



## **COOMBE WOOD LTC**

### **Tennis Teams Selection Policy**

#### **1. Overview**

This policy sets out the guidelines to be followed when selecting players to represent Coombe Wood LTC ("the Club") in competitive team matches ensuring inclusiveness, transparency, and fairness in team selection.

#### **2. Definitions**

- a. **Eligible Player:** An Adult Full or Under 26 member or Junior member who the Head Coach has confirmed has reached the playing standard required to represent the Club in adult team matches.
- b. **Submission Deadline:** The date by which team entries need to be submitted to the Surrey league tennis organiser, which is usually on or around 1<sup>st</sup> March for the Summer season and 1<sup>st</sup> September for the Winter season.  
**Reserve Player:** an Eligible Player who wishes to play team matches only occasionally if required and/or has limited availability.

#### **3. Player Availability**

Prior to the start of each season, the Match Secretary will ask all Eligible Players who played Club matches in the previous season or are otherwise known to be interested in playing for the teams, if they are available and would like to be considered for selection for the following season and in which competitions (Men's, Ladies, Mixed, Vets, National League).

#### **4. Selection Guidelines - Men's and Ladies' Weekend Surrey League Teams**

The process to be followed when selecting players for Men's and Ladies' Weekend Surrey League teams should include the following steps:

- a. Prior to the Submission Deadline the Match Secretary will hold two meetings, one for Ladies' team selection and one for Men's team selection.
- b. The Match Secretary will invite the team captains from the previous season, the Head Coach, and the Honorary Secretary (optional attendee) to each meeting.
- c. Prior to the meeting the individual team captains will be advised by the Match Secretary which of the players from their current team wish to be considered for

selection and will be asked to rank each of these players in order based on their performance in the previous season's team matches, which can be seen on the LTA website. If a captain does not wish to do this, the Head Coach will be asked to provide this initial ranking.

- d. The Match Secretary will produce a ranked list of all players using the team captain's or, where relevant, the Head Coach's rankings.
- e. At the meeting the team captains will discuss their rankings with the Head Coach and provide input on other relevant factors, such as: preferred player pairings, forehand/backhand side preference, commitment, and availability, etc.
- f. The Head Coach will review the ranking list and may alter the rankings based on their professional judgement and other data.
- g. The Head Coach will also move players between teams if in their professional opinion a highly ranked player in a lower team is a stronger player than a low ranked player in a higher team.
- h. The Head Coach will also place new players into the rankings using their professional judgement and other data such as performance in tournaments, practice sessions.
- i. At this point players who have said they wish to play only occasionally will be removed from the ranking list and placed on a list of Reserve Players.
- j. The Match Secretary may also remove from the ranking list those players who wish to be full players but have not played in the majority of matches due to unavailability. These players can be assigned to the list of Reserve Players.
- k. The team size then needs to be decided. This is based on achieving a balance between ensuring that all those in a team can play in most matches, whilst at the same time enabling the captain to have enough players within the team, so that needing to use players from outside the team is an exception.
- l. The team size should generally be 6 players for the higher teams. Exceptions to this may be made in certain circumstances (e.g. key players temporarily unavailable due to injury or other reasons) at the discretion of the Match Secretary, however the team size should not be increased merely to avoid making a decision between two or more players of similar standard. The lower Men's and Ladies teams can have up to 8 players if required.
- m. Once the list of players has been ranked and the team size confirmed, players are assigned to teams by the Match Secretary based on their ranking. The highest ranked players are assigned to the first team and the next highest to the second team and so on.
- n. The selection meeting may end with a small number of decisions which need further consideration before the teams can be finalised and the Match Secretary may wish to further discuss these decisions with the Head Coach. If after

discussion there is still a difference of opinion then the Head Coach shall make the final decision.

- o. Reserve Players are not attached to a specific team and are available to all captains, however the Match Secretary will suggest the teams they should be considered for.
- p. Once players have been assigned to teams, the Match Secretary selects team captains for the upcoming season based on the following principles:
  - i. It is beneficial for the Club and fair to the players to rotate the captaincy on a regular basis. No player should captain a team for more than 3 consecutive years, or 6 consecutive seasons (the Maximum Term), other than at the discretion of the Match Secretary.
  - ii. Where possible, the team captain should be one of the stronger players in that team, but exceptions could be made at the discretion of the Match Secretary.
  - iii. If a previous season's captain remains in the same team following the above selection process, they can, if no other player from the team has expressed a wish to do the role, continue as captain so long as they have not already been a team captain for the Maximum Term.
  - iv. If the existing captain has not been selected in the same team, is no longer willing to carry on as captain or has already reached the Maximum Term, the Match Secretary will appoint a new captain from the remaining team members. If none of the remaining team members is willing to be the captain, that team will not be entered in the leagues for the upcoming season.
- q. The Match Secretary will publish the team list to all players and submit the team entries together with the names of the team captains to Surrey Tennis.

## 5. Selection Guidelines – Mixed Surrey League teams

Once the Men's and Ladies Surrey League teams have been determined, players will be selected for Mixed teams as follows:

- a. Players who said under Section 3 (Player Availability) that they wish to be considered for the Mixed team as well as the Men's or Ladies teams will be ranked in order by the Head Coach following the rankings applied in determining the Men's and Ladies teams in Section 4.
- b. For any players who said under Section 3 that they wish to be considered for Mixed teams but not the Men's or Ladies weekend teams, the Head Coach will insert them in the rankings using their professional judgement and other data such as performance in tournaments, practice sessions.

