

COTTESLOE TENNIS CLUB

SOCIAL TENNIS GRADING POLICY

AIM: To provide a social tennis grading policy that allows members to play CTC social tennis at their appropriate level, leading to better sets and social tennis for all to enjoy.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The intention of this policy document is to provide a clear and transparent guide to the social grading policy and its processes. The processes are designed to be practical to implement and to remove potential bias.
- 1.2 Cottesloe Tennis Club social members can have their grade changed by any of the following 4 processes:
 - 1.2.1 An Upgrade Challenge process whereby a Player can attempt an upgrade to a higher grade via a competitive process.
 - 1.2.2 Requesting a Personal Review. Requests for Personal Reviews must be made directly to the Captain and/or a Vice Captain.
 - 1.2.3 The annual Peer Review process whereby Players evaluate their peers to identify any anomalies and/or Players that should be upgraded or downgraded.
 - 1.2.4 At the discretion of the Club Captain.
- 1.3 New members and visitors are catered for with a Provisional grade.

2 GRADING SUB-COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Club Captain shall appoint Vice Captains and appoint a grading subcommittee to manage and implement the social grading process.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Grading sub-committee is to implement this grading policy in an advisory role. Individual Grading sub-committee members do not have authority to make changes to Players' social gradings independently of the Club Captain.
 - 2.2.1 The Grading sub-committee shall consist of the Club Captain, two Vice Captains, one male, one female, and a reasonable representation across the social grades, at the Club Captain's discretion. This may be separated into a Men's grading sub-committee and a Women's grading subcommittee at the discretion of the Captain. The identities of the sub-committee members do not have to be disclosed.
 - 2.2.2 Any member may approach the Captain or a Vice-Captain at any time to request a grading review. The member may request a Personal Review and/or request an Upgrade Challenge. If a Personal Review, The Vice Captain(s) (and relevant grading committee members) shall review the member request over 4 weeks from the first weekend of the request, provided the member is actively available for social play at the Club over that period and shall recommend to the Captain if a change in grading is appropriate. The Captain shall advise the member of the outcome of the review at the end of the review period. The Captain is not bound to accept the recommendation of any grading changes from the grading sub-committee.
 - 2.2.3 A member may not request a grading change more than 2 times in one year in addition to any Peer Review undertaken.

- 2.3 The Vice Captains and sub-committee shall be automatically dissolved at the annual AGM and the in-coming Captain shall appoint a new sub-committee in accordance with the club By-Laws.
- 2.4 Any changes to this grading policy may only be made by the Club Committee.
- 2.5 The Vice Captains' Grading functions consist of (but are not limited to):
 - 2.5.1 Implement this grading policy and the processes detailed herein
 - 2.5.2 Maintain a record of Upgrade Challenges in a file located in a secure location in the Captain's office
 - 2.5.3 Maintain a list of social Players and their grades for conducting the annual peer review
 - 2.5.4 Communicate clearly with members on the grading policy and processes via Topspin and other media
 - 2.5.5 Make any suggestions to the Club Captain for changes to the Policy, to be reviewed and approved by the Club Committee

3 SOCIAL GRADES

- 3.1 The existing club social grades are to be retained as per the table below. The descriptions are merely a guide as there may be several factors that contribute to a Player being graded at a particular level:

2	Player has good technique and control, power and intensity of shot, consistency and movement around the court. Reliable serve with topspin or slice, strong net play and return game. Can adapt game during competitive play.
2a	Player has developing strokes, good shape, maintains good pace of shot but lacks consistency. Developing strategic play and court positioning and movement.
2b	Player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shots but is not yet comfortable with all strokes. Lacks control over depth, direction and power. Limited court movement and positioning.
3	Player can rally with movement and control to some degree and can play competitively (serve, return and rally) on a full court. Strokes can be completed with some success. Player can also judge where the ball is going and can sustain a short rally of slow pace.
3a	Player is in the early stages of tennis skills development and is primarily learning simple tennis co-ordination tasks/exercises. Consistent rallying with movement and control is not yet achieved
3b	Beginner level but at a level suitable to join in mid-week social play (not weekends)

