

Larkspur Park Tennis Club Rules

Effective 10th March 2025

The following rules shall govern the use of Larkspur Park Tennis Club ("the Club")

The objective of the Tennis Club rules is to promote an ethos of respect and high standards of etiquette from all members of the Club and govern all tennis activities. Where any conflict arises between the Larkspur Park Sports Club constitution or rules ("the Constitution") and the Tennis Club Rules, the Constitution shall take precedence.

Rule 1 – Tennis Club Affiliation

- 1.1** Membership of the club is open to all members of Larkspur Sports Club in accordance with their membership type as defined in the Constitution who agree to abide by these rules.
- 1.2** The club shall seek to promote the sport of Tennis in the spirit of fair play, inclusiveness, and sportsmanship.
- 1.3** The Club shall affiliate to Tennis Ireland annually and be governed by its rules.
- 1.4** The Club shall be an affiliated section of Larkspur Park Sports Club.
- 1.5** A Tennis Committee and Club Officers shall be elected at the Club Annual General Meeting. The Tennis Committee has authority over all Tennis matters in Larkspur Park.

Rule 2 - Court Booking Policy

- 2.1** Courts may be booked on the court booking management system no more than 8 days in advance of the date the court is required.
- 2.2** Each court booking slot is for a period of 60 minutes for courts 1-4 and for 90 minutes on court 6 and 7. Players may book a maximum of 2 consecutive slots, except at 6.30pm Monday to Thursday where only one slot may be booked. Courts must be vacated at the conclusion of a booking unless there is no one waiting to go on court.
- 2.3** A member shall not be permitted to make more than one court booking per day.
- 2.4** Members are asked to take into consideration the number of members in the Club and to use their discretion when booking courts.
- 2.5** Players who book a court for singles must accept any offer to play doubles where no other courts are available.
- 2.6** A member shall cancel a game via the booking system at the earliest opportunity possible. Court cancellations shall be reviewed by the Committee. Frequent late cancellations by any member shall be reviewed and the Committee may at its discretion impose a sanction on such member.
- 2.7** Preference shall be given to members who have pre-booked a court online. Un-booked courts shall be occupied on a "first come first served" basis.
- 2.8** In the event that a booked court remains vacant for more than 15 minutes from the commencement of the slot, 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.
- 2.9** Flood lights should be booked in advance through the court booking system and must be paid for before use
- 2.10** Member's may bring guests to use club facilities subject to paying Green Fees as determined by the Larkspur Park Sports Club Bye Laws.

2.11 Courts may be booked, with greater than 8 days' notice, for particular events such as inter-club matches, tournaments, coaching sessions, and Club nights with the prior approval of the Committee.

2.12 Inter-Club Matches should be played on Saturday or Sunday unless in exceptional circumstances and then at the discretion of the Club Chairperson.

Rule 3 – Court & Tennis Etiquette

3.1 The rules of play shall be governed by Tennis Ireland and the rules of Fair Play shall always be adhered to.

3.2 For Health & Safety reasons, appropriate tennis attire shall be worn on court. Acceptable attire shall include; tennis shorts, T-shirts, tennis skirts, tracksuits, non-marking tennis shoes.

3.3 No chewing gum shall be consumed on court areas, as it damages the court surface. All drink containers shall be removed from the court area after playing.

3.4 Entrance gates to courts shall be closed when the courts are vacated.

3.5 No persons other than the players and, where necessary, an umpire shall be allowed on court while games are in progress.

3.6 Members shall not walk onto another court for the purposes of ball retrieval or any other purpose during play. Members must wait for the point to finish before retrieving a ball.

3.7 Each member using the courts shall take care not to cause any damage to the court surface, the nets or perimeter fencing by misusing or striking them.

3.8 Courts should not be used if there is excessive rain, snow, or ice present on the courts. Court closure due to adverse weather will be communicated to members. Players should not use the courts when it is unsafe to do so.

Rule 4 - Junior Members (Under 18 years)

4.1 Junior members may use the tennis courts at any time between 9.00am and 6pm. (This includes junior one-on-one coaching).

4.2 A Senior member may play with a junior from 6pm to 10pm Monday to Friday.

4.3 The days of the week and the courts to be used for Junior Group Coaching shall be specified by the Committee.

4.4 Junior members are the responsibility of their parents/guardians while they are on the Club premises.

4.5 Child Protection Officers are appointed in accordance with Child Protection legislation and their details are published on the club notice board. They should be the first contact in the event of any issues.

