

Guidance for determining whether grass courts are playable

Following a serious accident to one of our club members when playing on wet grass the following guidance **should be read by all tennis players**.

Following rain, dew, or heavy humidity, and when grounds staff / Tennis Committee members are around, the grass courts are assessed as to whether they can be played on or not and, when required, signs are put out stating: "Grass courts closed". However, the club is not manned full time so **it is the responsibility of members** to decide whether or not to play when the courts start to become wet – to this effect there is a Waiver of Liability statement that all members are required to sign.

It is important to stress that players wear **suitable footwear!** – see below.

How to determine if the court is fit to use

Step 1. Check surface moisture.

Check if there is any dampness by putting your hand on the grass. When you physically move do you feel any slipperiness under foot. If neither, then the courts are **suitable** to play on.

Step 2. Observe any damage to courts when playing. When you start to play you may see your foot movements damaging, cutting or ripping up the grass - then the courts are **too soft** to play on.

If there are bare patches on the courts (baselines in particular) you can check whether the sole of your shoe leaves a print. If it does the courts are **too soft** and need longer to dry out.

If in doubt ask a Tennis Committee member, groundsman, coach or an experienced member for their advice.

Tennis shoes.

A big part of the tennis game is movement. To move well, tennis shoes are required to provide grip. Please do not use any **non-tennis** shoes on any of the courts.

Grass court shoes – These have a dimpled sole. This provides grip for players with their explosive movements on grass courts - a surface that can be slippery. While some players may not want to pay for another pair of shoes that will only be used for 6 months of the year, the shoes will last for 3 or 4 seasons. This can depend on frequency of use; but also the level the player plays at. Social / mix-in players would only need to replace them every 3 or 4 seasons, while competitive / team players may need a pair every 2 years. These shoes are available through the Pro Shop.



Grass court sole

Clay court shoes – These have a soft textured herringbone pattern. Effective on artificial clay and astroturf. Sold as suitable for grass but only if it's completely dry. This pattern helps you get better grip when sprinting, stopping or changing directions. These are also available through the Pro Shop.



Clay court sole

Hard court shoes – These have a harder wearing sole with pattern to provide grip. Hard courts (tarmac) are abrasive and demanding on the shoes. These shoes are not suitable for play on grass courts, as they provide the least grip. They are also not very suitable for play on artificial clay and astroturf courts where a softer sole is required to provide grip. Although the club no longer has any hard courts, this note is important for team players who may have to play on hard courts at other clubs.



Hard court sole