

WEST SURREY TENNIS CLUB

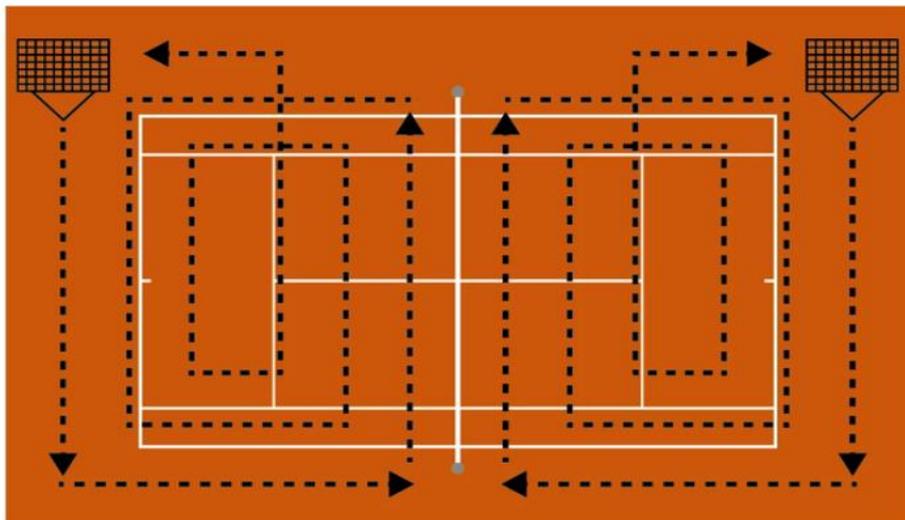
CLAY COURTS MAINTENANCE AND UP-KEEP

Guidance for All Members

- We hope that Members will come to enjoy and appreciate the quality of play on our new courts, but it is important that we all follow simple but important instructions for the benefit of a good quality tennis experience but also to preserve the life of the courts given the considerable investment made. Following these basic guidelines will benefit us all and the tennis experiences we will all enjoy on the new surface.
- If you have any questions at all or comments as we get used to the new protocols and habits, please leave feedback on the relevant section of the website and the Committee will seek to respond as best they can in the interests of Members and the Club.
- We all will want to play on well-tended courts. However, that also means that we all have to do something about it. Therefore, we should all follow the guidelines below and help ensure that our court remain in good condition throughout the season.
- A general reminder is that our tennis will be played on an artificial clay infill on top of a stability mat.
- The action of playing on the surface will move the artificial infill, especially in the high play areas such as behind base lines and in volley areas. The benefits of an artificial clay tennis court rely on the level of loose clay infill being even and approximately 2mm above the level of the stability mat fibres at all times.

1. Drag brushing the court

- After each match or session of play Members should drag brush the court using the drag brush drag mat combination broom so ensure an even distribution of the infill material on the surface where tennis is played but also to distribute material that naturally will be pushed out of the court area to the sides and off-court areas.
- After play, Members should follow drag brush the court following pattern as set out below:



- The direction of drag brushing should be elliptical and should include the ENTIRE court area including run offs, working from either the back of the court to the net so that dispersed fill is moved back into the playing area by the brush and then levelled by the mat.
- It is especially important to drag the entire tennis court completely (up to the fence) after playing. Otherwise, infill will be retained at the edges – less infill will be retained on the playing surface as a result if not done. This way moss can develop and weeds can spread/take hold.
- This is new to us all, but we are sure Members will quickly get into the habit of drag brushing the court at speed after our matches and will become quickly second nature.

2. Brushing lines

- As part of leaving the court as we wish to find it, it is important to also brush the lines of the court for the next players arriving on court.
- Again, this is something new for us all, but should not take long as part of leaving the court as we wish to find it for the next players arriving.

3. Return Equipment to their court storage point

- Drag brushes and brushes for the lines will be left on court for easy access to Members.
- We are building a dedicated storage shed that will help keep certain equipment in good order and safe and to store excess infill as part of the on-going maintenance program.
- Please could Members treat the equipment as if it were their own and report any problems with the equipment again via the website.

4. Shoes

- Please only enter the tennis courts with tennis shoes on and it is important that your shoes are clean and no mud is brought onto court.
- There is no need to change your type/brand of tennis shoes necessarily for the new clay surface.
- We have purchased brushes to wipe your shoes after play. It is particularly important to use these brushes outside each court to save walking the infill into the Clubhouse and losing material that can be gathered, cleaned and used again on the court. It will also save you spreading the infill to your car/home from the soles of your feet.

5. Surface Leaves and Twigs

- As Autumn and wintry weather approaches, there will be leaves and other material falling from the local trees. It is a fact that during this time of year there will be some impact on Members arriving particularly at the beginning of the day or during times of wind when material will be falling onto the surface.
- However, it is important that before playing, please clear the tennis court of branches, leaves and other debris. If you do not do this, the rubbish will mix with the infill and the quality of tennis will be impacted over time.

- The impact is that the artificial clay infill loses its desired strength. We would then play on softer ground and the ball would no longer bounce properly. In addition, playing on a clean surface this prevents injuries, as there is a risk of slipping on branches or, especially in autumn, on leaves.
- Please rake leaves and twigs to one side to avoid playing the leaves therefore before play.
- Please note that a budget has been agreed and we are paying for weekly maintenance on an ongoing basis by a contractor to assist with leaf collection and sieving the infill to remove debris. This process will be made much easier and less time consuming if we do not play on leaves and twigs and such material does not get broken up and ground into the infill material.

6. Play on Infill not Stability Mat

- When playing your tennis, please ensure that where on occasion there are gaps in the infill, please look to swipe excess infill on them so that the stability mat is not showing.
- We are not expecting this to be such an issue initially when there is plenty of infill, but any gaps can easily be covered over with a swipe of your feet whilst on court.

7. Wet and Icy Weather Conditions

- Amongst the advantages of the clay surface is that the grip will be better when we have wet weather. Care should be taken when wet and avoid play on slippery courts.
- However, playing on the surface that is too wet can cause damage. Please therefore do not play on the surface after a sudden downpour and puddles have formed on the court.
- After a downpour, please do not clear puddles or puddles of water with the trawl nets. This can cause the upper layer of infill to be dragged away and depressions formed, especially at the base lines.
- Again, we hope that the impact of frost particularly around the hedges at the back of the courts will cause less impact on lost play. Advice from Trevor May is that in a light surface frost – there are no restrictions on play provided the surface is not slippery, but it is recommended to drag the courts to break up the frost before play starts.
- In the case of a hard frost or ice on court, Members should avoid playing on a frozen surface in the interests of safety.

8. Care for our Club

- Thank you for reviewing and following this guidance in advance. Much of the above is Common Sense, that if we all follow will benefit us all and ensure our tennis experiences can be the best they can be for years to come.
- A simple rule also applies here:

Please leave the courts as you would like to find them yourself!

Thanks for your attention.

The Committee