

VICTORIA PARK CLUB

RULES OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR OF MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Victoria Park Club's aim is to provide facilities for and promote and encourage participation in tennis and bridge. The facilities are available for use 365 days a year. The Club is, however, run on a voluntary basis. The Club relies on the goodwill and co-operation of all members to ensure that:

- appropriate behaviour occurs both on and off court
- the clubhouse, tennis and other equipment are kept secure
- the clubhouse, courts and equipment are not damaged

The Club is located in a residential area and needs the support of the local residents. It is essential that all members do what they can to ensure that we operate in harmony with the residents.

Each member, as a condition of membership, agrees:

- a) to be bound by the Club's rules of membership, and
- b) to be bound by the LTA's Rules and Disciplinary Code (tennis members only)

These rules set out below demonstrate what is expected of members to achieve the above.

CARE OF THE CLUB AND BEHAVIOUR

Care of the Clubhouse and Equipment

1. **The Clubhouse should be kept secure by keeping the door and padlock codes secret and locking the clubhouse and main gates if you are the last to leave.** Please ensure that taps, lights and electrical appliances are turned off and chairs, balls, mugs and glasses are put away in the Clubhouse.
2. Smoking is not permitted in the Clubhouse.
3. If there are any maintenance issues to report, please contact any Committee Member (details on the noticeboard in the clubhouse).

Care of the Courts

4. The courts have recently been resurfaced and can easily be damaged. It is essential that **only non-marking flat soled shoes are worn on court.** Astroturf shoes or ordinary shoes should not be worn on court. Non-playing members/visitors must not go on the courts unless they are wearing the correct footwear.
5. Chairs and glasses are not to be taken on to the courts. No-one should step on, jump over or lean on the nets nor the low fence along court 1.

Behaviour and Etiquette

6. We need to respect our neighbours' properties and environment. Please keep noise levels down both on and off court; leave the Club quietly; and do not kick, throw or hit balls against neighbours; fences or walls. Every effort should be made not to hit balls out of the courts.
7. Players should not be disturbed whilst playing. **You should not walk behind players during games/rallies and mobile phones should not be taken on court.**
8. Players are to wear appropriate sports clothing which may be white or coloured when playing on court.

USE OF THE FACILITIES

Court Priority

9. Club matches, tournaments, Club group coaching sessions and Club open nights have priority for use of the courts. Weekly details of the times that courts are in use are shown on the notice boards in the Clubhouse windows and on the Club website – www.vptennis.net in the Court Availability section. Match and tournament details are also written on the Club Calendar in the Clubhouse. Outside of these times from Monday to Friday the following groups have priority: schools' bookings before 4 pm, juniors/tots between 4pm and 6pm and adults after 6pm, though juniors may play up until 9pm in the summertime if the courts are free. A maximum of three courts may be used for coaching at any one time.
10. At club nights, to ensure equity and consistency of waiting time, the t-card system as detailed on the noticeboard in the clubhouse must be used.

Floodlights

11. The times the floodlights can be used are restricted by the local Planning Approval. The times are detailed in the Clubhouse, next to the floodlight meters. They will automatically switch off at 9.30 pm Monday to Saturday and 8 pm on Sundays. The floodlights must be switched off manually even if they have switched off automatically otherwise they will come on the following day.
12. Club matches, Club group coaching and Club nights have priority for use of the floodlights. Juniors may use the floodlights under adult supervision (coaches, parents, guardians). There must be no play on unlit courts when dark.

Coaching

13. Only members of the team providing the Club's Coaching Programme can provide coaching for payment on the Club's premises.

Visitors

14. Visitors must be signed in by members and pay the relevant fee (£4 for adults and £3 for juniors/tots and students) **prior** to using the facilities. Visitors are restricted to a maximum of 6 visits per annum. If they wish to use the facilities more than that they must become a member.
15. Members are responsible for ensuring that their visitors comply with these byelaws and the Club's Constitution.

Car Park

16. Bridge members have priority for the use of the right hand side of the car park on Mondays and Thursdays from 6.00 pm onwards. All Club members and visitors are asked to park considerately to ensure that as many cars as possibly can use the car park.

GENERAL

Membership

17. The Membership categories and their definitions are:
 - Adult Tennis – Unlimited
 - Limited Adult Tennis – Weekdays until 6 pm
 - Country – Living more than 20 miles from the Club
 - Student – In full time education
 - Junior – Year 6 to year 13 (as at 1 April)
 - Tot – Year 5 and below (as at 1 April)
 - Bridge – Bridge only
 - Bridge and Tennis – Bridge and unlimited tennis

Bridge and Limited Tennis – Bridge and tennis on weekdays until 6 pm
Social – Non-playing member
Temporary – Student summer vacation

Limited adult tennis members may also play at weekend Club Socials or the Club Championships.

Junior and tot members may take up six free group coaching sessions within the Summer Term of the Club Coaching Programme.

18. The annual membership fees are set at the Annual General Meeting and cover April to March. If a member joins between October and December the fee is 50% of the annual fee. If a member joins between January and March the fee is 25% of the annual fee.
19. Refunds of membership fees will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
20. Shoe tags denoting membership of the Tennis Section of the Club should be visible when members are at the Club.

Rule breaches

21. Breaches of the rules can lead to temporary or permanent suspension from the Club.

Complaints

22. Any complaints should be made in writing to any Committee Member. Contact details are on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse.

Disclaimer

23. The Club does not accept any responsibility for injury to members or visitors or loss of or damage to possessions.

Accidents

24. Should someone have an accident whilst on court or in the clubhouse, an accident report form should be completed. Forms can be found in the Accident Reports folder in the clubhouse.

CONCLUSION

25. The Club membership fees are based on the Club being run on a voluntary basis. If the byelaws are not complied with by members, it is highly likely that significant loss or damage could occur to the Club. The impact of this would be increased costs met from Club funds, which in turn would lead to higher subscriptions. It also could result in reduced opening hours of the Club to ensure adequate security. This can be avoided with your co-operation and assistance.