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## JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations should reflect contributions and achievements within tennis or padel in 2025 and will be judged against the criteria below. Please ensure you read the criteria carefully before submitting a nomination.

Please note that the Meritorious Service Award can only be nominated by County Associations and the full criteria will be included in a separate nomination form sent directly County Associations in October.

*For the purposes of this document the term County Associations also includes Tennis Scotland and Tennis Wales.*

## CATHIE SABIN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2025

Celebrating an exceptional volunteer who has made a real difference in tennis or padel, notably in the past year.

### **The nominee:**

- Has made a significant voluntary contribution worthy of recognition.
- Has helped tennis or padel to be more welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring.
- Has shown creativity, passion, and initiative in their volunteering.

Volunteers may be involved in clubs, organisations, communities, schools, universities, or parks. This may be a continuous contribution or by leading an impactful short-term project.

## CLUB OF THE YEAR 2025

Recognising an LTA Registered tennis or padel club that stands as a shining example of a well governed, thriving and sustainable grassroots club.\*

### **The nominee:**

- Has had success in membership growth and/or retention reflecting its welcoming culture and effective management.
- Has outstanding community engagement demonstrating the club's inclusivity and wide participation across all ages and abilities.
- Works to provide high-quality facilities all year round to members and players
- Is a strong club and coach relationship leading to excellent coaching and player development, with programmes nurturing all levels.

\*NB: Examples of achievements might include growing membership, improving facilities, fundraising success or community outreach projects.

# COACH OF THE YEAR 2025

For a club or community coach making a big impact in their venue both on and off court.

## The nominee:

- Runs a successful and innovative coaching programme in tennis and/or padel that demonstrates participation growth, inclusion of diverse audiences, safeguarding standards and accessibility to local communities.
- Demonstrates evidence of best practise on-court coaching alongside adopting LTA programmes that drive participation.
- Demonstrates an outstanding commitment to ongoing professional development to be the best coach they can be (ideally LTA Accredited+).
- Supports and develops others through leadership and teamwork and is a positive role model on the wider tennis community.

If the Coach is not eligible to be Accredited+ (they hold an LTA Assistant or LTA Instructor qualification), they must demonstrate a strong commitment to their professional development through formal and informal CPD.

# COMPETITION OF THE YEAR 2025

Recognising an outstanding, inclusive and enjoyable competition experience.

## The nominee:

- Has been excellent in its organisation, delivery and communications.
- Has been welcoming and enjoyable for players, and spectators.
- Has demonstrated, safeguarding and safety practices.
- Has demonstrated inclusion by inspiring people from a range of backgrounds to take part.
- Is innovative and well-promoted, with good local partnerships, off-court ideas and has utilised LTA systems (such as Competition Management System) including the ITF World Tennis Number.

The competition could be an event or series of events for players of any age or ability including LTA Youth Team Challenge, inter-club leagues; club or park-based recreational competitions; higher level junior or adult tournaments including County Championships, a senior's tennis competition or a professional event.

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025

Recognising an individual who has made an extraordinary, long-term impact on tennis or padel in a club or community setting.

## The nominee:

- Has contributed in one or more tennis venues or communities for over 30 years.
- Has helped make tennis more welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring.
- Has shown strong teamwork or leadership.
- Has adapted and supported the game as it has evolved.

This award is typically for volunteers but may include some paid work. It honours those who have made a lasting difference - true 'unsung heroes'.

# LTA PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2025

A special national award given at the discretion of the LTA President.

This award is for an individual or group that has achieved something unique, exceptional and impactful in the last year or few years, that does not fit into another LTA Awards Category.

All nominations will go directly to the LTA President for judging.

# OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR 2025

For an LTA Official making an outstanding contribution to tennis or padel.

## The nominee:

- Holds an LTA Officials Licence\*
- Has shown an outstanding contribution to tennis or padel and goes above and beyond in their role.
- Is a role model delivering high-quality in delivery and customer service.
- Shows a commitment to on-going learning with consideration to diversity and inclusion.

