

The Royal Ascot Tennis Club

Rules & Regulations

Rules

1. The Club shall be known as The Royal Ascot Tennis Club.

Objects

2. The objects of the Club shall be:
 - a. To provide the facilities for the playing of lawn tennis.
 - b. To uphold and maintain the Rules and Regulations of the LTA.
 - c. To advance the interests of playing members in every possible way.
 - d. To arrange matches with other clubs and club championships.
 - e. To employ the funds of the Club in such a manner as shall be deemed for the best interests of the game in the district. No funds or other property of the Club shall be paid to, or distributed among, the members of the Club, except in settlement of just obligation or as authorised by the Rules. In the event of dissolution, the funds remaining may be devoted to objects similar to those of the Club or some other charitable object. The guarantors of any LTA loan shall have first call on Club funds to pay off loan instalments and interest.
 - f. To affiliate to the LTA.
 - g. Generally to advance and safeguard the interests of the game.

Constitution

3.
 - a. Subject to Rules 4 & 5 below, the Club shall consist of not more than 160 members. After 31st August, new members may be admitted on payment of the entry fee plus half the annual subscription.
 - b. Students over 18 and under 22 on 1st of March of the current year may be admitted as supernumerary members at the discretion of the committee, on payment of junior fees provided that they are receiving full time education at school, college, university, or similar establishment.

- c. Daytime membership shall be available. Such members may only use club facilities on Monday to Friday between 8.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Such members will not be able to enter club competitions or represent the club in league matches or other competitions. The subscription and joining fee shall be determined annually at the AGM. Members must opt for full or weekday membership on renewal of their subscription each year. Transition between memberships will not be available at any other time. Daytime members shall not count towards the limit specified in rule 3a.
4. Up to 75 juniors may be admitted to associate membership and will be subject to such restrictions as may from time to time be laid down by the Committee.
5. Where the operation of Rule 3 would result in the exclusion of a wife or husband of a Club member, then the membership may exceed 160, at the discretion of the Committee.
6. Juniors are those who, on 1st March of the current year, are 11 years and over but have not attained their 18th birthday. Minis are those under 11 years old on 1st March of current year.
7. The Management Committee (see Rule 11b) have the right to suspend membership without refund of subscription or to expel from membership without refund of subscription and with or without conditions for reinstatement in any case where the member is considered to have behaved in a manner contrary to the interests of the Club.
8. A list of the names and telephone numbers of all members must be kept on the Club premises.
9.
 - a. An Annual General Meeting shall be held during October or November in each year; and members will be notified individually of the date and time of the meeting. Notice of the meeting will be posted in the Club House at least 21 days in advance.
 - b. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Committee whenever it thinks fit, or shall be convened if 15 or more members so request in writing to the Secretary.
10. Only the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Life Members and adult members, as well as the Representative of the Junior Members at the Management Committee Meetings, may vote at a General Meeting.
- 11.

- a. The AGM shall appoint a President and such Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members as may be considered necessary.
 - b. The AGM shall appoint a Management Committee, hereinafter called the Committee, of up to 12 members. The Committee will include a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Club Captain, Club Vice-Captain and Membership Secretary and ordinary members without portfolio. The Committee shall be responsible for the management of the club until the next AGM. The Committee may also include a Social Secretary and Match Secretary but these posts may be off Committee if the holders so wish, in which case the Social Secretary will liaise with the Secretary of the Committee and the Match Secretary with the Club Captain.
 - c. The Social Secretary will provide to the Committee at the beginning of the club year a list of recommended social events and will update this list over the year. The Social Secretary will be responsible for involving appropriate members of the club in planning, organizing and helping with the events.
- 12.
- a. All officers and members of Committee shall retire annually, but shall continue to hold office until the conclusion of the AGM at which they retire, and shall be eligible for re- election.
 - b. Any casual vacancy in the offices or Committee may be filled by the Committee at its discretion.
 - c. Unless expressly forbidden by the AGM, the Committee has the power to co-opt for special or general business.
13. The business transacted at the AGM shall be as follows:
- a. Minutes
 - b. Reports
 - c. Amendments of Rules and Regulations
 - d. Election of officers and Management Committee
 - e. Fixing of subscriptions and charges
 - f. Special business
14. The AGM may delegate to the Committee any or all of its powers save that of appointing a Management Committee.
15. Membership subscriptions shall be payable before 31st March, and subject to Rule 16 below, membership automatically lapses if subscriptions be not paid by this date.
16. The Committee shall have the power to reserve until 30th April a place in the Club for any member who finds payment of his/her subscription before

that date inconvenient, providing such member gives adequate reason in writing for non-payment before that date.

17. Any member withdrawing from active membership for medical reasons, before the end of May, may be repaid half their subscription, excluding entrance fee.

Vacancies

18. The Membership Secretary shall keep a waiting list in chronological order of applications and, subject to a) below, vacancies in the Club shall be filled from the top of this list.
 - a. Husbands, wives and children of existing members and old members whose membership has lapsed within the last three years, shall go to the top of the waiting list, irrespective of the date of their application.
 - b. New membership will be confirmed in the next scheduled Committee meeting. The Committee reserves the right to refuse a nomination for a new member.

Regulations

19. The AGM or the Committee may, from time to time, make such regulations as are necessary for the good conduct of the Club. Such regulations are not part of the Rules of the Club, but, infringement of them may be deemed behaviour contrary to the best interests of the Club (see Rule 7).

Procedure

20. At all meetings, resolution shall be by simple majority.
21. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
22. All elections shall be by secret ballot.
23. All other voting shall be by show of hands unless a motion for a secret ballot is carried.
24. The quorum for a Committee shall be 3, at least one of which shall be Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.
25. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be at least 10, including any 2 of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
26. Every motion and nomination must be proposed and seconded.

27. Candidates for office must be present at the time of election, or have signified beforehand to the Secretary their willingness to serve.
28. Amendment to the Rules of the Club may be made at any General Meeting, provided notice in writing is given to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Such notice must give the substance, if not the letter, of the amendment.
29. Motions, not being amendments to the Rules, may be moved, without prior notice, but the Chairman of the meeting may refuse any motion for which 14 days' notice has not been given, if, in his/her opinion, the matter is of sufficient importance that it ought to have been included in the Agenda accompanying the notice of the meeting.
30. In all matters of interpretation of the Rules of procedure, the Chairman of the meeting's decision is final.

Bar Rules

31. No intoxicating liquor may be supplied to a member unless he/she has been a member of the Club for at least two days.
32. In the case of visiting teams, intoxicating liquors may only be sold to team officials and team members (i.e. not to spectators or supporters).
33. Intoxicating liquor may be sold to persons attending the Club premises for social or other functions organised or authorised by the Club, provided always that the number of such functions shall not exceed twelve in any one year, but no function shall be permitted to which admission may be obtained by payment of money at the door, whether for a ticket or otherwise.
34. The hours fixed under the Rules of the Club as the permitted hours for the sale of intoxicated liquors are:
 - a. Weekdays 12 noon - 11 pm
 - b. Sunday/Christmas Day/Good Friday 12 noon - 10:30 pm
35.
 - a. Intoxicating liquor must not be supplied to any person under the age of 18.
 - b. Intoxicating liquor for consumption off the premises may be supplied only to a member in person.

LTA Rules

36. Each member of the RATC agrees to be bound by and subject to these rules and the rules and disciplinary code of the LTA (all as in force from time to time). Being bound by and subject to these rules is a condition to membership of the RATC and in the event of a conflict between the rules of the LTA and the RATC, the rules of the LTA shall apply. This rule 36 confers a benefit on the LTA and, subject to the remaining provisions of this rule, is intended to be enforceable by the LTA by virtue of the Contracts (Right of Third Parties) Act 1999. For the avoidance of doubt, the members do not intend that any term of these rules, apart from this rule 36 should be enforceable, by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999, by any person who is not a party to this agreement.
37. The RATC Management Committee may terminate the membership of any person, or impose any other sanction they determine to be appropriate, in connection with the breach of any condition of membership set out in rule 36.
38. The RATC agrees that:
 - (a) each member of the Management Committee will be required, as a condition of election or appointment; and
 - (b) all unlicensed and unregistered coaches and, so far as practicable, players and other persons using the facilities of the RATC, will be required, as a condition of such use;

to agree to be bound by and subject to these rules and the rules and disciplinary code of the LTA (all as in force from time to time), such agreement to contain an express acknowledgement that the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 applies and that the LTA and the RATC can enforce any breach at its option and in its sole discretion.

