

Southport Argyle Lawn Tennis Club RULES (Revised 2023)

RULES

1. Name - The name of the Club shall be the **SOUTHPORT ARGYLE LAWN TENNIS CLUB**.
 - a. The main purposes of the Club are to provide facilities for and to promote participation in the amateur sport of tennis in Southport.
 - b. The Club will maintain and promote Safeguarding standards as displayed in the Club Safeguarding Policy.
2. Management — The general management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee consisting of:
 - a. President
 - b. Chairman
 - c. Hon. Secretary
 - d. Hon. Treasurer
 - e. Hon. Membership Secretary
 - f. Hon. Match Secretary
 - g. Club Captain
 - h. Four Annual Members elected by the members of the Club
 - i. Three members nominated by shareholders of the Argyle Tennis Club Limited

Decisions made by the Committee will be made by a simple majority vote either in meetings, of which there must be at least six per calendar year, or by email where it is expedient to do so.

Each member of the Committee will sit on one or more of the following sub committees

- i. Social Committee
- ii. Tennis committee
- iii. House and bar committee
- iv. Grounds committee
- v. Finance and fundraising committee
- vi. Promotional & marketing committee
- vii. Safeguarding committee

The committee may at its discretion co-opt any members of the club onto these sub committees.

3. Election of Committee
 - a. The Committee and its officers shall be elected annually by ballot of the members at the Annual General Meeting. Members nominated must be proposed and seconded by Annual or Honorary Life Members at the Club who have first obtained the candidate's consent. A nomination list shall be placed on the Notice Board at ~~least~~ 4 weeks before the Annual General Meeting and nominations shall be permitted up to 14 days before the meeting after which date no further nominations shall be accepted. The Hon. Secretary shall include a list of nominations so made with the Notice to the members convening the meeting, should occasion arise, the Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies which may occur until the next Annual or Special General Meeting and appoint such sub-committees as it may deem necessary from time to time. Four members of the committee to form a quorum.
 - b. Every member present at a General or Committee Meeting entitled to vote shall have one vote upon every motion and in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
4. Annual and Special General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of March of which seven days clear notice must be given. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time at the discretion of the committee or by a written requisition to the Hon. Secretary signed by not less than ten Annual Members, such meeting to be

called within 14 days of the Committee's decision or the receipt of the requisition as the case may be. Seven clear days' notice of the meeting to be notified to every member, the responsibility for and cost of such notification to be borne by those calling the meeting. Twelve Annual Members to form a quorum. Only Annual, Hon. Life and Committee Members shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings. Any Resolution in General Meeting shall be deemed to have been passed if it is carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of those members present and voting on it.

5. Honorary Secretary

- a. The Hon. Secretary shall keep minutes of all Committee and General Meetings and act under the direction of the Committee.

6. Honorary Treasurer

- a. The Hon. Treasurer shall be responsible for all accounts and shall present at the Annual General Meeting the Annual Balance Sheet, audited and signed.
- b. A Hon. Auditor for the ensuing year shall be elected at every Annual General Meeting.

7. Membership

- a. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application, regardless of race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, age, disability, sex, occupation, sexual orientation, religion, political or other beliefs pursuant to the Club's Diversity and Inclusion Policy, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of tennis.
- b. The Club Year shall commence on the 1st April. There shall be the following categories of membership and the Committee shall have the power to agree to the transfer of any member from one category of membership to another:
 - i. Annual Member (All Sports) - shall have full rights and shall be at least 18 years of age.
 - ii. Student Member (All Sports) – in full time education or apprenticeship
 - iii. Country Member - persons residing not less than 20 miles from the Club may be elected to Country Membership. If any person elected to Country Membership ceases to reside aforesaid, he or she shall become an Annual Member of the Club and shall pay such additional subscription as may be determined by the Committee in its absolute discretion.
 - iv. Junior Member – 11-18 years
 - v. Junior member – 6-10 years
 - vi. Social and Table Tennis (18 and over)
 - vii. Social and Table Tennis (Under 18)
 - viii. Social Member
 - ix. Family Membership
 - x. Snooker Member
 - xi. Hon Life Member

Applications for membership from persons acknowledged by the Committee as not falling within the categories listed above shall be considered on their merits by the Committee and where the applications succeed an appropriate subscription determined. The Club Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute.

8 Subscriptions - To be agreed at each Annual General Meeting for each category of membership detailed in Rule 7. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

- a. Subscriptions shall be due on April 1st. In the event of any member failing to pay their subscription on or before June 1st, such member having meantime received one reminder, they shall cease to be a member of the Club.
- b. Members abroad for the whole of the playing season are not liable for payment of the subscription, always providing due notice (in writing) has been given to the Hon. Membership Secretary.

- 9 Resignations — any member wishing to resign must forward notice in writing to the Hon. Membership Secretary before the 1st April.
- 10 Expulsion of Members — If there shall be brought to the notice of the Committee:
 - a. Any action of the part of a member which in the opinion of the Committee discloses a case of conduct, either inside or outside the Club Ground, which is improper and likely to injure the reputation and social standing of the Club or to be an annoyance to other members of the Club: or
 - b. Any intentional or flagrant breach of the rules of the Club by a member

Then and in either of such cases the Secretary shall call a Special Meeting of the Committee of which seven, clear days' notice at least, in writing, shall be given to each member of the Committee stating the nature of the business to be transacted thereat and shall forward to the alleged offending member a notice in writing stating the grounds of complaint and giving such alleged offending member an opportunity of being heard. The Committee shall have power at such Meeting or any adjournment thereof by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of those present and voting, either to request the alleged offending member to resign from the Club or in the alternative to expel such member therefrom upon such terms as they think proper.

