

Bridgend Tennis Team Competitions

This document is intended to provide a guide to team selection for players and team captains.

1. Team Tennis Goals:

- 1.1. To provide members the opportunity to compete against players from other clubs.
- 1.2. To meet and form friendly relationships with players at other clubs, in doing so acting as **ambassadors** for the Bridgend Tennis Club.
- 1.3. To achieve success and **league promotion** wherever possible. Doing so will improve the standard of opposition and competitive play until a level of equilibrium is achieved.
- 1.4. To develop a sense of **team spirit** and belonging in line with the club's "Diversity and Inclusion" policy (available at the club's [Policies and Procedures](#) web page).

2. Team Entry:

- 2.1. Prior to submitting team entries into the annual competitions organised by the LTA or Tennis Wales, the club Competitions and Fixtures committee representative (currently Nick Jones) will canvas coaches, current team captains and members to determine the general level of member interest in representing Bridgend Tennis club in team matches.
- 2.2. Based on member feedback, court availability* and previous team entries, a number of team squads will be established, and a volunteer team captain chosen democratically by the squad members. In usual circumstances, unless prohibited from standing as captain by the tennis committee, the captaincy will first be offered to the individual who last captained the team.
(* Note that the club adopts a policy that at least 3 courts should be available at any time for general booking. As such, there will be a limit on the number of teams that can be entered due to court availability and match scheduling.)
- 2.3. Team captains **must** have been DBS checked via the LTA on-line application in accordance with LTA and Tennis Wales Safeguarding rules for Tennis volunteers. Failure to do so will exempt an individual from holding a team captaincy.
- 2.4. The teams will be entered into the forthcoming league competition and entry fees paid by the tennis section committee. These fees are recouped by the tennis committee from team captains at the end of the competition.

3. Squad Selection:

- 3.1. At a point prior to the start of league matches, team captains must meet to consider player selection. It is recommended that this done prior to publication of the fixture schedule by league organisers.
- 3.2. Only players who are eligible to play for the club may be included in the team player selection. (Player eligibility is defined in the competition rules as provided by the league organisers.)
- 3.3. Each team captain will form the Squad allowing for flexibility of movement whenever required and needed. Captains will communicate regarding this movement regularly throughout the season.
- 3.4. Captains and coaches will assess the tennis playing ability of members (particularly if new members have joined the club since the leagues were last played). Players may be added to squads later if introduced by club coaches or their involvement in team practice evenings.

- 3.5. Having been included in a squad, a player is expected to commit to playing and to make themselves available to play as much as possible.
- 3.6. Team Captains must establish a communications group (e.g. a WhatsApp group) which includes all members of the squad. All communication between captains and team members should be channelled through this group. This includes requests for player availability and team selection. (It is a good policy to post all the league fixtures to the group as soon as they become available so that squad members enter the dates and times in their personal diaries.)
- 3.7. Players must inform their team captain at the beginning of the season of any fixtures for which they know they will not be available (e.g. prearranged holidays or long-standing work commitments). Similarly, players must inform their team captain as soon as possible should they become unavailable for a fixture after the season starts.
- 3.8. All players should respond to the captain's request for player availability within 24 hours.
- 3.9. Squad members must accept the players and doubles pairings selected by the captain.
- 3.10. As with all social media groups relating to Bridgend Tennis, the club has a strict policy relating to abusive, disrespectful, or negative comments made towards individual members of the group. To this end, at least one member of the club's welfare committee must be included in each squad group in their role as duty of care officers for both captains and players.

4. Team Selection:

- 4.1. Team selection for matches is the sole responsibility of the team captain and that captain's decision should be respected.
- 4.2. Players should be selected based on their **availability, current form, fitness, strength of pairings and strength of opposition**, as perceived by the captain.
- 4.3. Team Players must adhere to the Bridgend Tennis Club Code of Conduct for Players and inappropriate behavior during the game towards the partner or opposition won't be tolerated.
- 4.4. If a player would like to play for a higher team, then the player can request a "MOVE UP" from both the captain of the current team and the team above. A "MOVE UP" will involve attending a doubles tennis session with the captain and players from the team above. If both team captains agree that the player has achieved the necessary standard, then that player may be transferred to the higher team's squad.
- 4.5. Players and captains are reminded that league competitions are meant to be competitive and so teams may be selected with the goals of **league promotion and avoiding relegation**.

5. Captain's Duties:

- 5.1. Issue their team's fixture list ahead of the season to their squad players.
- 5.2. Liaise with the Club manager to ensure that players are fully paid-up members of Bridgend Tennis Club before playing any matches.
- 5.3. Liaise with the other team captains to agree on team selection at the start of the season and thereafter minimise eligibility issues, especially when more than one team is in the same division.
- 5.4. Select the team and inform players a minimum of 5 days ahead of the fixture.
- 5.5. Take a proactive role in the team practice night.

- 5.6. Liaise with opposition team captains at least 5 days before a match (home or away) to confirm the fixture and, for home matches, establish whether post-match hospitality is required. Opposition captain contact details are available on LTA competitions pages.
- 5.7. Organise post-match refreshments (if required) and provide match day balls (4/match).
- 5.8. Collect match fees.
- 5.9. Provide and complete score sheets.
- 5.10. Following the last match, pay team entry fees (£1/player/match) to the Tennis Section.