- c. The team size will be determined by the Match Secretary in discussion with the Head Coach and the team captains from the previous season. The size should generally be 6 players if all players are likely to be fully available for all matches, however this may be increased to a maximum of 8 to reflect likely player availability considering matches take place on weekday evenings.
- d. Once the list of players has been ranked and the team size confirmed, players are assigned to teams by the Match Secretary based on their ranking. The highest ranked players are assigned to the first team and the next highest to the second team and so on.
- e. Once players have been assigned to teams, the Match Secretary appoints team captains for the upcoming season following the same principles set out in Section 4 p.
- f. The Match Secretary will publish the team list to all players and submit the team entries together with the names of the team captains to Surrey Tennis.

#### 6. Selection Guidelines – Ladies Midweek Surrey League teams

Once the Ladies Surrey League teams have been determined, players will be selected for the Ladies Midweek teams as follows:

- a. Players who said under Section 3 (Player Availability) that they wish to be considered for the Ladies Midweek teams as well as the Ladies Weekend teams will be ranked in order by the Head Coach following the rankings applied in determining the Ladies Weekend teams in Section 4.
- b. For any players who said under Section 3 that they wish to be considered for Midweek teams but not the Ladies Weekend teams, the Head Coach will insert them in the rankings using their professional judgement and other data such as performance in tournaments and practice sessions.
- c. The team size will be determined by the Match Secretary in discussion with the Head Coach and the team captains from the previous season. The size should generally be 6 players if all players are likely to be fully available for all matches, however this may be increased to a maximum of 8 to reflect likely player availability considering matches are played midweek during the daytime.
- d. Once the list of players has been ranked and the team size confirmed, players are assigned to teams by the Match Secretary based on their ranking. The highest ranked players are assigned to the first team and the next highest to the second team and so on.
- e. Once players have been assigned to teams, the Match Secretary appoints team captains for the upcoming season following the same principles set out in Section 4 p).

- f. The Match Secretary will publish the team list to all players and submit the team entries together with the names of the team captains to Surrey Tennis.

#### 7. Selection Guidelines – Men's and Ladies Surrey League Veterans teams

The process to be followed when selecting players for Men's and Ladies Veterans teams will be as follows:

- a. At the start of each season the Match Secretary will discuss team selection with the team captains from the previous season following the general principles for the other competitions set out above.
- b. Since several players are likely to be interested in playing only for the Veterans teams and will not have been included in the ranking process for any of the other teams, the Match Secretary will seek the view of the Head Coach to determine relative player rankings when necessary.
- c. The team size will be determined by the Match Secretary in discussion with the Head Coach and the team captains from the previous season. The size should generally be 6 players if all players are likely to be fully available for all matches, however this may be increased to a maximum of 8 to reflect likely player availability considering matches are played midweek during the daytime.
- d. Once players have been assigned to teams, the Match Secretary appoints team captains for the upcoming season following the same principles set out in Section 4 p).

#### 8. Selection Guidelines – National League teams

Once the Men's and Ladies Surrey League teams have been determined, players will be selected for the National League teams as follows:

- a. Players who said under Section 3 (Player Availability) that they wish to be considered for the Men's and Ladies Surrey League teams as well as the National League teams will be ranked in order by the Head Coach following the rankings applied in determining the Men's and Ladies teams in Section 4.
- b. For any players who said under Section 3 that they wish to be considered for National League teams but not the Surrey League teams, the Head Coach will insert them in the rankings using their professional judgement and other data such as performance in tournaments and practice sessions.
- c. The team size will be determined by the Match Secretary in discussion with the Head Coach and the team captains from the previous season. The size should be determined by likely player availability and taking in to account the competition involves both singles and doubles rubbers.

- d. Once the list of players has been ranked and the team size confirmed, players are assigned to teams by the Match Secretary based on their ranking. The highest ranked players are assigned to the first team and the next highest to the second team (if applicable) and so on.
- e. Once players have been assigned to teams, the Match Secretary appoints team captains for the upcoming season following the same principles set out in Section 4 p).
- f. The Match Secretary will publish the team list to all players and submit the team entries together with the names of the team captains to Surrey Tennis.

## 9. Other

- a. If the formal position of match secretary on the Club Committee is vacant, the role of Match Secretary for the purposes of this policy will be performed by the Honorary Secretary or such other person as nominated by the Club Committee.
- b. Team squads should not exceed the recommended number, as stated above, since it is generally expected that the captain will put out the strongest team available but should aim to give each player a game if possible.
- c. If, following any of the above selection processes, a player is not willing to play for the team for which they have been selected, that player will be ineligible to play for any of the Club's teams in any competition for the current and following seasons.
- d. The team numbering must always correspond to their ranking within the divisions of the relevant competition. In the event of promotion or relegation that would theoretically result in a lower-ranked team being positioned in a division above a higher-ranked team, the team numbering shall be adjusted accordingly to ensure that the teams remain sequentially numbered.

If, for example, the men's 3<sup>rd</sup> team was relegated and the men's 4<sup>th</sup> promoted above them, the teams would be returned to their sequential numbering. The rationale for this is that the squads are reviewed at the start of each season, taking into account individual match performance in the previous season. Thus it is possible that some of the successful 4<sup>th</sup> team players might be moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> team and vice versa.

- e. The Match Secretary, team Captains and Head Coach are under no obligation to discuss reasons for team selection decisions with any individual players.