- 11 An Adult Member wishing to obtain a key to the Clubhouse may apply to the Committee. A deposit at the current applicable rate will be required prior to issue of the key.
- 12 Visitors - Visitors may be introduced by a member of the Club at rates determined annually. The introducing Member shall enter the date, name and address of the Visitor in the Visitors book and pay the Visitors fee before taking the Visitor onto the courts. Members of visiting teams and competitors in any tournament playing on the Clubs grounds and their officials shall be subject to the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Club and for the duration of the match or tournament.
- 13 Coaching - The Committee may at its discretion appoint a Head Tennis Coach who must be Accredited and Licensed in accordance with the requirements of Registration with the Lawn Tennis Association. No other person, unless part of the appointed Coach's coaching team, who have been sanctioned by the committee, may coach for payment or gain.
- 14 Conditions of Play - No members shall be allowed within the enclosure of the playing courts unless actually engaged in play with the exception of such persons as may be acting in any official capacity. On completion of a set, the court must be vacated for three minutes, if at the completion of that time other members are waiting to play the same players may not occupy the court for the next set. A set of singles must not be started when other members are waiting to play. When members are waiting to play, one set shall consist of not more than 11 advantage games.
- 15 Tennis balls - Players to provide their own tennis balls.
- 16 Dress - Only appropriate tennis wear should be worn on court. This may be coloured. Tennis shoes should be appropriate for the playing surface and in particular must not have spikes or soles likely to mark or damage the playing surface.
- 17 Alteration to the Rules --. These Rules may be added to, repealed or amended by a Resolution at any General Meeting provided that no Resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it is carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present and voting on it.
 - a. The Committee shall be empowered to make such bye-laws and Regulations from time to time as they may deem advisable in the interests of the Club and all such shall be considered binding on every member until revoked by the Committee or General Meeting.
- 18 Dogs - No dogs will be allowed on the grounds except on a lead. No dogs other than guide/hearing dogs to be permitted inside the clubhouse.

- 19 New Members - Upon the occasion of the first visit of a new member to the Club and provided he or she is ready for play no players shall be allowed to engage in play until such new member has been included in a set.
- 20 Laws of the Game - The Game shall be played under the Rules, Laws and Code of Conduct of the L.T.A.
- 21 The Club will abide by the Licensing Act 2003 in the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor on the Club premises.

On the occasion of visits by members of other tennis clubs, visiting teams and their guests, visits by persons playing in tournaments, officials of such tournaments and their guests and visits by persons invited to the Club for any social or sporting function and their guests, such persons may be admitted to the Club premises and this Rule shall authorize the supply to them for the duration of their visit only of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club for consumption on the premises.

Any person under eighteen years of age may not be supplied with or consume intoxicating liquor on the Club premises.

The Club House shall be open to members and visitors daily between such hours as the Committee shall from time to time determine.

- 22 The Committee may upon such conditions and terms as it shall from time to time determine, make the facilities of the Club available on not more than FIFTEEN OCCASIONS within any period of 12 months commencing on the 1st January for sporting and/or social purposes to persons who are not members of the Club and on request shall make provision for the supply of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Club to such persons for consumption on the Club premises.

Such occasion must be covered by a Temporary Event Authorization issued by the licensing authority, the appropriate notice having been given under S100 (1) to (3) of the Licensing Act 2003. Such notice, endorsed as acknowledged by the licensing authority, must be prominently displayed on the Club premises. The licensable activities include:-

- a) Sale and supply of alcohol and
- b) Provision of regulated entertainment and
- c) Provision of late night refreshments

Save as aforesaid no intoxicating liquor may be supplied to any person who is not a member of the Club or a bona fide guest of such a member admitted to the premises in accordance with the Rules of the Club.

A Register shall be kept of all functions approved or held under this rule.

Such Register shall be produced to the court or the police on request.

- 23 If at any time the Club in General Meeting shall pass a Resolution authorizing the Committee to borrow money, the Committee shall then be empowered to borrow for the purposes of the Club such amount of money either at one time or from time to time and at such rate of interest and in such manner and upon such security as shall be specified in the Resolution and the Committee shall make all such dispositions of the Club property or any part of the Club property and enter into such agreements in relation to that property as they may deem proper for giving security for such loans and interest. All members of the Club whether voting on such Resolution or not and all persons becoming members of the Club after the passing of such Resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the Resolution as if they had voted in favour of it.

- 24 Any surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.
- 25 If at any General Meeting a Resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the members present and entitled to vote and if such Resolution shall be confirmed by a Resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at a Special General meeting held not less than one month after that meeting at which not less than one half of the members entitled to vote shall be present, the Committee shall immediately or at such future date as shall be specified in such Resolution proceed to realize the property of the Club and discharge all liabilities. Upon dissolution of the Club any remaining assets shall be given or transferred to another registered CASC, a registered charity or the sport's governing body for use by them in related community sports.