

LTA TENNIS AWARDS 2025 JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations should reflect contributions and achievements within tennis and will be judged against the criteria below:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is aimed at those making a significant contribution, to their venues or communities.

1. Has made a contribution to their tennis venue(s) or community for over 30 years.
2. Has opened up tennis to more people, making it safe, welcoming and enjoyable.
3. Has shown excellent teamwork or leadership.
4. Has shown an open mind-set and a willingness to adapt as tennis has progressed.

The individual's contributions can be in any capacity including within a club, community, school, university or park venue, and will likely have been largely in a voluntary capacity but may include some paid work. A real 'unsung hero'.

THE CATHIE SABIN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

1. Is an exceptional individual who has volunteered in tennis doing work 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 within their Club, County, Community, School, University or Park venue. They could be volunteering in a formal or informal way.

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

1. Is aged 14-24 as of 31st December 2024 and has volunteered or supported tennis (in any capacity)
2. Has inspired people from a range of backgrounds to play tennis and a positive role model to others.
3. Has shown pro-activeness, creativity and innovation in any capacity associated with tennis.
4. Has demonstrated that their volunteering activities have contributed to their personal development.

The award is largely for voluntary contributions but may include some paid roles (e.g. for supporting coaching) including (but not limited to) as a tennis leader, club volunteer, coaching assistant, coach, competition organiser, Young Persons Welfare Ambassador or administrative helper.

This could be in any setting including in a club, community, school, university, or park venue.

COACH OF THE YEAR

1. Is a club or community coach holding LTA Accreditation+.
2. Has delivered a successful coaching programme, showing innovative on-court delivery and customer service within tennis and/or padel.
3. Is engaged with 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 supporting the workforce and developing other coaches and young leaders.

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.

PERFORMANCE COACH OF THE YEAR

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 demonstrated innovation, professionalism and integrity?
4. Has shown a commitment to their own personal and professional development.

CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

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 all.
3. Being innovative in approach and embracing change to Open Tennis Up to all.
4. Works hard to create a positive and inclusive club environment.

The club can be any type of tennis or padel 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 facility improvements, a significant growth in membership, an increase in non-member playing opportunities, an improved financial position, fundraising success or championing environmental sustainability

PARK VENUE OF THE YEAR AWARD

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 local community.
4. Creates a great environment to play tennis: being welcoming, safe and inclusive whilst being a champion of environmental sustainability.

* Examples could include 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.

TENNIS OPENED UP AWARD

1. Is a venue, club, individual, group, organisation or project that has provided tennis or padel opportunities within a community setting, removing any current or potential barriers
2. Has provided innovative ways for people within the community to engage with tennis or padel, with a strong emphasis on those under-represented or under-served within the sport.
3. Has created links and further playing opportunities to those who may want them within other tennis venues.
4. Has shown innovation and creativity in order to make tennis relevant and accessible to existing and new players.
5. Has been successful in driving deeper and broader engagement within the community and has demonstrated positive social impact.

Activities could include the LTA Open Court programme, LTA SERVES programme, Walking Tennis, partnerships with local charities and organisations

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

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

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.

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

1. Is an LTA Licensed Official (e.g. A recognised County/District League Organiser, Court Supervisor, Competition Organiser, Umpire or Referee)
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

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 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.

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 2024. 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 LTA President for service to tennis within a County, Region or Nationally.

Nominations can be made by National, County and Island Associations only.

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

1. Has made a significant impact in tennis over several years in County, Regional or National activities. This will usually be in a voluntary capacity but may also include paid work.
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 Nationally.
4. Has shown excellent teamwork and inspired others to make tennis safe, welcoming and enjoyable.