

Club Rules & Etiquette

The following rules govern the use of the premises of Youghal Lawn Tennis Club unless altered by the Executive Committee as it may see fit from time to time.

Club Ethos

- Our Club promotes inclusivity, fair play, and mutual respect.
- Always treat others with respect, fairness and courtesy.
- All Members are expected to act in the best interests of the Club and help maintain our facilities.
- All Members should promote a welcoming environment, particularly for new or prospective Members.
- Our Club is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. All Members shall be familiar with and abide by the Club's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Our Club is run voluntarily by Members – your time and support help it thrive.

General Rules & Etiquette

1. Club facilities are reserved for the use of Members. Guests & Visitors may use the facilities as provided for below.
2. The rules of play shall be those adopted by Tennis Ireland.
3. Respect should be shown both on and off the court to opponents, spectators & other players. Please refrain from any form of swearing. Please use the walkway behind the courts to access Courts 2 – 4 when play is occurring.
4. Recognised tennis shoes must be always worn on court. Suitable tennis attire should be worn.
5. It is Members' own responsibility to ensure that they are fit to play.
6. Any incidents that required urgent medical treatment should be brought to the attention of the Committee. A first aid kit is available in the clubhouse, and a defibrillator is located at the entrance. To contact Emergency Services dial 112 or 999.

7. Members must use Club facilities responsibly and avoid causing damage. Do not bang or jump on the nets and report any damage or misuse of the Club facilities to a Committee Member.
8. Dogs are permitted within the Club grounds when on a lead. Dogs are not permitted on the courts, practice court area, or in the clubhouse.
9. No cycling or e-scooting, skateboarding, rollerblading or similar is permitted within the Club grounds.
10. No motor vehicles are permitted on the Club grounds unless approved by the committee.
11. Dispose of all rubbish in an environmentally responsible manner & please help in keeping our facilities clean & tidy.
12. Chewing gum is not permitted within the Club grounds.
13. Smoking or vaping is strictly forbidden within the Club grounds.
14. Club property may not be taken from the premises without the prior permission of the Committee.
15. Members have the responsibility to lock the clubhouse and entrance gate if they are the last to leave the Club regardless of the time of day.
16. Please respect our neighbours when arriving and leaving; park in a safe manner and do not obstruct entrances.
17. Club WhatsApp groups shall be used in an appropriate manner and are for tennis matters only.
18. The Club may use general event photos for promotion unless Members opt out.
19. Tennis Ireland *Complaint, Objection & Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Senior Members* also apply and can be obtained through the links section of the Club's website.
20. The Committee shall not be liable for any loss or damage to Members', Guests' or Visitors' property.

Use of Club Facilities & Court Booking

21. An adult must book courts via the Online Booking App before play. If you can't attend, cancel promptly so others can use the courts. Booking privileges may be suspended for repeated misuse - such as no-shows or incorrect player names.
22. Courts may be reserved by the Committee for Club organised coaching, Club nights, Club matches and Club competitions.

23. If a booked court remains vacant for more than 15 minutes from the booked timeslot, the court will be deemed to be free for the remainder of the booking time and may be used by another Member on a first come first served basis.
24. The fact that Members put a disc into the light meter after the appointed time does not entitle the Members to remain on court into the next booking period.
25. Courts & Club Facilities can only be used 7.00 am to 11.00 pm Monday to Sunday. Floodlighting must not be used after 11.00 p.m.
26. Courts may be booked up to 7 days in advance. Members are asked to take into consideration the number of Members in the Club and to use their discretion when booking courts.
27. Courts may be closed due to adverse weather (e.g., ice, excessive rain) for safety. Members must not use courts when conditions are unsafe for play e.g. icy conditions, risk of lightning etc.
28. Ball Machine must be booked through the Online Booking App. Junior Members under 16 are not allowed to use the ball machine. Junior Members aged 16 & 17 can use the ball machine if the machine is solely operated by a qualified Senior Member and the junior does not physically interact with the machine.
29. Only coaches approved by the Committee may offer coaching at the club. All coaching activities must follow Tennis Ireland's safeguarding and coaching standards.

Guests & Visitors

30. Any adult Club Member may bring a Guest to play tennis on the Club courts. The Member must enter the name of the Guest and his/her own name on the Online Court Booking App. The Member bringing a Guest must remain on the Club premises as long as his/her Guest remains. The same Guest may not play more than 5 times in total at the Club in one year.
31. The Guest Fees shall be determined by the Committee from time to time and displayed on the Club notice board.
32. Each Guest shall be required to comply with the Rules of the Club while on the Club premises. It shall be the responsibility of the host Member to ensure that their Guest is fully aware of and complies with these Rules.
33. Visitors are welcome at our Club. Visitors must pay a green fee per court booking in advance. Details are available on our website.

Junior Members (under the age of 18)

34. Junior Members are the future of our club. Junior Members' play & activities shall be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

35. A *Code of Conduct for Young People* (Junior Members) is included in the Club's *Child Safeguarding Statement*.

36. Junior Members are the responsibility of their parents / guardians while they are on the Club premises. The only exception to this rule is a Junior Member or child attending for the purpose of Club organised junior coaching or Club organised match play in which case the Junior Member shall remain under the supervision of the Club coach or coaches. Refer to the Child Safeguarding Statement for full details.

Unsupervised Junior Members are not permitted to be on the Club Grounds other than as follows: Junior Members, who have reached the age of 16, may be permitted to use the courts in independent play (unaccompanied by a parent/guardian) only where prior written parental consent has been provided to the Club and formal approval has been granted by the Club Committee. Refer to the Child Safeguarding Statement for full details of permitted Junior Independent Play and Consent Form (Appendix 15).

37. Juniors are not permitted to be in the Clubhouse without adult supervision.

38. Parents/Guardians wishing to play tennis with their children must also be Members.

39. Junior Members may use the tennis courts at any time between 7.00am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Juniors may also play from 7.00am to 10pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays. (This includes junior one-on-one coaching). Courts must be booked on the Online Booking App by an adult before play. This rule to be read in conjunction with Rule 36.

40. A parent or guardian Member playing with a Junior Member aged 10 or older may book a tennis court after 6:30pm if the court is booked after 3pm on day of play Monday to Friday.

Breach of any of the above rules may lead to the suspension of the Member by the Committee. Any question not provided for by these rules shall be decided by the Committee, whose decision shall be final unless set aside by a General Meeting as provided for in the Constitution.