

GUIDANCE ON NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP OF YOUR CLUB

We are all committed to keeping tennis safe. Under the Incorporated Societies Act, non-voting membership is a way that all participants can be covered by the same, nationwide, expectations on behaviour. That's why the Modernising Tennis programme is bringing a 'system-wide membership' approach.

In the system-wide membership model, clubs will have categories in your membership section for non-voting members. This can include people like casuals (e.g. BookACourt or Pay to Play), coaches (if not a club member) and parents of junior members (if not already members). Some of these sections will be new for clubs as part of the modernising changes so we have provided some guidance below.

It is important to note, that even though your club will have a larger number of non-voting members, you still can define and determine the rights and obligations of these categories to your club's needs (i.e. we know some clubs allow parents of juniors to vote) These non-voting members will also become non-voting members of the RTO and of TNZ as part of this process.

The benefits of this system, and of having everyone included as a "member" – either voting or not – is that national/regional and local policies and regulations apply to all who play and participate at your club – keeping everyone safer, more connected and more informed.

The TNZ Club Constitution Guidance notes has an appendix with example wording and categories of non-voting members for clubs to use and amend if they wish.

WHO SHOULD/COULD BE A NON-VOTING MEMBER	POTENTIAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS TO INCLUDE IN CONSTITUTION	RATIONALE FOR INCLUDING THEM IN THE SYSTEMWIDE APPROACH
Casual Participants These are people who use the club/courts for ah-hoc or one off uses through a BookACourt or pay to play option. They are not subscribed members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No voting• Access to the courts for the period of time they have purchased• Any other rights of membership the committee wish to give this group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Having a clear understanding of who uses the courts, when and how often can support clubs with funding, trends and insights and health and safety issues if they arise.
Coach Members These are coaches, who may have a contract with the club to deliver coaching services, but are NOT already a member via either contractual agreement or their own subscription	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No voting• Access to courts for the provision of the services outlined (or access as granted by the committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is important that coaches who are not already a member, are included so that clubs, RTO and TNZ policies of code of conduct/behaviour apply
Club Appointed Personnel Similar to the coaching category above, this captures any club managers or committee members who are not given a subscription membership as part of their role, or are not already a subscription member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Voting• No Access to courts and facilities (unless granted in a contractual agreement or role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is important that those who operate at the club, who are not already a member, are included so that clubs, RTO and TNZ policies of code of conduct/behaviour apply
Parent Members This refers to parents of junior (U18) subscription members. This will likely be new for most clubs but is similar to a social membership many clubs have had previously.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No voting (some clubs do give parents of juniors the right to vote on behalf)• No access to courts• Any other rights of membership the committee wish to give this group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is important to the sport and to clubs, that all those who interact with the club (in any capacity) should be bound and protected by national, local and club policies. Having this important group as members allows this connection and coverage in the most effective and efficient way.

TALKING ABOUT NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP

HOW YOU MIGHT TALK TO QUESTIONS ABOUT....

Employees and Coaches (who are not already members)

- As our club is part of the wider tennis system in New Zealand we've signed up to national policies for safety and integrity. System-wide membership means you're a non-voting member of the club, our Regional Tennis Organisation and Tennis NZ and that is what makes all the national policies apply.
- We want our club community to know that we are providing a safe and welcoming environment here, which is where the national policies come in, along with tools like police vetting that people expect us to use and have in place.

Casuals

- As our club is part of the wider tennis system in new Zealand we've signed up to national policies for safety and integrity. Your non-voting membership is triggered to ensure everyone who plays at our club and our club itself, is protected by this system. There is nothing further for you to do, it acts as a safety net for everyone and sits in the background.

Parents

- As our club is part of the wider tennis system in new Zealand we've signed up to national policies for safety and integrity. We ask you to join this system as a member because your child is under 18. We also want you to be covered by the policies for when you're at the club. You have nothing further to do, it acts as a safety net for everyone and sits in the background.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS APPROACH

“System wide membership is best practice and follows what most sports adhere to. It provides protection for players, committees, clubs, and regions by providing rules, policies, regulations, a code of conduct etc that everyone is bound by and is consistent across all the tennis community.” Chris Casey, GM, Tennis Northern.

“System wide membership – whether people are voting or non voting members – enables everyone in the tennis family in New Zealand to have the benefit of the protection of policies and procedures which ensure tennis is safe and everyone is connected. Without this, people who have acted inappropriately in the context of tennis, may not be held to account which in turn, will impact on the safety, reputation and therefore participation in tennis across NZ” Maria Clarke, Leading NZ Sports Lawyer.