



**Tennis
Ireland**

Sport For Life



TENNIS IRELAND
RESOURCES

THE CLUB and THE COACH

THE ROLE OF THE COACH

A good relationship between a tennis club and the coaches who work there is vital. Coaches play a huge role in retaining players in the club, since members are motivated to keep playing when they feel they are improving and developing. A coach with a good reputation can also act as a draw to recruit new members. Your coach is a professional person who has unique skills and knowledge about the game, which the club should access as part of good management. The coach plays a far more important role in the life of the club than is sometimes recognised. It is a complex job. The coach not only influences the success of tennis programmes, but also plays a developmental role in the life of their junior pupils.

YOUR COACH SHOULD:

1. Be qualified through Tennis Ireland. Our coach education system is recognized by the International Tennis Federation (the world governing body) at the coveted Gold Level. Should you wish to hire a coach from abroad, they should go through the Tennis Ireland Coach Assimilation process which, if appropriate, will grant them equivalency within the Tennis Ireland coach qualification ladder. Details of this process are on the Tennis Ireland website.

2. Have the correct qualification for the work they will be asked to do. Under the Tennis Ireland system

- a Level 1 coach is qualified to teach beginner players of all ages.
- A Level 2 coach is qualified to teach players up to junior and senior club competition level.
- A Level 3 coach is qualified to teach intermediate and advanced players involved in open regional competition.
- A Level 4 coach is qualified to teach players of any standard.

3. Be Licensed with Tennis Ireland. This means that the coach is up to date with Garda Vetting and Child Protection, and is involved in Continuous Professional Development. CPD is run by Tennis Coach Ireland in cooperation with Tennis Ireland.

4. Have a written contract which details duties, remuneration, reporting process etc. This helps to protect both parties.

NOTE: *Templates are available from Tennis Ireland.*

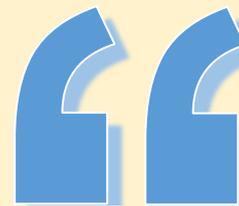


THE COACHES INPUT

As well as planning, organizing and developing on court coaching programmes, there are two other areas in the life of the club where a coach's input can be invaluable:

1. Organising competition – every coaching programme needs a competitive programme running in tandem, so that players can test out their newly developed skills in a realistic setting. It's important that coaches see their players in a match environment, in order to gauge the effectiveness of the coaching, and plan what to do next. This makes it a good fit if coaches can be involved in setting up competitive opportunities for members, both inside and outside the club.

2. Outreach Programmes – Coaches can run lessons in local schools, train the teachers to organize tennis for their pupils, and engage with the Enjoy Tennis programme for players with a disability. This helps the club to source new members. The club should regularly 'reach out' to the local community, and the coach is well placed to lead this process.



The tennis coach continues to play a vital role in the growth of our sport throughout the world.

David Haggerty – ITF President.

Good coaching makes a difference.

Tennis Ireland.

A strong club and coach relationship is integral to the success of your club.

Tennis Australia.

Clubs and coaches are key components of the tennis sector and must work in harmony.

LTA (UK).



THE RIGHT COACH

How does a club go about attracting and retaining the right coach? Coaching is a profession like all others, and as in most jobs, workers or prospective workers will assess the benefits of a role. Some of the key questions a coach might ask themselves about a club are:

1. Will I be granted sufficient access to enough courts at the crucial times for coaching programmes?
2. Will the club subsidize my ongoing development (qualification courses, conferences and workshops)?
3. Will I have sufficient access to the club's website, newsletter and social media in order to effectively advertise my services?

There will be other ways to support your coaching staff that will be specific to your club's circumstances. For example, does your coach have their own dedicated parking spot at the club? Would the club consider appointing a member of your main committee to be the club's Coaching Liaison Officer?

International Tennis Federation survey results:

“WHAT FACTORS WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO PLAY TENNIS”?

1. **Combine tennis with a good physical workout**
2. **Availability of lessons to improve skills**
3. **Regularly scheduled matches**

If we are to attract and retain the best people into teaching tennis, the role of the coach in Irish tennis clubs needs to be developed further – to the mutual benefit of both coach and club.

United States Tennis Association survey results:

“WHY DO KIDS PLAY SPORTS”?

1. **To have fun**
2. **To improve their skills**
3. **To stay in shape**

NEXT STEP

A useful process is to invite your coach to the next committee meeting to discuss the points raised above and any other relevant issues.

Regular meetings between the coach and committee representatives can go a long way towards dealing with any issues, or even better, avoiding issues arising in the first place.

NEED FURTHER GUIDANCE?

Get in touch with your Provincial Branch

Leinster: 01 269 6024

Ulster: 028 9038 3808

Munster: 087 706 1230

Connacht: 086 351 4123