

LTA TENNIS AWARDS 2022 JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations are for contributions and achievements made in 2021, with the exception of the Lifetime Achievement award. Nominations are judged against the criteria below:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The nominee:

1. Has made an exceptional contribution to their tennis club(s) or community for more than 30 years
2. Has opened up tennis to enable more people to play and enjoy tennis
3. Has shown excellent teamwork or leadership
4. Has shown consideration of diversity, inclusion and safeguarding
5. Has shown an open mind-set and a willingness to adapt as tennis has changed

The individual's contributions can be in any capacity including (but not limited to) within a club, community, school, university or park venue. Their contributions will likely have been largely in a voluntary capacity but may include some paid work. Examples may include (but not limited to) within club leadership or administration, coaching, competitions, events.

Note: this award is aimed at those making contributions at a club or grassroots level, rather than for contributions at a County, Regional or National level. Services to Counties are acknowledged through the Meritorious Services Awards.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Has volunteered in tennis in any capacity for the benefit of others
2. Has directly or indirectly helped or inspired people to play tennis, putting other people's interests before their own
3. Has done something creative or innovative on or off court – such as making use of technology or helping to develop facilities
4. Has shown excellent teamwork and leadership with consideration of diversity, inclusion and safeguarding

The award is for an exceptional individual who will have made contributions in any voluntary capacity including (but not limited to) within their club, community, school, university, park venue or County. They may have volunteered at any level, or in any role, including "behind the scenes".

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is aged 13 to 18 on 31st December 2021
2. Has made a contribution to tennis, helping others to play and enjoy the sport
3. Has done something creative or innovative on or off court
4. Has shown great teamwork and developed their skills in some way

The individual's contributions will have been largely voluntary but might include paid work. Contributions could include (but are not limited to) as a tennis leader, club volunteer, assistant coach, competition organiser, or administrative helper. This could be in any setting including in a club, community, school or park venue.

DEVELOPMENT COACH OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is a club or community coach holding LTA Accreditation or Accreditation +
2. Has delivered a successful coaching programme, showing innovative on-court delivery and customer service within tennis and/or padel
3. Has shown creativity and initiative, making good use of relevant LTA programmes
4. Has made tennis welcoming and accessible with consideration of diversity, inclusion and safeguarding
5. Has shown great teamwork and leadership skills with a commitment to their own personal development, whilst developing other coaches or leaders

PERFORMANCE COACH OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is a performance coach holding LTA Accreditation +
2. Has delivered a successful coaching programme and/or developed a performance player or group of performance players within tennis and/or padel
3. Has made a significant contribution to county, regional or national training, showing good practice with regards to diversity, inclusion and safeguarding
4. Has shown creativity and outstanding leadership, with a commitment to their own personal development

CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is an LTA registered venue which has achieved something of note*
2. Has provided quality tennis opportunities to existing and new members, relative to the size and location of the club, being innovative in approach
3. Has shown creativity, making use of relevant LTA programmes and embracing change such as with padel installation or new technology
4. Has offered first-rate support and engagement with members and the wider community; working with the County Association and/or National Governing Body
5. Has provided a welcoming, accessible and inclusive environment adhering to all safeguarding standards

The club could be a traditional members club, a commercial club, a community tennis centre, a padel club, or a club on a park site. The key is that the club has a membership

* examples of achievements might include (but not limited to): facility improvements, more members, more non-member players, better financial position, raising funds, opening up to the community, additional activities, leadership in safeguarding practices.

COMMUNITIES & PARKS AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is a venue, group, organisation, programme or individual that has provided tennis opportunities within a community or park setting, achieving something of note*
2. Has been innovative in approach, and adapted to ongoing challenges
3. Has provided the opportunity for people to play tennis, showing excellent engagement with the community
4. Has provided a safe playing environment, making tennis welcoming, accessible and inclusive, demonstrating excellent safeguarding standards

The delivery of tennis could be within any setting including (but not limited to) a Community Indoor Tennis Centre, community social or leisure centre, an educational or religious establishment, a SERVES site, a park or recreational ground, or across a number of sites or venues.

* examples could include (but not limited to): facility improvement, more players or members, player success, new links with local groups, clubs or schools, raising funds, additional activities, new ways of making tennis more accessible.

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. An officially recognised school, or a not-for-profit school sport network (not a commercial provider), registered with the LTA Youth Schools website.
2. Has used tennis to deliver curriculum Physical Education outcomes and to provide out of school hours opportunities to a significant number of pupils.
3. Has provided significant intra/inter competitive opportunities for pupils, through tennis.
4. Has developed strong and sustainable links with a local LTA Accredited coach and / or LTA Registered Venue, to encourage pupils to continue playing outside of school

UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is a University registered to the LTA
2. Has shown creativity in offering a significant and varied programme of tennis coaching and competition to a large proportion of students
3. Has found innovative ways for students to develop their transferable skills through tennis and has provided students with opportunities for work experience, through links with the wider tennis community including local tennis venues
4. Has shown teamwork and leadership in creating a vibrant culture which opens tennis up to all students

DISABILITY AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is a venue, group, organisation or programme that has provided disability tennis*, achieving something of note in**
2. Has responded positively during the year for the benefit of people with an impairment or long-term health condition
3. Has shown innovation and creativity in order to make tennis relevant and accessible to existing and new players
4. Has demonstrated inclusion and teamwork

*this could be a pan-disability approach or an impairment specific one, or for people with a long-term-health condition.

** examples could include (but not limited to): facility development, more players or members, player success, new links with local groups, clubs or schools, raising funds, additional activities.

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is an LTA Licensed Official (e.g. Referee, Umpire, Court Supervisor or League Organiser) or a recognised County/District League Organiser
2. Has shown an outstanding contribution to tennis, going above and beyond their role
3. Is a role model who showed quality delivery and/or customer service
4. Has shown an interest in ongoing learning and, where possible/relevant, shown innovation and initiative with consideration to diversity and inclusion

COMPETITION OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is any type of tennis or padel competition such as a tournament or League, of any level, that has been outstanding in its organisation and delivery
2. Has been welcoming and enjoyable for players and/or spectators, whilst demonstrating excellent safeguarding and safety practices
3. Has been well organised, with strong leadership and teamwork
4. Has shown creativity whilst adhering to all guidelines to ensure the safety of players and spectators
5. Has shown innovation with good promotion, off court ideas and activities, and linked up well with local clubs, groups, coaches and communities

The competition could be an event or series of events for players of any age or ability including (but not limited to): Team Challenge or internal competition, county & district leagues; club or park-based competitions; higher level junior or adult events including County Championships, a seniors tennis competition, disability competition or a professional event..

THE LTA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The LTA President's Award is presented at a national level to an individual or group that has done something exceptional in 2021 not covered by the other categories.

The award is judged and presented at the discretion of the LTA President in consultation with the national judging panel, and does not have specific criteria.