Rule 5 Competitions

5.1 Full Members shall have priority over associate members when entries are accepted for internal club competitions. Adult members shall have priority over Junior members.

5.2 Junior Members aged 16 or over may enter senior competitions with their parent's/guardian's approval.

5.3 A decision of the committee is required to reserve more than 4 courts for competition or coaching purposes at any time.

Rule 6 Coaching

- 6.1** Professional Coaches may only operate on the premises with the approval of the Tennis Committee.
- 6.2** Approved coaches must possess appropriate insurance, Garda vetting and coaching qualifications.
- 6.3** Approved coaches should pay club membership fees and any other fees levied by the committee.
- 6.4** No one-on-one coaching is permissible from Monday to Thursday between 6.30pm to 8.30pm
- 6.5** A decision of the committee is required to reserve courts for group coaching sessions during peak hours (6.30-8.30 Monday – Thursday)
- 6.6** Paid hitting partners may only operate on the premises with the approval of the Tennis Committee and subject to paying the appropriate membership or green fees.

Rule 7 Tennis Club Governance

- 7.1** An Annual General meeting of Members shall be held each year before the end of March.
- 7.2** Two weeks' notice of the AGM shall be given by notice posted in a conspicuous place in the Park and by direct communication to members as decided by the committee.
- 7.3** Motions for decision at the AGM can be submitted to the secretary by any member up to one week prior to the AGM and must be published in a conspicuous place in the Park in advance of the AGM.
- 7.4** The officers of the club are Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, P.R.O., Tennis Captain and Junior Tennis Chairperson. Ordinary Committee members will be elected at the AGM or coopted to the committee by a decision taken at a meeting.
- 7.5** The Committee is responsible all Tennis matters in Larkspur Park. It shall meet regularly to decide on matters concerning the running of the tennis club and receive updates from officers and sub-committees.
- 7.6** A Selectors committee, Tournament Directors committee, Junior Tennis Committee and Social Committee shall operate. From time to time the Committee may delegate specific responsibilities to other sub-committees. All sub-committees shall cease to operate at the AGM following their formation unless their mandate is renewed by the new committee or at the AGM.
- 7.7** Tennis playing fees and flood light charges shall be set by the committee.
- 7.8** The Chairperson shall be responsible for coordinating the committee and overseeing all tennis activities. They shall represent the Clubs interests and be responsible for the day to day running of the club between meetings of the Committee. They shall make an annual report of activities to the AGM.
- 7.9** The Secretary shall convene regular committee meetings and maintain a record of all decisions taken.
- 7.10** The Treasurer shall maintain a record of all income and expenditure incurred by the club, shall present regular reports to the committee and compile annual financial statements for approval at the AGM.

- 7.11** The PRO shall be responsible for the Clubs social media accounts and for promoting club activities with members and in the media.
- 7.12** The Club Captain shall manage the activities of the club selectors committee.
- 7.13** Any expenditure more than €500 must be approved by a decision of the committee.
- 7.14** Expenditure of less than €500 can be incurred by the Chairperson or any standing committee following consultation with the treasurer. The committee must be informed of all expenditure.
- 7.15** The selectors committee shall ensure an annual programme of tennis competitions for members is run. The club selectors shall also be responsible for reserving courts for events, selecting and entering all teams to represent the club and for the grading of players.
- 7.16** The Tournament Directors Committee shall be responsible for running Tennis Tournaments which are open to the public.
- 7.17** The Social Committee shall be responsible for overseeing a programme of social activities within the club.
- 7.18** The Junior Tennis Committee shall be responsible for a programme of Junior Tennis Activities, coaching of juniors and in the first instance for all governance matters relating to junior Tennis players. The Junior Tennis Committee shall appoint qualified child protection officers, publish a safeguarding statement, and ensure that all child safeguarding legislation and best practice is adhered to.
- 7.19** Committee Officers shall be elected annually at the AGM. No officer shall serve more than three consecutive years in a role unless no other person is nominated to that position at the the AGM then the outgoing officer may be deemed elected for one further term.

Rule 8- Discipline and Breach of Rules

- 8.1** Any breach of club rules will be dealt with by the committee. Persistent breaches will result in sanctions against the member/s involved as agreed by the committee. Any suspension of membership or expulsion agreed by the committee shall apply to Tennis activities only. The Committee may recommend more serious sanction for approval by the Larkspur Park Central Committee.
- 8.2** Complaints and disputes must be made in writing to the Club Chairperson and made within one week of any incident occurring.