

Balrothery Tennis Club

Club Rules & Constitution

(established March 2003, last updated June 2020 with covid19 restrictions)

Balrothery Tennis Club referred to as BTC within this document.

The following document gives an overview of our club and itemises the rules and regulations our members agree to adhere to when joining the club. Any changes to this document will be posted on our website.

The club operates on the courts located in South Glebe Park in Balrothery. These courts are provided by and currently maintained by Fingal County Council. Upgrading of the courts began in July 2019 and is ongoing. In that time, public access was stopped by Fingal Council but the club were allowed to continue usage while assisting with the implementation and maintenance of the facility. Due to Covid19, we are further restricted in permitting public access. The aim of the club is to provide maximum access to Balrothery community and surrounding areas, and we will continue to endeavour to meet that goal.

The club is run by a voluntary committee, all funds raised through membership, sponsorship and grants are used solely towards the club and its development.

The aim of BTC to

- Provide social and competitive tennis to its members within the club and between other tennis clubs.
- Provide access to game development and coaching for members and public
- Maintain and promote use of the public courts and encourage tennis locally
- Engage with the wider community to promote tennis for fun and health

Membership of the club currently provides access to book a court, partake in group or private coaching (with a charge), partake in social tennis as organised by the committee, partake in league tennis (when this is restarted by DLTC). We currently have no junior membership outside families as Covid19 restrictions require supervision of juniors.

The following are the rules of our club.

General

- Only players (currently members) can access the courts. You have an access code, you cannot share this with non-members in any instance. The committee reserve the right to refuse admission
- Any breach of rules will reported to the committee will be investigated and incur possible expulsion from the club
- The Club have adopted the rules of play of Tennis Ireland; the following rules have been updated in line with Covid19 restrictions

Conduct & Etiquette

The following conduct is expected from our members at all times.

- Good manners and polite play, abuse in any form will not be tolerated
- Respect for property, fellow players and equipment at all times
- Players must leave the courts ready for play - whether this requires brushing, clearing rubbish, sweeping leaves
- Players should respect games in progress when accessing courts, retrieving balls and spectating
- Only Tennis can be played on the courts, with appropriate footwear and equipment

Order of play

- Official club events, for members or non-member
- Fingal Council public events (e.g. Parks Tennis)
- Club coaching
- Members social tennis & private club coaching

Health & Safety

- Adhere to Covid19 regulations at dictated by the club and Tennis Ireland. Do not avail of the courts if you are any of your contacts have symptoms of covid19; you must inform our committee and immediately our covid19 officer can commence contact tracing
- The safety of our members is very important, if driving Members are asked to ensure your car is locked and no valuables are on display. Walkway to the courts is currently unlit, please ensure own safety to and from the courts
- In the interests of health and safety, do not climb the fencing or container for any reason. Accessing balls in the wooded area is at your own risk.

Booking a Court

- As a member you have access our booking system on your phone or via our website, you cannot share this link/access with other person
- You can only play if you have booked that court for that time – you cannot ‘walk-in’ to a free court, or extend your playing time because a court is free
- Members cannot book back-to-back sessions during peak times
- If you have booked a court at peak times and subsequently decide to cancel, you can notify other members the court is available for them to book
- Repeated booking and cancelling of courts at peak times will be monitored by the committee and sanctions imposed
- You must provide full names of opponents / partners for the purpose of contact tracing
- Members cannot book courts for the purpose of providing coaching to another member, with the exception of their own family
- Junior members can book court time, but a supervising adult must be at the courts during that session
- The committee have the right to cancel bookings they deem abusive to the above rules

Lights

(section removed pending commissioning and configuring of floodlights for all courts)

Visitors

(section removed during Covid19 restrictions and pending public access agreement with Fingal Council; no visitors currently permitted)

Coaching

- Only a coach (club coach), appointed by the club committee, shall be permitted to coach
- The club coach is available to all members, either through group or private sessions
- Group sessions are arranged by the committee and payment is to the club
- Private coaching is arranged between the member and club coach.
- In the case of junior (under 16) private coaching, a supervising adult must remain at the courts (not on) during the session.

CLUB CONSTITUTION

Title

The name of the Club shall be ***Balrothery Tennis Club, referred to as BTC***

1. Objectives

- a. to promote the activity and interest in tennis.
- b. to provide an amenity to Balrothery and surrounding areas, to all who are interested in playing tennis.
- c. to improve and develop the standard of tennis, which shall be played in accordance with the rules laid down by Tennis Ireland.
- d. to administer and employ the funds of the Club, in such a manner, as shall be deemed best to achieve the above objectives.

