



Coaching & Team Selection
Policy of
Mitchelstown Tennis Club

20-01-2022

Coaching Objectives

1. Develop club members to the best of their ability and encourage members to represent the club in various leagues etc.
2. Operate as a source of income for the club and promote new membership
3. Delivery is primarily via a “group” setting, where participant numbers are enough to make it financially viable
4. Delivery of group coaching/camps consisting of 8 people or less with a minimum of 6 people.
5. Particularly for camps, the maximum number increases pro-rata per coaches/assistants as deployed by the Head Coach. For example, maximum of 8 per Head Coach, 16 per pair of Head Coach + a Coaching Assistant.

Coaching: Role of Executive Committee

1. Ensure that coaching has high prominence in club operations.
2. Provide access to a high standard of quality coaching.
3. To make available suitably qualified coaches (predominately Tennis Ireland Licensed)
4. Ensure that all approved coaches operating in the club hold Public Liability insurance, Garda Vetting, & Child Safeguarding Compliance.
5. To ensure that all coaching operates in a professional manner and in line with best practice
6. Ensure that Child protection guidelines are strictly adhered to
7. Support and enable the Head Coaching to fulfil responsibilities as described in this policy.
8. Liaise with the Head Coach as required in respect of all coaching programmes including schedules, participants, and any issues raised
9. Provide the Head Coach with suitable facilities to conduct the coaching programme
10. To the Head Coach informed of any issues that might impact on the coaching programme.
11. Operate a “first come first served” waiting list for over subscription for group coaching or camps
12. React to weather conditions whereby sessions may be rescheduled
13. Cancel coaching due to gross absenteeism
14. Consider refunds where absenteeism is due to injury at the discretion of the Executive Committee

Coaching: Role of Head Coach

1. Manage a coaching programme progressing members from beginner to advanced player- where abilities permit.
2. To implement and manage the coaching programmes, including Junior camps, efficiently
3. Alert the Executive Committee to any coaching issues which arise as soon as possible
4. Ensure coaching is always to the highest standards through continuous development and up-skilling and by holding an up to date accredited (predominately Tennis Ireland) licence.
5. Ensure that no group coaching or camps occur within the club which have not been approved by the Executive Committee.

6. Ensure that group coaching takes precedence over individual coaching
7. To use the appropriate equipment for the different age groups and ability levels
8. To assess and allocate players to the most appropriate coaching group based on their individual ability
9. Keep parents informed as to how their child/children are progressing when requested
10. Encourage participation, by all, in competitive tennis
11. Ensure that all group coaching and camps are run in a professional manner and in line with best practice
12. Operates the coaching and camp programmes profitably and provides value for money
13. Ensure Child Protection guidelines are adhered to
14. Ensure that coaching is accessible to all and is inclusive
15. To nurture a love of the game, fair play and enjoyment
16. Reassign a member to another group if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the member
17. Maintain records of each members' progress

Coaching: Role of Members (or Parents/Guardians of Junior Members)

1. Junior Coaching: Encourage their children to partake in group coaching and camp programmes
2. Adult Coaching: Encourage their adult family & friends to partake in group coaching
3. Pay coaching/camp fees promptly
4. Facilitate participation in league tennis and other social events run by the club
5. Bring any coaching concerns to the Executive Committee or Head Coach
6. To support the coaches by ensuring they are on time and available to play
7. Arrange play (practice) outside coaching hours
8. Inform the Head Coach/Executive Committee as soon as possible in event of unavailability to coach

Team Selection Objectives

1. To help facilitate as many teams (including substitutes) to represent the club in all competitions and grades as possible, subject to team suitability for the respective competition.
2. To encourage all Tennis Ireland graded members to play for the club, and to host "grading events" for any members that are currently ungraded or may be subject to a re-grading.
3. To maintain the reputation and integrity of the club by ensuring that all players representing the club compete in adherence to the competition rules and procedures.

Team Selection: Role of the Team Selection Sub-Committee

1. Team Selection will be the responsibility of the Team Selection Subcommittee.

2. The Team selection sub committee will be made up of
 - 2.1. Adult Team Selection: Club Captain, Vice Captain and the Club Coach
 - 2.2. Junior Team Selection: Male & Female Junior Officers and the Club Coach
3. Promotion and communication of club team competitions will be a function of the Sub-Committee.
4. Once detail of competition is known (e.g. Summer Cup, Winter League, North Cork, South Tipperary) the Sub-Committee will advertise entry as soon as possible including any relevant information through the usual channels (Facebook, WhatsApp, Website, Avondhu Newspaper).
5. The Yourcourts system will be used for members to express their interest.
6. Partner with the Head Coach and own the selection of teams & team captains. Team members to be selected from all members that express an interest to take part following solicitation and consultation.
7. The Club will either partially or wholly fund the entry of teams. This will be made known at the time of announcing the competition details.
8. The club will wholly fund court lights for competition matches.
9. The Sub-Committee will submit the team details to the respective competition secretary.
10. The Sub-Committee will send any details of the fixtures, rules, and contact details to the selected team captain.
11. Provide guidance, assistance, and advice to teams before/during/after the competition being entered.

Team Selection: Role of Head Coach

1. Promotion of club team competitions during group coaching events.
2. Partner with Club Captain and Club Chairperson on the selection of Team & Team Captains

Team Selection: Role of Teams & Team Captains

1. Any team that forfeits a match or incurs any financial penalty for the club will be expected to reimburse the club for that financial penalty.
2. Teams must organise their own
 - 2.1. Transport
 - 2.2. Hospitality for visiting teams
 - 2.3. Tennis balls
 - 2.4. Court bookings
3. Inform the Captain or Vice Captain of scheduled matches and request court lights or any other supports as required.
4. Accept the decisions of the Team Selection Sub Committee as final, following any required consultation.

Team Selection: Player Eligibility

1. For players to be eligible for submission they must meet the following criteria:

- 1.1. Be a fully paid up member¹ (excludes Pavilion Members) of the club, and be in good standing.
- 1.2. Hold a current Tennis Ireland/ITN grade.
- 1.3. Satisfy the eligibility criteria of the competition to be entered.
- 1.4. Agree their commitment and availability in advance for matches.

Team Selection: Process

1. All eligible members are asked and encouraged to play in a team
2. Members wishing to play are required to advise their availability and confirm whether they wish to be considered as a:
 - 2.1. Full Player – commits to playing the majority of matches
 - 2.2. Substitute Player – wishes to play occasionally if required
3. Members may be required to attend at least one pre-season selection evening
4. A ranked list of players is produced by the Sub Committee based on:
 - 4.1. Availability to play the majority of matches
 - 4.2. Assessment of player ability
 - 4.3. Previous internal/external club competitive experience and results
 - 4.4. Fitness to play i.e. free from injury
5. Once players have been ranked, players are assigned to teams by the Sub Committee based on their ranking.

Team Selection: Entry Criteria

1. The discretion of the Club Coach, Club captain & the Club chairperson is absolute and their decision to all matters relating to team entry.
2. In exercising their discretion, the Club coach, Club Captain & the club chairperson may consider any subjective factor, or combination of factors that is, in the opinion of the Club coach, Club Captain & the club chairperson, relevant for consideration when selecting a team to represent Mitchelstown Tennis Club.

Power to Amend Policy

1. This selection policy 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.

¹ Includes those who have committed to monthly standing order payments.