

LTA TENNIS AWARDS 2024 JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations are judged on contributions and achievements made in 2023, with the exception of the Lifetime Achievement and Meritorious Service awards. Nominations are judged against the criteria below:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The nominee:

1. Has made an exceptional contribution to their tennis club(s) or community for over 30 years
2. Has been a trailblazer in opening 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 are not limited to) club leadership or administration, coaching, competitions, events.

Note: this award is aimed at those making contributions, however large or small, to their local venues or communities. Services at a County, Regional or National level are recognised through the Meritorious Services Awards.

THE CATHIE SABIN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is an exceptional individual who has volunteered in tennis during the year, doing something worthy of recognition
2. Has demonstrated inclusion by inspiring people from a range of backgrounds to play tennis
3. Has shown creativity or innovation in their volunteering activities in any capacity associated with tennis

The award is for those making contributions in any voluntary capacity including (but not limited to) within their club, County, community, school, university or park venue. They could be volunteering in a formal or informal way. Examples may include (but are not limited to) club leadership or administration, coaching, competitions, events, or helping out "behind the scenes".

RISING STAR AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is aged 13-21 as at 31 December 2023 and has volunteered or helped out in tennis (in any capacity)
2. Has demonstrated inclusion by inspiring people from a range of backgrounds to play tennis, being a role model to others
3. Has shown creativity or innovation in their volunteering activities in any capacity associated with tennis
4. Can show that their volunteering activities have contributed to their personal development

The award is largely for voluntary contributions but might include paid roles (e.g. for supporting coaching) including (but 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+. If not currently Accredited+, demonstrates a strong commitment to their professional development through formal and informal CPD
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 and/or LTA technical, tactical and coaching frameworks
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+ working with *either* International Juniors/Pro Players *or* 14U/10U Players on the player pathway
2. Has had a significant impact in developing a player or group of players over the past year
3. Is an outstanding role model who has shown innovation, professionalism and integrity
4. Has shown a commitment to their own personal development

CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is an LTA registered venue of any size which can demonstrate an achievement(s) of note*
2. Has developed strong relationships with their coaching team and community partners to provide quality tennis opportunities to existing and new members relative to the size and location of the club, being innovative in approach and embracing change
3. Works hard to create a positive and inclusive club environment

The club can be any type of tennis club which has a membership – e.g.: a traditional members club, a commercial club, a community tennis centre or a padel club.

* examples of achievements might include (but not limited to): facility improvements, a significant growth in membership, an increase in non-member playing opportunities, an improved financial position, fundraising success, leadership in safeguarding practices or championing environmental sustainability

PARK VENUE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is a venue operating in a park setting, registered to the LTA, which can demonstrate an achievement(s) worthy of recognition*
2. Has provided quality tennis opportunities for people within the community to play tennis, increasing the number of people playing over the year
3. Has been successful in driving deeper and broader engagement within the community
4. Creates a great environment to play tennis: being welcoming, safe and inclusive whilst being a champion of environmental sustainability

* 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.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is an individual, group, organisation or project that has provided tennis opportunities within any community setting
2. Has provided innovative ways for people within the community to engage with tennis, with a strong emphasis on those under-represented or under-served within the sport
3. Has been successful in driving deeper and broader engagement within the community, and has demonstrated positive social impact
4. Has provided a great and fun playing environment: making tennis safe, welcoming, accessible and inclusive

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is 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 pupils in an accessible and enjoyable way. Impact could be demonstrated through new activities and/or innovative activities, and/or the number of pupils taking part (relative to the total pupil population).
3. Has provided new and/or 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 in a relevant and enjoyable way
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

TENNIS FOR ALL AWARD

The nominee:

1. Is an individual, venue, group, organisation or programme that has been a pioneer in bringing tennis to under-represented groups or communities, demonstrating something of note in the past year
2. Has been a champion of inclusion, removing any current and potential barriers
3. Has inspired positive change, creating the atmosphere for people to feel safe and welcomed
4. Shown innovation and creativity in order to make tennis relevant and accessible to existing and new players

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

The nominee:

1. Is an LTA Licensed Official (e.g. Referee, Umpire, Competition Organiser, Court Supervisor 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 has shown quality in 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 a tournament or competition of any level that has been outstanding in its organisation and delivery
2. Has been welcoming and enjoyable for players, spectators, and/or fans, whilst demonstrating excellent safeguarding and safety practices
3. Has been well organised, with strong leadership and teamwork, and excellent communication with players / parents
4. Has shown innovation with good promotion, off court ideas and activities, and linked up well with local clubs, groups, coaches and communities and supported the World Tennis Number
5. Has demonstrated inclusion by inspiring people from a range of backgrounds to take part in the competition.

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

THE LTA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The LTA President's Award is an award presented at a national level to an individual or group that has done something exceptional or innovative in 2023. This is a discretionary award given by the LTA President, intended to be presented to a nominee that doesn't meet the criteria in any other categories.

Nominations can be made by anyone.

LTA MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Meritorious Service Awards are given at the discretion of the President for long service to tennis at a County, Regional and National level.

Nominations are invited from member organisations (i.e. all organisations represented at Council). The President may also nominate.

The nominee:

1. Has made a significant impact in tennis over a number of years in County, Regional or National activities. This will usually be in a voluntary capacity but may include paid work too.
2. Has contributed to providing more opportunities for people to participate in tennis
3. Has developed a legacy in tennis in their County, Region or at a National level
4. Has shown excellent teamwork skills throughout their involvement and been inclusive of people from different backgrounds