



AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE BTA

Dear Member,

For a long-time, the Barbados Tennis Association Inc. (BTA) had a dream of expanding the facilities of the National Tennis Centre (NTC). We appreciate that such an increase in the natural resources of the BTA could further facilitate the positive growth and development of tennis in Barbados at all levels. It was envisioned that the expansion would translate into further developing our young players to world ranking, strengthen our membership, increase promotion of our programmes and activities, open the door for greater participation in regional and international tennis, and by extension, enhance the image of tennis in Barbados and the Association overall.

The Maria Holder Memorial Trust has helped to make our collective dreams come true. Thanks to their very generous donation, we now have three (3) additional courts, a new hitting wall, and a newly uplifted Club House nestled within a more secure and visually appealing tennis plant. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting protocols and global shut-downs continue to severely limit our ability to meet face-to-face, host fundraising activities, host or participate in local and international tennis tournaments or send our junior players overseas. Furthermore, our social tennis environment at the NTC has also been affected. While there is no doubt that the last twenty-one (21) months have been a challenge for our members and tennis as a whole, seeing the new physical plant has revitalised all of us.

Indeed, we have resolved to be even more strategic in how these resources are used to ensure a) the BTA's financial sustainability and b) re-establish the family culture of the NTC. As a member, your role is essential to our achievement of these goals as we rely heavily on your membership, support and participation, donations and sponsorship, and your ongoing use of the courts at the NTC.

More Strategic Use of Resources

The Facility

A recent review of the finances has revealed that our membership subscription and court rental fees have been steady for over ten (10) years without an increase, despite the constantly rising cost of maintaining the facility, particularly the grounds and courts. However, taking into consideration the further increased maintenance, utility and insurance costs associated with the expanded plant, as well as the negative and protracted impact of the pandemic, we are forced to face the harsh reality that we can no longer absorb the increases without affecting the viability of the BTA. As a result, effective January 1, 2022, membership subscriptions and the per-hour court rentals fees will be increased marginally. **Please see Appendix 1 for details on the same.**

The Staff

A new management structure is in place at the NTC to assist the Executive Council with the efficient running of the facility and programmes. The following team is therefore responsible for the day-to-day management of the NTC.

1. Mr. Damien Applewhaite will serve as the interim Director of Tennis.
2. Ms. Cherise Slocombe will serve as Administrator, effective December 8, 2021.
3. Mr. Julian Baird and Mr. Christian Maxwell will continue to steadfastly provide coaching services to the junior players of the Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) programme, and to other persons interested in learning to play tennis.

We are confident that this new structure will help us improve our services to you, our valued members.

New Streams of Income

As part of the new efforts to raise funds, the BTA will soon be renting billboard space at the facility. Rates will be offered as 1-year contracts or 2+ year contracts, with additional opportunities for benches around the grounds to be sponsored.

Those interested in booking a space for the promotion of businesses or brands are asked to contact the BTA via email at tennisbarbados@caribsurf.com. Alternatively, please feel free to call either of the following Council members for details:

1. Mr. Junior King, Vice President (246 230-3031)
2. Mrs. Grace Chambers, Councilor (246 243-2581)

Re-establishing the Family Culture

New Programmes

It is a widely known belief that *"the family that plays together; stays together."* Thus, in addition to our continued efforts at improving and expanding the use of the School Adoption Programme and the Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) programme, we are also now developing a solid programme to support adult tennis at the NTC.

Exciting, flexible, and affordable all-access tennis programmes have been designed for both juniors and adults who want to be introduced to and grow in the sport of tennis. Private individual, semi-private and group classes are available. We encourage parents of junior players to take advantage of these programmes intended to help educate tennis parents about the benefits and opportunities offered by involvement in tennis, as well as assist in their ability to better contribute to the management of their children in the sport.

Contact us via tennisbarbados@caribsurf.com or click on the links below to register.

a) Junior Programme: <http://bit.ly/BTA-JTIRegForm>

b) Adult Programme: <http://bit.ly/BTA-ATIRegForm>



Safety Protocols

We are presently living through a pandemic. To ensure that we are all able to *continue* to enjoy tennis and keep you safe while at the NTC, the following COVID protocols are in place.

All members, patrons, and other visitors to the NTC must adhere to the following:

- a) *Points of Access*: All must enter through the main entrance by the car park.
- b) *Temperature and Sanitation station*: All must log their names, temperature, and contact details upon entry to the facility.

Finally, we are very conscious that improved communication and increased transparency will help us to continue to create a more trusting tennis environment. Please be assured that we, the Executive Council, are committed to the same. In the coming weeks and months, you will hear more from us about upcoming events and activities of the BTA as we work together to develop and promote tennis in Barbados.

The Barbados Tennis Association

APPENDIX 1¹

A. Increase in Court Rental fees

Court bookings are facilitated via the BTA's online booking system² and the newly expanded facility offers more opportunities for members to use the courts during peak hours. Details on opening and closing times, as well as overall court booking procedures will be shared in a separate document. In the interim, following are a few key points of note when booking courts, effective January 1, 2022.

1. A commercial coaching* rate applies to any courts used for coaching, *irrespective* of the number of players. Further, all coaches must have public liability insurance.
2. Court rental rates are fixed for BTA members, up to a maximum of four (4) BTA members playing on the court at a time.
3. BTA members *may* also invite non-BTA members to play. In such instances, while the first non-BTA member is complementary, any *additional* non-BTA members on the court will each be required to pay a \$5 fee.
4. Following is the new fee structure that will apply at that time.

Rental Description	New Structure for Hourly Court Rental Fees	
	No Lights	With Lights
BTA Members	\$15	\$30
Non-BTA Members	\$25	\$45
Commercial Coaching*	\$30	\$50

B. Increase in Annual Membership dues

Effective January 1, 2022 membership dues will also be increased. The table below outlines the new structure.

Description	Old Fee Structure	New Fee Structure
One-Time Entrance Fee (joining fee)	\$40 (Adults) \$ 20 (Juniors)	\$50 (Adults) \$25 (Juniors)
Membership (Adults, 18 & over)	\$50	\$60
Membership (Juniors, Under 18)	\$25	\$30

¹ Shared by the Barbados Tennis Association on December 2, 2021

² <http://www.tennisbarbados.org/book-your-courts-online>



C. Brief Summary of New Roles

Director of Tennis: This role is primarily responsible for managing the facility at the NTC (including its rules, policies, and physical maintenance), developing services and programmes (including rostering Coaches), and preparing regular reports to the Executive Council on the management of the facility and its programmes.

Administrator: The Administrator is responsible for the collection of payments including fees and subscriptions, office management (including office administration and supervision of daily cleaning), acting as Assistant Tennis Director at tournaments, & assisting with court scheduling.