



Club Rules of Mitchelstown Lawn Tennis Club

01-05-2021

Objectives

These rules are framed in the spirit of promoting an ethos of respect and high standards of etiquette from all members. Members are required to familiarise themselves with the rules.

COVID-19 Overarching Protocols

Until further notice, the COVID-19 Protocols listed below remain in force and supersede associated rules contained elsewhere within this document. We urge all members read and become familiar with the Tennis Ireland COVID Guidelines and wider Public Health guidance.

To permit Tennis to be played in a safe manner during the active public health situation for all members during Phase 3, the following points must be adhered to by all members.

- Be a current member.
- Have a pre-reserved booking.
- Not have been out of the country in the 14 days prior to court use.
- Not have been around someone with symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days prior to court use.
- Not be in a period of self-isolation.
- Not to be displaying Covid-19 symptoms.
- Keep 2 metres away from others, where possible.
- All players, and not just the player making the booking, should be included in the booking notes. If there is a change to who is playing, it is advisable to make sure the booking is updated.
- A parent/guardian should accompany any player under 18 years old but must accompany any player under 16 years old.

Members are advised of the following alterations to normal Club practices, effectively immediately and until further notice

- All external and internal competitive activities and tournaments must be postponed (eg North Cork League, Winter League, 2Shoes Club Close)

Repeat recorded breaches of Club Rules by a member, including the relevant incorporated COVID-19 protocols, may result in suspension of membership, and worse still, mean closing the Club for all members until a later date.

Repeat record incidents of non-members using Club facilities may result in closing of the Club until a later date. It is critical that all court users are contactable to facilitate contact tracing, therefore we must stress that the courts are to be used by members only.

If a member has been using the courts and becomes unwell and are displaying Covid-19 Symptoms they should first contact their GP/HSE.

Health and Safety

1. Appropriate tennis attire must be worn at all times on the courts.
2. Members are responsible for ensuring that their footwear is suitable for the courts
3. Players may be asked to leave the courts if wearing unsuitable clothing or footwear.

4. Please do not use the courts in excessive rain or if there is ice present on the courts. In the event of thunder and lightning or any extreme weather conditions please vacate the courts.
5. Cars should be parked in such a manner as to avoid causing any nuisance to pedestrians, neighbours, and other road users.

Club Etiquette

1. Members have a responsibility to contribute to the long-term success and ethos of Mitchelstown Tennis Club. They should treat the courts, the clubhouse and environs with respect and ensure that no damage is caused to club property.
2. Members should behave with courtesy and consideration at all times.
3. Food and alcohol are not permitted on court.
4. Mitchelstown Tennis Club is a smoke-free zone. Those who wish to smoke should do so outside the premises.
5. Chewing-gum causes damage to the court surface. It is not allowed in the court area or in the clubhouse.
6. Pets are not allowed on court. Pet owners must remove any fouling from the premises. Pets must be under direct control of its owner at all times (e.g. dog on leash).
7. The club does not accept responsibility for any items lost or stolen on club premises
8. Appropriate tennis attire must be worn.
9. Members are asked to take into consideration the number of members in the club and to use their discretion when booking courts, particularly at peak times.
10. All persons involved with the tennis club, or guests and visitors, shall be entitled to and treated with respect.

Booking Courts

1. All senior members have equal rights to use the courts on any day or evening. On match and competition days access may be restricted at the discretion of the Executive Committee and in consultation with the respective Team Captain.
2. Court restrictions may also be restricted for Club-organised events and activities such as Coaching, Cardio Tennis, and Munster Branch events. Restrictions will also apply where the Executive Committee deem them to be unsafe to play on for reasons of weather, and/or during court maintenance.
3. Courts are booked using the online system.
4. Peak hours are from 6.00pm-9.00pm Monday through Friday.
5. Consecutive booking is not allowed. Double-booking, where 2 players book courts back-to-back, with the intention of playing continuously for is against the rules. Note: There is no difficulty with players playing for longer when the court has not been booked and there are no other members awaiting a court.
6. If a booking has not been attended within 10 mins of the scheduled time, it is deemed cancelled and the court may be used by others awaiting a game.
7. Members are allowed to participate in one booking per day during peak hours (i.e. 6pm to 9pm), and only three bookings per week during peak hours. There is no such limit outside of peak hours. You may only play on a court that has been booked in your own name. Booked courts are not transferable. You may not assign a court booked in your name to another member. You must cancel the court and make the court available to other members.
8. Advance booking of courts is limited to 10 days. This is to ensure that members have a fair chance at booking peak time slots. If you have a special requirement to book a court in advance (such as Munster Branch competitions) then please contact the Executive Committee.