Regulations

1. The area of land that the Club owns is marked on the appropriate plan (copy held by the Secretary). Access to the courts is guaranteed, but may be varied from existing if the Committee agrees. Trespassing on adjacent land is not allowed.
2. Visitors may be introduced to the Club by members and are entitled to the normal playing facilities. Members may not introduce more than three guests at any one time, no individual guest may play at the Club more than 6 times in a membership year and the names and addresses of all guests and the signature of the member introducing them must be entered in the Visitors' Book kept on the premises. The introducing member is responsible for paying the appropriate fee to the Treasurer. Junior visitors are subject to the same rules as for junior associated members. Except at organised functions, visitors may only play tennis. To use other facilities, they must have the approval of a committee member.

3. Members entering for the Berks LTA or similar competition may use the courts and balls without payment of visitors' fees in respect of their partner or opponents, providing they play on a day and time appointed by the Secretary.
4. Members are urged to wear correct tennis dress when on the courts.
No person is allowed to play unless wearing soft-soled shoes.
5. It is the duty of each member to see that the courts and surrounds are kept free from rubbish and litter. Any burnable material may be left in the waste-paper basket, but all rubbish which cannot be burnt must be taken away by the person who brings it, or deposited in the dustbin.
6. Members and visitors bringing dogs to the Club should keep them on a lead.
7. Juniors may not play after 7pm on weekday evenings, except on Mondays and Fridays, and not on Sunday afternoons. Except that where the Selection Committee agrees that a particular junior's game is of a sufficiently high standard, that junior shall be subject to no restriction of when he/she plays.
8. Persons wishing to use the practice wall will have priority on that court whenever another court is available for normal play.
9. Unless permission is granted by the Committee, no-one other than the official club coach can give coaching for remuneration on the club courts.
10. The pavilion is a NO SMOKING area
11. Booking sheets for courts are posted in the club house early each week. Members may book courts for periods when they are not required for such items as club match practice, club sessions, club coaching sessions, matches against other clubs, play tennis days, club championships finals day and social events that may occur from time to time. The same players may not book a court for longer than 1 and a half hours. If the court is not required by others at the time that the booking ends players may continue to play if they wish, but if others require the court after that time the court must be given up to the new players.

Change History

1. November 1998
2. Reviewed by the Committee September 2000
3. Bar hours amended by EGM 2nd June 2005
4. Membership numbers increased to 150 as approved by AGM 2nd November 2006
5. Reviewed by management team for spelling and grammar 6th February 2007
6. Membership numbers increased to 160 as approved by AGM 1st November 2007
7. EGM 3 March 2009: Introduction of Daytime Membership, Rule 3c.
8. AGM 5 Nov 2009: Changes carried to Rules 10 and 11:- insertions as underlined below, and certain omissions [struck out] from the previous wording: Rule 10. “Only the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Life Members and [members paying full fees] adult members, as well as the Representative of the Junior Members at the Management Committee Meetings, may vote at a General Meeting. [but the number of non-voting Club members must not exceed 15% of the total membership]” and Rule 7. “The Management Committee (see Rule 11b) has the right to suspend membership without refund of subscription or to expel from membership without refund of subscription and with or without conditions for reinstatement in any case where a member is considered to have behaved in a manner contrary to the interests of the Club.”
9. AGM 4 Nov 2010. Numerous and sundry changes of which details are available from the Chairman or Secretary of the Management Committee.
10. AGM 3 Nov 2011. Addition of Rules 36, 37 and 38 at LTA’s request.
11. AGM 6 Nov 2014. Ammended age clarification for Junior and Mini tennis players in constitution Rule 6.

