Cottesloe Tennis Club
Policy for Court Allocation
February 2025

Purpose of this Policy

The Club has numerous teams competing in Tennis West League competitions every year. These teams broadly compete in one of three categories: Junior, Weekend and Midweek League Competitions. We often have numerous teams competing on the same type of court at the same time, and some courts may be perceived by teams as being more desirable than others. This can give rise to conflicts as to the allocation of courts between teams.

This Policy document was written to guide the allocation of courts between League teams, to avoid or minimize conflict between teams.

The Club has also grown significantly and at times there is high utilization of the grass courts in particular for non-League (ie social or training) play. To the extent needed, this policy is also intended to cover those instances where courts need to be allocated for non-League play.

Overall League Policy

The policy of the Club is that every League team is treated equally, regardless of their playing ability. We believe that the highest or lowest ranked players or teams can enjoy their tennis and compete successfully on any of our courts, and that no court is inherently more or less desirable than any other.

To the extent that some courts are perceived by the teams to be less desirable than others, players and teams of a lower rank or ability should not be assigned to those courts more often than players and teams of a higher rank or ability.

However, the Club also wants to make tennis enjoyable for its visitors and spectators. This consideration affects League court allocation on weekends only, because Midweek League play does not generally attract many spectators. Due to its layout, the Club has certain areas which are more accessible to spectators, which are the principal viewing areas. Court allocation decisions on the weekend can be affected by the location of these principal (best) viewing areas.

For the grass courts, the best viewing area is the west side of Bay 2, nearest the clubhouse, overlooking courts 6 and 7. The next best is the west side of Bay 3, overlooking courts 11 and 12. This is followed by the west side of Bay 1, overlooking Courts 1 and 2.

The best viewing areas for the hard courts are the east end of Bay 1, overlooking hard courts 1 and 2. This is followed by courts 5 and 6, then courts 8 and 9.

Junior League Competitions

The Junior Director, assisted by the Coaches, will allocate courts to the Junior League teams. Their main goal in court allocation is to give the parents of the Juniors a fair opportunity to watch their children from time to time near the principal viewing areas.

The playing ability of the player or teams is not considered for the allocation of courts to the Junior teams. Each team will be rotated, to the extent practicable, through the best viewing areas of the club. This is done for the benefit of the parents and other family members, not as a reward or benefit to the players.

Midweek Open/Adult League Competitions

Midweek Open & Adult League competitions primarily consist of midweek daytime grass and hard court competitions and evening hard court competitions under lights. Midweek competitions do not generally attract a large spectator audience, except for finals rounds, so the 'best' viewing areas are not normally a consideration.

The allocation of courts will be determined by either:

a) Allocation by the Midweek League Coordinator;
   ; or
b) First come, first served if no allocation has been provided.

Teams may swap courts by mutual agreement.

Where conflicts arise due to a perception of some courts being more desirable than others, the Midweek League Coordinator will decide the court allocation, ensuring that each team has approximately equal time on the more 'desirable' courts. If possible (for the hard courts), this allocation will be done at the beginning of each season.

Weekend Open/Adult League Competitions

The club has a strong spectatorship on weekend afternoons when the weekend open/adult League competitions are being held.

As a general rule, court allocation decisions will be at the discretion of the League Director, or the Weekend League Coordinator,

Secondly, court selection will be driven by spectator desires. At CTC, the best viewing platform, for grass court tennis, is considered adjacent to courts six and seven.

The highest-ranking teams will be assigned courts six and seven. (Ranking in this context means that State League is higher ranked than Division 1, Division 1 is higher than Division 2, etc.) If there are women and men's teams who are at the same level and happen to share home status, they will alternate playing on courts six and seven to ensure an equal

opportunity to play on the 'show' courts. The next highest teams will be assigned courts eleven and twelve and then courts eight and nine and so on.

A coin toss will determine court use if two equal ranked teams share a home match for the first home match of the season with courts rotated, thereafter.

There is room in the policy for teams to negotiate court use if there is a consensus within each team. For example, if a division one team were to prefer to play on courts 8 and 9 and a division two side wanted to play on courts 11 and 12, that would be acceptable.

There is room in the policy to allow some flexibility around finals. For example, if a Sunday team, who has been directed to play on court 11 and 12 during the season, wanted to play on courts six and seven in the semi-finals and finals, they would be encouraged to request permission from the Weekend League Coordinator. This is likely to be allowed unless there are other conflicts.

Overall Policy for Court Allocations for Non League Matches (ie Social Play).

Bays will be identified as being available for Social Play simply by the fact that nets are up. Courts furthest from the club house should be used first and are available on a first come first served basis.

On no account may nets be put up on courts that have had nets rolled up and stored at the net post or removed.

This Policy was approved at the February 2025 Management Committee Meeting

Secretary
Cottesloe Tennis Club