

Club Rules and Tennis Etiquette

Introduction

We share the courts with Grey Court School; they have absolute priority to use the courts weekdays during school hours in term time.

We are a members' club; members may only play other members, not people who are not members. Except a few visitors/guests are allowed each year; see below.

Details about the club are set out on our website <https://tennishampetersham.org.uk>

Our membership year ends on 30th April of each year. New members joining the club pay the full year's subscription if they join the club between April and September in any year.

New members joining the club pay a reduced subscription if they join after 1st October in each club year.

On paying your subscription, you will be sent the gate codes and other joining details.

Subscriptions (no joining fee or court booking fees)

Adult subscription: £100 a year.

Junior (under 18 as at 1st May 2026): £40 a year.

Young Adult (aged 18 and over, and under 25, as at 1st May 2026): £50 a year.

Family membership (this cannot be taken out through the MyCourts website, but an application form must be completed and emailed to the Membership Secretary, please see our website for details). Family membership is available to a family of up to two adults plus any number of children under 18 on 1st May 2026 all living together in the same household. The subscription for the family is £200 a year.

Meeting people

It may be that you are new to the area, and are interested in joining the tennis club to make new friends. What can we offer? Well, first we should say that as a small club run by unpaid volunteers, we can't offer the full social facilities that would be offered by a larger commercially run club (which would be considerably more expensive). We can offer social tennis mix-ins which take place every Saturday from 10-12 and every Tuesday also from 10-12. There is no fee to participate. These are for adult members only. No booking, just turn up and play. We also have a couple of American tournaments each summer, on Saturday mornings, 10-12. These are social occasions (not particularly competitive, for members of an average standard), usually followed by drinks and a light lunch in the clubhouse or outside. We also have our club championships each summer, in which all members can take part. We also have a social tennis WhatsApp group; typical posts are about whether it is going to be too wet to play, changes due to court cleaning, someone saying they are coming along for the first time etc. For children, we have quite a few junior members who attend local schools, eg Grey Court School, The German School Petersham etc. The coaches run group and individual classes for children.

Court Rules

- Suitable soft soled / non-marking tennis footwear must be worn at all times.
- Appropriate attire must be worn on court. Tops must be worn at all times and no jeans.
- No bicycles, skates, skateboards, scooters or animals are allowed on court.
- No cigarettes, alcohol, glasses or chewing gum are allowed on court.
- Players / supporters to make sure all litter is placed in appropriate bins.
- A player who has booked a court at a particular time can ask another player using that court to vacate it. If players are waiting to play, those players on court should come off at the end of the game being played.
- Children of 11 and under, playing on our courts, must be supervised by an adult.

Booking

- Courts booking slots are each of 30 minutes duration. To try to ensure that our courts are available to as many different members as possible, individual members may not book, or play on, our courts for a combined total of more than 120 minutes each day. This does not apply to coaching or club matches.
- Members may book courts 8 days beforehand.
- Out of consideration for our neighbours, the courts may not be booked or played on before 08.00 hours.
- Courts must be booked in advance of playing, and all players must be shown on our booking system in advance; this includes family members and children. Courts may not be booked in one sole name.
- Please remember to cancel bookings as soon as possible if you cannot use the court, to give other members the chance to book.

Visitors

- Must be accompanied by a member.
- We are a members club, in general (apart from club matches or as mentioned elsewhere in these rules) members may only play other members. However, each member may play a guest for a maximum of three times per membership year. That is a total of 3 hours a membership year (not 3 hours for each guest, but 3 hours in total over the year). On the court booking system, the opponent must be shown as "Guest", not left blank.

Coaches

- Details of the coaches available are on our website Coaching page. The coaches are not employed by the club, and for details of their classes, arrangements and availability please contact them direct. Mark's number is 07983 624984, and Katrina's is 07817 687506.
- Only club members may be coached (this includes individual coaching, classes, squads etc) on the club courts; but this does not apply to junior camps (Easter and Summer) run by the coaches but in those cases a premium agreed with the committee must be charged to non-members and this premium must be paid over to the club by the coaches within one month.

- Coaches may book courts up to 14 days in advance for their own coaching use.
- Only Club coaches (listed as such in the club's registration with the LTA) may carry out coaching on the club courts.
- There needs to be a balance in availability between the courts booked by the coaches on the one hand, and the remaining courts available to be booked by individual members on the other hand. In using their priority court booking, the coaches will try wherever possible to ensure that they do not book all the courts at any given time, but leave 1 or 2 courts available for ordinary members to book to play each other (this does not apply to Easter and Summer Camps). If any individual member considers that this balance in availability is not working well (i.e. that at any given time too many courts are being booked by the coaches leaving too few for individual members to book, or that not enough courts are available for coaching) they should email any committee member (details on our website <https://www.tennishampetersham.org.uk>, see About Us, Committee). As, at the end of the day, the committee is responsible for ensuring a fair balance.

Security

- Make sure gates to club and courts are closed during play.
- Do not disclose the gate code to non-members.
- On leaving the clubhouse, ensure lights, heaters and kitchen appliances are turned off.
- Ensure all windows and doors are locked and bolted if you are the last to leave the clubhouse.

Etiquette during play and matches

- In case of line disputes a 'let' should be played.
- Players should always shake opponents' hands or touch racquets at the end of matches.
- Do not walk across courts that are in use; walk along the back (behind the baseline), but only between points.
- Do not retrieve a ball from another court while a point is still in progress. Please wait until the players on that court finish their point.
- Avoid using mobile phones on court.
- No ball or racquet abuse and no net jumping.
- No shouting, swearing, spitting, noisy or unsportsmanlike behaviour on court.
- Players must be mindful of the neighbours at all times – with particular attention to noise levels and during evening play.

Member Code of Conduct

Introduction

Ham & Petersham Tennis Club is committed to ensuring a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all members, visitors, and guests. By renewing your membership or joining the club, you agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

Expected Behaviour

All members must:

- Treat all fellow members, visitors, guests, and coaches with dignity, respect, and courtesy at all times, both on and off the court
- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every person, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race (including colour, nationality, or ethnic origin), religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
- Refrain from any form of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or abusive language (including on club-related social media or messaging groups).

Breaches of Conduct

Any behaviour deemed to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise abusive will be treated as serious misconduct. Such behaviour will be subject to the Club's Disciplinary Procedure and may result in immediate suspension or permanent exclusion from the Club.

The Framework: Disciplinary Procedure

Stage	Process	Action Required
1. The Complaint	Submission	All complaints must be made in writing to the Club Chairman or Welfare Officer
2. Investigation	Fact-Finding	The Committee will appoint an impartial investigator (usually the Welfare Officer or an un-involved committee member) to gather facts and speak to witnesses.
3. The Hearing	Right to Reply	The accused member is given the evidence in writing and invited to a meeting to state their case. They may be accompanied by a friend.
4. The Outcome	Decision & Appeal	The committee issues its decision in writing (Warning / Suspension / Expulsion). The member has 14 days to appeal the decision to a separate panel.

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