

Lakewood Tennis Club

Player Development & Growth 2024



Team Selection Policy

Objective

This policy has been agreed by the Lakewood Tennis Club General Committee to lay down some guidelines to help Captains and Players who participate in Tennis Ireland interclub competitions. The guidelines are prescriptive and must be followed in order to develop and grow players and Leaders representing Lakewood Tennis Club.

Any departure from these guidelines must be approved in advance by a meeting of the Lakewood Tennis Club General Committee.

Scope of protocol

Covers all teams who participate in tournaments representing Lakewood Tennis Club.

Team Selection

1. All club members must be contacted in advance of a competition and notified by eMail of the competition and advised to reply indicating their interest in participating and Captaining a team.
2. Notification must be at least 14 days in advance, in order to receive responses and to set up an initial team meeting / selection trial.
3. Should there be more players than are required to form a team, the General Committee may decide to enter more than one team.
4. The Selection Committee will agree to the appointment of a Team Captain. Members can express an interest to be captain. However, no member should deem themselves a captain without full committee consent.
5. Selection of each match day's players and substitutes will be the responsibility of the Selection Committee. The process for selection must be open and transparent to all team players. This should be on the basis of competitive matches, pair dynamics, fitness, practice/training matches and overall team balance.
6. Gradings are based on the Munster Branch directory grading. Where a player doesn't have a grade then the Lakewood Tennis Club coaches will be asked to grade the player. Ideally all players should be in the directory before selection.
7. In the interests of fairness to members, players should only play in one team/grade, unless given prior approval by the committee in exceptional circumstances.
8. Where a player is on a team at their own grade, and in a panel for a higher grade, he/she shall not be called up to the higher grade without prior approval from the lower grade captain. Should a player be required to play at the higher grade, his/her position in the lower grade in the following competition should be filled by a standby player from the panel.
9. If there is not sufficient interest to form a team, the Selection Committee must decide if the Club will enter a team for that grade. The options are:
 - a. Invite a player from the Club who is in a lower grade to play up in the higher grade. This should be no more than one grade below the competition grade.
 - b. Invite a player from another Club who is in the correct grade to play on behalf of Lakewood Tennis Club. This must be done in line with Tennis Ireland and Munster Branch rules governing players entering the event.
 - c. Full members and Associate Members will be given priority over non-members at all times, even when willing to play up one Grade
10. If a non-club player is selected to play on behalf of Lakewood, their continued participation in tournaments is only permitted where Lakewood players are not available at the grade required and one grade below the competing grade.

11. While the club will enter every competition to be competitive, the benefits to being inclusive while growing and developing talent is a paramount consideration.

Responsibilities

The General Committee

1. Endorsement of team Captains
2. Endorsement of players promoted to teams
3. Approval of non-Lakewood players playing on behalf of Lakewood
4. Payment of Tournament entry fees
5. Decide on all matters of dispute or complaint

The Club Captain(s) and Selection Committee

1. Selection of Team Captains
2. Proposal of players being promoted to teams
3. Proposal of non-Lakewood players playing on behalf of Lakewood
4. Submission of team entries to inter club tournaments
5. Is responsible for booking courts for all home fixtures.

The Team Captain

1. Must be endorsed by the General Committee
2. Must keep all team players updated on team progress and training / practice sessions.
3. Must advise the Club Captain of competition results
4. Must advise the Club Captain of any requirement for addition of players to the team.
5. Must follow the Lakewood Tennis Club guidelines for player selection.
6. Must act as the coordinator for Club coaching sessions.
7. Must represent Lakewood Tennis Club when meeting other clubs at home and away.
8. Must handle all communication with other clubs to arrange fixtures days/times.
9. Must ensure that all players show respect and fair play in all competitions.

10. Must report any incidents or complaints to the Club Captain.
11. Must submit winning results to Tennis Ireland in a timely fashion.
12. Must ensure that refreshments are provided for all home hosted events.

Players

1. Must make a serious commitment to participate in competitions regardless of where they are played.
2. Players selected on the team are expected to play all games and cannot be selective in which games they want to play, e.g. Only playing home games. If any restriction is placed then another player will be given preference.
3. Must punctually attend all practice, coaching and selection activities which are organised by the Team Captain.
4. Must show respect and fair play at all times when representing Lakewood Tennis Club.
5. Must provide refreshments for visiting teams. e.g. Tea / Coffee / sandwiches / Cakes for all home hosted events. Discuss and agree each player's contribution in advance.
6. Ensure that the Club Room and Kitchen is clean and ready for home events
7. Ensure that Score Boards are in place before Matches and taken down after matches
8. Non-playing team members should turn up to support matches

Dispute Resolution

Should there be a dispute over team selection; The Selection Committee, Team Captain and the player in dispute must attend the next appropriate General Committee Meeting or Emergency General Committee Meeting to address the issue.

1. The Captain or Complainant must contact an officer of the General Committee to arrange a meeting. Contact details for all Committee Members are available on the notice board and club website.
2. The complainant and the Captain will be given sufficient time to present details of the dispute to the General Committee.
3. The issue and recommendations, decisions, agreements will be recorded by the Club Secretary.
4. The General Committee's decision in all such disputes will be final.