto a court to knock, their names must be on the social board. When 2 additional people arrive or become free they will join the pair having a knock. If the 2 players having a knock do not put their names on the social board and do not agree to play doubles with those joining, they will be bumped off the court when a foursome comes on and placed at the bottom of the social board list, unless they do not wish to play. For the avoidance of doubt, those courts not designated as Social Play Courts can be used for either singles or doubles and are also available to book as normal.

**6.Players pre-booking the Social Tennis courts prior to Social Tennis, must vacate the courts when Social Tennis is due to start and then place their names on the Social Board under any players waiting.** However, if they turn up early, have not booked any courts and the Social Play designated tennis courts are free, then they may start playing and complete their set according to these Social Play rules. If they turn up early and play on a non-designated social court, then they cannot then move to a designated social court without joining the list.

**7.If players decide to begin a game on a free non-designated Social Play Court, they must complete their game on that court before re-joining the list on the social board.** They must not move their game to a designated Social Court if one becomes available, unless there is nobody else waiting to play on the Social Board, clearly they run the risk that the court they are playing on may have a scheduled booking.

**8.The Social Play schedule allows for Advanced, Beginners, Singles and Coaches Priority. If there is no such play on these designated courts at these times, General Doubles Social Play can take place.** Under these circumstances, a normal general doubles social play set can be completed, even if people in these categories then arrive or become available. The general doubles social players should then vacate the court. Coaches only have this priority during November-March (inclusive, and only until courts 6/7 become floodlit). Club Sanctioned Tournament matches are allowed on Court 1 according to the schedule (April-October inclusive). Both coaching and Club Sanctioned Tournament matches must be booked prior to that day.

**9.These Social Play rules should be followed by all Club Members. Whilst verbal warnings will be issued by Committee members to players not complying with these rules, the Committee reserves the right to suspend a member from social play for a period of 2 weeks if they do not comply, and to invoke the Club formal Disciplinary Procedures if a player continues to disregard these rules.**

The LLTC Committee

March 2021