



The Role of the Chair

Dorset Tennis The Board of Directors/Executive Management Committee members ¹ are ultimately responsible for Dorset Tennis. The Board is led by its Chair who is a member of the Board. The Board and its Chair are elected annually by the members of Dorset Tennis, in accordance with its governing document.

The mission of Dorset Tennis is to grow tennis in Dorset (The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and Dorset Council areas) by making the game relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.

The focus of Dorset Tennis is in four areas:

- **Participation:** Increase participation in tennis at all levels by supporting clubs, venues, coaches, officials and tennis volunteers, schools and children.
- **Competitions:** Promote competitions throughout the county to encourage players of all standards to take part.
- **Performance:** Support performance tennis players in the county to achieve their potential, including representing their county, and gaining opportunities for advancement through player regional and national development pathways and competing at the highest levels in the sport.
- **Volunteering and Governance:** Maintain the highest standards of governance in everything that Dorset Tennis does, including safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults.

The role of the Chair is focussed on the following broad areas:

1. To lead the Board in its discussions and decision-making processes. To lead by example and ensure that the Board exercises the highest standards of governance generally, and specifically in meeting the LTA's County Governance Standards.
2. To ensure that the views of Board members are equally heard in its discussions. To ensure that the organisation of the Board's business and that of its delegated sub-committees is conducted in accordance with its own governing document and the best standards of governance.

¹ For the sake of brevity the term 'Board' is used throughout this role description to describe the governing body of Dorset Tennis. Currently Dorset Tennis is an unincorporated Members Association governed by its rules. It aims to become a charitable incorporated Organisation within the foreseeable future. This role description is written with this transformation in mind.

- 3.** To lead the recruitment, induction, training and appraisal of Board members, other volunteers and paid coaches and officials, striving to achieving a proper diversity of views and perspectives in the membership of the Board, its sub-committees, other volunteers and paid staff.
- 4.** To ensure that the highest standards of financial management are applied to the resources of Dorset Tennis.
- 5.** To maintain accountability and transparency to the membership of Dorset Tennis members in accordance with its governing document. Also to account to the LTA nationally in accordance with the terms of the LTA's grant to the county.
- 6.** To ensure that Dorset Tennis meets its legal obligations.
- 7.** To promote a positive and inclusive culture throughout Tennis within the County, and to promote participation in the game of Tennis and Padel tennis.
- 8.** To ensure that the welfare and safety of children and any vulnerable persons taking part in activities organised by Dorset Tennis are safeguarded, and that risks to the safety and welfare of participants are properly assessed and where possible these are reduced or eliminated.
- 9.** To facilitate competitions at every level and every age group for tennis players in the County, including teams representing Dorset in national competitions.
- 10.** To encourage and facilitate the growth of tennis players playing the game at the highest levels of performance.

January 2024