\*A recognised County/District League Organiser, Court Supervisor, Competition Organiser, Umpire or Referee)

# PARK VENUE OF THE YEAR 2025

For an outstanding park-based venue which has made an impact in making tennis accessible to their community, notably in the past year

## The nominee:

- Is an LTA registered park venue with achievements worthy of recognition\*
- Has increased participation and offered quality playing opportunities that appeal to a wide range of local players.
- Has successfully engaged with the local community.
- Provides a safe, inclusive, welcoming, long term viable, and environmentally sustainable tennis environment.

\*Examples of achievements: facility improvements, more community partnerships, new outreach efforts, or fundraising successes.

# PERFORMANCE COACH OF THE YEAR 2025

Recognising an outstanding coach developing international juniors, professional players or 14U/10U players on the player pathway.

## The nominee:

- Holds LTA Accreditation+.
- Has made a significant difference to a player or group of players over the past year.
- Is a role model showing innovation, professionalism and integrity.
- Is committed to continuous personal and professional development.

# PROTECT WHERE WE PLAY AWARD 2025

New for 2025, this award recognises a venue or initiative that is leading the way in promoting environmental responsibility within tennis or padel. This accolade celebrates those who demonstrate excellence across the criteria below.

## **The nominee has demonstrated excellence across:**

- Climate Action - taking action to reduce carbon emissions, whether through energy-efficient lighting, clean energy, or promoting sustainable travel
- Reducing Waste - such as through recycling schemes, responsible water management, plastic reduction, and sustainable sourcing.
- Supporting Nature - helping to protect and enhance local biodiversity.
- Community Engagement - engaging and inspiring players and the wider community to take positive action

These achievements should highlight a commitment to sustainability and the venue or initiative's positive impact on both the sport and the planet.

# SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2025

Recognising a school or not-for-profit school network with tennis making a difference.

## **The nominee:**

- Is a registered member of the LTA Youth Schools website.
- Uses tennis to deliver curriculum PE and/or extracurricular opportunities with a significant number of students taking part.
- Offers meaningful competitive tennis opportunities for students.
- Has developed strong and sustainable community links including with a local LTA Accredited coach and/or LTA Registered Venue, to encourage pupils to continue playing outside of school.

# TENNIS OPENED UP AWARD 2025

Celebrating those helping to break down barriers and open tennis and/or padel up to everyone.

## **The nominee:**

- Creates safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments in community tennis or padel settings, actively removing barriers to participation.
- Uses creative and innovative approaches to engage under-represented groups.
- Makes tennis and/or padel fun, accessible, and relevant - such as through the use of adaptive equipment or tailored formats.
- Helps connect people to further opportunities to play, including signposting to other venues or programmes.
- Demonstrates clear social impact - improving lives, increasing engagement and connecting communities through tennis and/or padel.

Examples include involvement in programmes such as LTA SERVES, Open Court, Rally Allies, Walking Tennis, Pickleball, or partnerships with local community groups and charities.

# UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2025

Celebrating a university making tennis including padel accessible and engaging for students.

## **The nominee:**

- Is registered with the LTA at the time of nomination
- Has shown creativity, offering a wide and inclusive weekly programme including competition for all
- Provides students with opportunities to gain life skills, training and experience through tennis and padel.
- Demonstrates how the university and/or students contribute to tennis development beyond the student body.
- Has built a strong tennis culture promoting teamwork and leadership.

# YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR 2025

For a young individual who has made a positive impact through leading or supporting activity in tennis or padel.

## **The nominee:**

- Is aged 14 - 24 as of 31 December 2025
- Is a positive role model and has inspired people from a range of backgrounds.
- Has shown initiative, creativity and dedication in their involvement.
- Has demonstrated a commitment to their personal development.

The award is largely for voluntary contributions but may include some paid roles. Roles include a tennis leader, club committee, coaching assistant, coach, competition organiser or Young Persons Welfare Ambassador. This could be in any setting including in a club, community, school, university, or park venue.

# LTA MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS 2025

This is the highest level of LTA Award, recognising volunteers who have made a significant long-term contribution to tennis through a County Association for at least 20 years.

The individuals awarded will have achieved something exceptional and impactful that has made a difference to our sport in a variety of ways.

Nominations for Meritorious Service Awards are to be made by County Associations directly and cannot be made by the general public.

The nomination process will be communicated via the LTA President's Office with a separate nomination form in October. Please note that this award is not appropriate for those who have achieved higher office such as LTA President (past or present), nor for current LTA Councillors.