2. Membership

- a. Membership shall consist of four categories; Family (max 2 adults and 3 children), Adult, Student (over 18 and under 22 in full time education) and Junior (under 18 years of age).
- b. Each Family and Senior Membership are entitled to one (1) vote at the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings.

3. Officers & Executive Committee

- a. The management and control of the affairs of the Club shall be primarily vested in the
- b. Executive Committee (referred to as 'the committee')
- c. The committee shall cover the functions of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Ladies & Gents Captains, Child Protection officers and liaison, Covid19 officer and any other roles the committee decides it needs to allocate.
- d. The terms of office shall be for one year. All officers shall serve for a period not exceeding five years and shall be eligible for re-election after an absence of one year.
- e. A quorum for a Committee shall be 5.
- f. In the event of any vacancies occurring in the offices of the Club or in the Committee at any time, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill such vacancies until the following Annual General Meeting, wherein any persons elected to fill such vacancies, shall only serve out the appropriate term of office under the rules.
- g. The committee may, from time to time, appoint sub committees as necessary.
- h. The committee shall meet at least four times annually and at any other times as may be necessary.

- i. All matters not agreed upon unanimously by the committee, shall be decided by majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the decision will lie with the Chair of the meeting, who shall have a second or casting vote.
- j. The committee may from time to time, make bye-laws for the good management, control and conduct of the club, provided that the same would not be inconsistent with or opposed to the Constitution or rules of the club. Such bye laws shall be submitted for endorsement at the next AGM of the Club.

5. Nominations

- a. Nominations by members for the offices of the committee shall be made in writing to the Secretary not later than one week prior to the date of the AGM in each year, with a declaration that the nominee has consented to his/her name being submitted and their willingness to serve.

6. General Meetings

- a. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall not be held less than once in each calendar year.
- b. The Executive may, whenever it deems fit, shall upon receipt of a requisition in writing and signed by not less than 15 members of the Club, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Any requisition shall express the object of the meeting proposed to be called and delivered to the Secretary.
- c. Members will be given 14 days notice, at least, of every AGM specifying the day and hour of the meeting and, in the case of the special business, the general nature of such business shall be given to each member, save for motions, in which even paragraph 8 hereof applies.
- d. 15 shall be a quorum at any AGM.
- e. Only current members personally present at the general meeting may exercise a vote in respect of any motion or nominations. (online remote is classed as personally present)
- f. All motions submitted by the committee shall require a simple majority vote from the floor.

7. Motions

- a. Particulars of motions to be moved at the General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary not less than 2 weeks prior to the date of such General Meeting, and such motions shall bear the signature of the Proposer and Seconder thereto.

8. Accounts

- a. The committee shall cause to be kept true accounts of the monies received and expended for or on account of the Club, and of the assets, credits and liabilities of the club. The Accounts shall be closed on the last day of March each year. An Audit shall be prepared and Balance Sheet prepared showing property and liabilities of the Club, which will be given and available to each member.

9. Expulsion

- a. A person shall be liable to expulsion by failure to observe the provision hereof, or any Rules or Bye-laws, for the time being of the Club, or shall in the judgement of the committee have been guilty of any unethical or improper conduct.
- b. Such alleged contravention of the Club's rules shall be examined by the committee, whose decision on the matter shall be final.

10. Subscriptions

- a. The subscriptions shall be fixed from time to time by the committee and ratified at the next AGM.
- b. Subscriptions shall be due and paid to the Treasurer by the first day of April each year.
- c. Any person whose subscription shall be unpaid from the due date, may thereafter lose all privileges of their membership.

11. Dissolution

- a. Any motion for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by two thirds of those present and eligible to vote at the General Meeting.
- b. At a Special Meeting the majority in favour of dissolution must be two thirds of those present and eligible to vote.
- c. Consequent upon confirmation of dissolution as in (b), the committee shall proceed to wind up the Club in an appropriate manner.

12. Alternation of Rules

- a. The rules of the Club may be altered and varied by the committee, all members will be notified of changes. Members have the right to complain about changes and challenge the committee, requesting a vote from members.

13. Interpretation

In the construction of these rules, unless the contrary intention appears :

- words importing the masculine gender shall embrace females. ii. words in the singular shall include the plural, and words in the plural shall include the singular.
- The committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these rules and of the bye laws there under, and the decision of the committee upon or touching any question of interpretation, or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by