Use of and Access to Clubhouse

1. The Committee of Mitchelstown Tennis Club is responsible for the management and upkeep of the clubhouse. However, after a match or tournament it is the responsibility of the organizing person(s) to ensure that the premises are left in a clean and proper state
2. The clubhouse is a facility for use by members when playing tennis. A request to use the clubhouse for any other activities (which should be tennis-related) must be notified in advance to, and confirmed by, the committee in writing
3. If such activity includes the use of alcohol, this must be specified
4. The club provides access to the clubhouse as follows using a PIN code.
5. The PIN code will be issued to paid-up Senior/Family and Student members only. Junior Members will not be issued the PIN code.
6. The PIN code should not be shared with non-members.
7. Please contact the Executive Committee if you forget the PIN code.

Junior Members (Under 18 years)

Mitchelstown Tennis Club has adopted the Tennis Ireland Child Protection Guidelines as its policy in relation to child protection. Junior members should abide by the Junior Player Code of Conduct at the bottom of this section.

The term “adult supervision” describes any parent/guardian/senior member that accepts the role of supervising a junior member, or Coach/Executive Committee member that is Garda vetted and Child Protection Compliant to Level 1 standard.

1. It is required that all private tennis coaches used by members are Garda vetted and or/ Child Safety Compliant to Level 1 standard. The club can recommend suitability qualified coaches in this regard.
2. Parents and others who hold keys for clubhouse access should not under any circumstances allow these to be used by junior members without adult supervision.
3. Any authorised adult who opens the clubhouse to junior members are responsible for providing supervision while these juniors are using the clubhouse.
4. If using the courts during off-peak hours, i.e. Monday-Friday 8am to 7pm and Weekends, it is strongly recommended that juniors be under adult supervision.
5. If using the courts during peak hours, i.e. Monday-Friday 7pm to 10pm, Junior members **must be** under adult supervision.

Please note:

- The onus will always be on parents/guardians to accept responsibility for their children while they are on club property.
- The club does not accept responsibility for juniors unsupervised at any time.
- As a health and safety and legislative issue it is important that this ruling is strictly adhered to. Unattended juniors may be challenged by an adult to leave the premises if they are not under adult supervision.

Junior Players Code of Conduct



I will...

- Show respect to everyone
- Behave myself when on and off the court.
- Be honest and not cheat, swear or bully anyone.
- Not throw my racket.
- Understand and follow the rules at all times.
- Be a good sport by always calling lines fairly. Remember, if I can't honestly say it was OUT, then it's IN!
- Trust my opponent to make fair calls and expect them to trust me to do the same
- Recognise when my opponent plays a great shot.
- Not forget to pass my opponent the balls, congratulate them and shake hands after the match
- Have fun and enjoy the game!

Guests / "Pay for Play"

1. Members may invite non-members to play in the club as their guests.
2. Guests not accompanied by a member must have registered for court time in advance by contacting the club mobile phone.
3. Guest fees are €10 (€5 if accompanied by a member) per court per hour.
4. Guest fees should be paid using the envelopes and letterbox provided. Please write guest name on the envelope.
5. Guests must adhere to all Club rules.

Breach of Rules

Any breach of club rules will be dealt with by the committee. Persistent breaches may result in sanctions against the persons involved.

It's your club!

Mitchelstown Tennis Club is run by its members for its members on a voluntary basis. The committee always welcomes suggestions and feedback from members.

Power to Amend Policy

These rules can be amended at any time by the Executive Committee of Mitchelstown Tennis Club if they are of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary.