

STRABANE TENNIS CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The Club is called Strabane Tennis Club and is located at Strabane Academy, Derry Road, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 To provide tennis coaching and competitive opportunities at an amateur level for adults and young people within the Strabane community
- 2.2 To promote the sport of tennis in a way which encourages enjoyment, progression and improvement
- 2.3 To encourage and support the playing of tennis across all age groups
- 2.4 To ensure our services in a way that is fair to everybody and meets the needs of all members
- 2.5 To ensure that all present and future members receive fair and equal treatment

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the club shall be open to all persons, regardless of their background, who have paid the appropriate annual fees and have agreed to abide by the Rules and Constitution of the Club.
- 3.2 Membership of the Club consists of adult members, students (Post-18 FE or University) and Junior Members who are under 18 years old.

4. Annual General Meetings

- 4.1 An Annual General Meeting of the Club must be held in each year commencing on the 1st April not later than the 30th April.
- 4.2 Each Annual General Meeting should include:
 - Minutes of the previous AGM
 - Consideration of a report from the Secretary
 - Consideration of a report from the treasurer including the annual audited accounts for the year just past.
 - Election of Officers for the coming year.
 - Consider any proposed amendments to the Clubs constitution and rules.

5. Partnership with Strabane Academy

The club will have in place an agreement with the management of Strabane Academy which ensures the appropriate use of Education Authorities property.

6. Management Committee

The committee shall comprise of 8-10 members. The suggested roles within the committee are as follows:

- Chairperson,
 - Secretary,
 - Treasurer
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer (Male)
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer (Female)
 - Health and Safety
 - Fundraising Coordinator
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- A chairperson may not serve more than 3 consecutive years in any one term.
 - The committee shall make and revise Club Regulations and shall have the power to decide any matter not provided for by the constitution.
 - Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded by the secretary and agreed at the next meeting.
 - The committee may delegate duties to sub-committees as required. These must be chaired by a committee member and may co-op members. Minutes must be recorded and forwarded to the committee secretary.

7. Subscriptions

7.1 On being admitted to the Club every Member must pay an annual subscription at a rate or rates prescribed by the Committee. The annual subscription for the 2024/25 (August to March 22) are:

Adults: £90

Adults (First Year only) £60

Students: £40

Junior Members: £40 and £20 for subsequent siblings

Nominal fees may occur throughout year for extra optional events/activities.

7.2 The subscription shall be due on the 1st April in any year or in the case of a new Member the date from which the Member shall be admitted as a Member of the Club.

7.3 If any Member fails to pay his subscription by the 15th April in any one year or if a new Member within 14 days after it becomes due and the Secretary or Treasurer will contact the member calling on him to pay the subscription within 14 days then the Committee may terminate his membership without further notice if he or she fails to so pay.

8. Special General Meetings

8.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time and must be convened within 21 days on the requisition of a minimum of 8 Members of the Club.

8.2 A requisition must state the purpose for which a Meeting is required and must be submitted to the Secretary.

8.3 Members must be given 7 days' notice and informed of the business of such meetings.

8.4 The business at any General Meeting must be limited to that provided for by these Rules and any further matters set out in the Notice convening the Meeting.

8.5 The quorum at any General Meeting is one third of the members.

8.6 Any resolution at a General Meeting shall be carried by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote.

9. Complaints and Investigations

9.1 Any member who believes the conduct of another member is contrary to the Constitution of the Club, or Governing Body regulations, or whose conduct is likely to bring the Club into disrepute, may inform the club secretary in writing.

9.2 A meeting of the General Committee shall be held within fourteen days after the complaint 8.3 The committee shall appoint a sub-committee of a minimum of 3 to investigate the matter and decide if disciplinary action is required

9.4 The sub-committee shall inform in writing both the member who made the complaint and the member who is subject to their decision within seven days of a decision being made.

10. Disciplinary Procedure

10.1 Where a complaint is deemed of appropriate severity and following an investigation the Club Committee will establish a disciplinary committee comprised those not involved in any investigation.

The following options are available under the disciplinary procedure.

1. Impose a fine where applicable. The member being fined will be informed in writing of the amount and the date by which it must be paid. All fines will be paid to the Treasurer. Failure to pay the fine will result in further options being invoked,
2. Recommend the member undertakes a period of retraining or re-education if applicable.
3. Impose a period of suspension for a defined period.
4. Terminate the membership of the person as outlined in the Constitution.

During the period of suspension, the member is suspended from all activities at, or on behalf of, Strabane Tennis Club and therefore shall be ineligible to participate as a member in the affairs of the Club. The member shall:

- Be informed in writing of the reasons for the suspension and the date from which the suspension shall commence.
- The General Committee shall inform all the members in writing of the suspension.

10.2 Any member subject to disciplinary action has the right to appeal.

11. Safeguarding and Child Protection

11.1 Strabane Tennis Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all its members. Every individual in the club should always show respect and understanding for their rights, safety, and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport and the guidelines contained in the Safeguarding Children and Young People in Tennis Manual.

"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm, and they must be given proper care by those looking after them"
(Article 19: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

11.2 The committee shall ensure that appropriate policies, training in safeguarding and child protection provided and/or approved by the governing body Ulster Tennis is undertaken and updated on a regular basis and records kept by the committee.

11.2 All coaching staff working with young people in the club will have been appropriately checked and best practice will be adopted as outlined by Ulster Tennis.

12. Guests

12.1 Any Member may introduce guests to the Club provided that no-one whose application for membership has been declined or that has been expelled from the Club may be introduced as a guest.

12.2 The Member introducing a guest must pay a fee at a rate to be fixed from time to time by the Committee; currently £5 per person per session.

13. Modification of Rules

No alteration or addition to these Rules may be made except by a resolution carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Members present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting Notice of which contained particulars of the proposed alteration or addition.

14. Club Assets

14.1 Club assets and finances shall be used solely to further the aims and objectives of the club.

14.2 Under no circumstances shall club assets be distributed amongst members on an interim or on in the case of the dissolution of the club.

15. Dissolution of the Club

If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club is passed by a majority of the Members present and entitled to vote and if that resolution is 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 for which not less than one half of the Members entitled to vote are present the Committee must immediately or at such future date as is specified in the resolution proceed to realise the property of the Club and after the discharge of all liabilities and due regard to the disposal of assets will donate any remaining monies to charity and upon the completion the Club will be dissolved.