

RULES OF THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH TENNIS CLUB
Founded 1920 – rules amended 2004

1. The Club shall be known as 'The Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club'. The Club shall be managed by a Committee of eleven members consisting of Chairman, Club Captain, Secretary, Treasurer, Men's Team Captain, Ladies' Team Captain, Social Secretary, Membership Secretary, and three other members, all to be elected annually at a General Meeting. The Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies and to co-opt members in the interim. Six shall form a quorum.
2. The purpose of the Club is to promote the amateur sport of tennis in Sawbridgeworth and community participation in same.
3. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis, such limitation to be left to the discretion of the Committee. The Club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.
4. The Club Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made, and a personal hearing will take place before the Committee of the Club within 28 days of the said refusal/expulsion.
5. The annual subscription for the different classes of membership shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and be due on 1st May. Entrance fees and subscription fees will be published in the Members' Handbook. Members joining after the end of August will be charged half the annual subscription plus the full entrance fee. Anyone who has not paid their subscription by the 30th June will be deemed to have resigned. Rejoining after that date will be deemed a fresh application to the Committee.
6. The juniors shall be under the control of the Committee.
7. Each member shall be entitled to introduce a visitor, subject to payment of the visitor's fee for each day's play. Any visitor shall be limited to three days play annually. Visitor's fees shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting. Temporary membership may be applied for.
8. Recognised tennis wear (preferably with a predominantly white top), including non-marking tennis shoes, must be worn on court at all times. These may be supplemented by coloured tracksuits. Casual clothes such as football shirts and inscribed t-shirts are not permitted.
9. The Committee has the right to prohibit play whenever the courts are considered unfit for play.
10. The Committee may at any time reserve one or more courts for the purpose of tournaments or matches, and further to enforce such regulations for the use and control of the courts as they may deem expedient.
11. During general Club playing sessions players must vacate the courts after playing one short set (6-5) and any senior members present and waiting to play must be included. Singles may not be played at the expense of doubles play.
12. The property and funds of the Club cannot be used for the direct or indirect private benefit of its members other than reasonably allowed by this Rule. The Club may provide sporting and related social facilities, club sporting equipment, coaching, courses, post match refreshments and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.
13. A Special General Meeting may be called on a written application signed by 15 members.
14. The Rules shall not be altered except at the Annual General Meeting (or a specially called Extraordinary General Meeting) of which every member shall have 7 days notice, including details of the proposed amendments.
15. If at any General Meeting of the Club a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the club to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote upon the resolution. If at that Special General Meeting the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full Members present at the meeting, the Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all the debts and liabilities of the Club. After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the full members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to the Lawn Tennis Association for use by them for related community tennis.
16. The Trustees are empowered to borrow money for the purpose of the Club in such amounts and upon such terms as to the interest, security and otherwise as may be from time to time be determined.
17. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding in any matters not provided for in these Rules, however, where there is conflict between any of the above Rules ('key Rules') and any other rule or rules the key Rule(s) will take priority. Interpretation of all of the Rules must be consistent with the statutory requirements for CASCs (which means Community Amateur Sports Clubs as first provided for by the Finance Act 2002).