4 UPGRADE CHALLENGE

- 4.1 An Upgrade Challenge is the mechanism by which a Player can attempt to move up to a higher (more competitive) grade.
- 4.2 The Challenger shall nominate themselves for an Upgrade Challenge with the Captain or the Vice Captains.
- 4.3 The Captain / Vice Captains shall schedule the Upgrade Challenge to commence at a suitable date based on the current backlog of challenges at the time. Expected timing is to be communicated clearly with the Challenger.
- 4.4 The challenge attempt shall be recorded on an Upgrade Challenge Sheet (see Appendix A) which is to be issued by the Captain /Vice Captains and lodged in the Upgrade Challenge file in the Duty Captain's office for secure recording of sets and results.
- 4.5 The Challenger needs to play six sets with Players of the grade that they wish to attain (all three players need to be in the higher grade). For clarity the sets are the usual social set of 30 minutes play
- 4.6 The Challenger shall inform the Duty Captain upon arrival at social tennis and remind them that they are performing an Upgrade Challenge. The Captain /Vice Captain will then take responsibility.
- 4.7 The sets shall be arranged by the Captain/Vice Captains and should make use of a reasonable mix of Players in the higher grade, with the aim of avoiding repeat pairings. The Players in the set are all to be informed that an Upgrade Challenge is taking place.
- 4.8 The Captain/Vice Captains shall record the new set details on the Upgrade Challenge Sheet and notify the Challenger ahead of each challenge set. The Challenger shall not have the option to skip or change the sets as this can lead to manipulation of the system. Any attempt to do so will result in the entire challenge attempt being forfeited.
- 4.9 It is anticipated that only one Upgrade Challenge in a particular grade can occur at a time due to the scheduling and management of the challenge process.
- 4.10 The Challenger has a period of eighteen (18) days (which allows for 3 consecutive weekends) to complete the Upgrade Challenge from commencement date or the attempt is forfeited.
- 4.11 It is the responsibility of the Challenger to notify the Duty Captain or Captain/Vice Captains of the score at the end of the set, with confirmation from at least one of the other higher-grade Players.
- 4.12 The scores from each of the sets shall be recorded on the Upgrade Challenge sheet by the Captain /Vice Captains.
- 4.13 Once the six sets have been completed the overall win percentage is calculated as the percentage of games won by the Challenger. $WP = (\text{games won} / \text{games played}) * 100$
- 4.14 If the Challenger achieves a win percentage of fifty percent (50%) or greater then they qualify to be upgraded. A positive result is to be presented to the Club Captain who shall review the Upgrade Challenge and approve the upgrade if all is in order.
- 4.15 A Challenger may only perform an Upgrade Challenge once every six months.
- 4.16 The Club Captain has the final say on any disputes resulting from the above process.

5 VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS

- 5.1 Where possible a new Player (whether visitor or member) should be presented by a member that has played with them before and can vouch for their level of play, along with any other supporting facts like pennants UTR.
- 5.2 A new social Player is to be allocated a Provisional grade by either the Captain or Duty Captain.
- 5.3 A Provisional grade can be changed on the day by the Captain or Duty Captain based on feedback from other Players who play with the new Player.
- 5.4 If the Player is going to be a regular, then their Provisional grade shall be converted by the Captain after review with the Vice Captains, grading sub-committee members and other Players as may be required.

6 TEMPORARY DOWNGRADE

- 6.1 A Player can nominate at any time to have their grade temporarily reduced due to an injury, illness, or other reason. Their downgrade will be marked with T as Temporary.
- 6.2 When that Player feels that they should return to their original grade they should consult with the Captain about approving a return to grade. The return to grade is at the Captain's discretion and the Captain's review of status with their playing cohort. The Captain may elect for the Player to under-go an Upgrade Challenge process as outlined in this policy.
- 6.3 Players should have consideration for other social Players and if they feel that they cannot compete properly at their current grade then they should request a temporary (or permanent) downgrade.

7 ANNUAL PEER REVIEW

- 7.1 Clause 3.2.5(c) of the Club's By Laws requires "gradings to be reviewed regularly to current standard". The Grading sub-committee shall conduct a peer review process at a minimum of once per year.
- 7.2 The Peer Review process is intended to identify any anomalies in the social gradings and to identify possible Players that should be at a different grade.
- 7.3 The Vice Captains shall provide an anonymous process for all regular social Players to review Players being assessed. The form should contain a list of Players being assessed with a space to mark upgrade/downgrade/OK against each of the Players. The person completing the review shall be asked to only identify their own grade and then mark those Players with whom they have recently played with or against.
- 7.4 The Captain/Vice Captains shall collect the results and will change a Player's grade if at least fifty percent (50%) of the Players in the same grade vote for the Player's grade to be changed. Votes by players in other grades can be considered at the Captain's discretion. The Captain/Vice Captains may review the grade for any player whose votes are, on average, in the top or bottom percentiles of the results and determine if a grading change should be recommended to the Captain.
- 7.5 If a Player is downgraded then they can perform an Upgrade Challenge process, as set out in this document, and return to the higher grade if successful.

8 CAPTAIN'S DISCRETION

- 8.1 The Club Captain may make changes to a Player's social grade at his or her discretion.

Approved by the Management Committee, October 2023

Secretary, Cottesloe Tennis Club

UPGRADE CHALLENGE SHEET

Name:		Start Date:	
Current Grade:		Requested Grade:	

SET 1		Date:		Games Score		Vice Captain Signature
Partner	Grade	Played Against	Grade	Won	Lost	
SET 2		Date:		Games Score		Vice Captain Signature
Partner	Grade	Played Against	Grade	Won	Lost	
SET 3		Date:		Games Score		Vice Captain Signature
Partner	Grade	Played Against	Grade	Won	Lost	
SET 4		Date:		Games Score		Vice Captain Signature
Partner	Grade	Played Against	Grade	Won	Lost	
SET 5		Date:		Games Score		Vice Captain Signature
Partner	Grade	Played Against	Grade	Won	Lost	
SET 6		Date:		Games Score		Vice Captain Signature
Partner	Grade	Played Against	Grade	Won	Lost	

Total Games Won:		Total Games Played:	
Win Percentage:		Win Percentage >= 50%?	YES / NO

Captain /Vice Captains to arrange Challenge sets – with the knowledge of the Challenger. To be completed within 18 days.

The result after six sets must be signed off by the Captain or Vice-Captain before the challenger’s grade can be changed.