

GREYTHORN PARK TENNIS CLUB

MEMBER COACHING POLICY

Introduction

GPTC has contracted with Fireball Tennis Academy to provide coaching services at the Club.

Under the contract Fireball has exclusive rights to the use of our courts for professional coaching purposes.

The contract also provides that the Club will prevent members from undertaking activities that appear to be coaching:

“The Service Provider will have exclusive rights to provide professional coaching services at the Club. Both members and non-members of the club will be permitted to access the Service Provider. The Committee of the Club will conscientiously monitor for third party Service Providers or members who appear to be coaching (i.e. have a basket of balls, etc.) on the premises and prevent or stop such behaviour.” (Schedule 3, Clause 1.1)

The Committee wishes to ensure that it meets its contractual obligations but also that members have reasonable opportunity to practise their tennis skills, either alone or with their children.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To ensure the Club complies with its obligations under the contract with its appointed coaching services provider (currently Fireball)
- To ensure members have reasonable opportunity to practice their tennis skills and assist their children to practice their tennis skills on our courts

Principles

- That the right of the Club’s contracted coaching services provider to be the exclusive provider of professional (i.e. remunerated) coaching services at the Club should be protected
- That the business of the Club’s contracted coaching services provider should be protected from adverse perceptions that may arise from non-professional coaching activities undertaken by members
- That members should be afforded reasonable opportunity to practise their tennis skills and to assist their children to practice their skills, consistent with the above principles
- That in practising their tennis skills and/or assisting their children to practice their skills, members should take care to ensure that other users are not unduly inconvenienced

Mandatory requirement

Members must not:

- provide coaching services for remuneration of any kind

Guidance on ‘appearing to coach’

The following guidance is intended to be illustrative of the kinds of behaviours and activities that should be considered in determining whether the above principles are being complied with.

When practising tennis skills alone or with their children -

Members should not:

- bring an excessive number of balls to the court (e.g. up to 20-30 balls in a bag, bucket or small basket would be considered reasonable)
- bring substantial coaching equipment to the court which may create the perception of professional coaching (e.g. cones, large trolley basket, etc.)
- have more than three (3) children with them on the court at any one time

Members should always:

- take care to ensure that their practice balls are not spilling excessively onto adjacent courts being used for competition or social play

If a member is unsure whether their proposed practising/coaching activity is consistent with the principles, the member should seek guidance from the Committee prior to proceeding.

Reporting breaches

- Members or coaches who are concerned about what appears to be inappropriate coaching activity on another court may politely raise the issue with the person(s) concerned and point out the Club's policy position.
- If the person(s) persists with the activity the matter should be reported to the Committee.
- Members/coaches should not take it on themselves to enforce the policy on the spot.