

Padel – Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many padel courts will there be, and when will they be available?

There will be three outdoor padel courts, which are expected to be available from 1 November.

2. What facilities will be available at Alexandra College?

Changing rooms and toilet facilities will be available for members. These facilities will be separate from those used by Alex students. Separate male and female facilities are being provided.

3. Will there be access control?

Yes. We are proposing a scanned access-control system similar to the system currently in place at Brookfield.

Access control will operate at both the rear entrance (“Security Hut”) and at the entrance to the padel courts. Each player will be required to scan in using their own unique phone/account.

To encourage fair use of the courts, members who book but fail to attend on two occasions within a one-month period will have their booking privileges suspended for two weeks. This is intended to prevent courts from being reserved and then left unused.

4. What are the proposed membership rates?

The proposed annual membership rates are:

Single Senior Membership: €550

Couple Membership: €900 (€450 per person)

Family Membership: €1,200

5. Will there be a discount for existing Brookfield members?

Yes. Existing Brookfield members will receive a discount of between 5% and 10%, depending on the number of members who take up padel membership.

6. How can I book a court?

Padel courts will be booked through SmartCloud, in the same way that tennis courts are currently booked.

Padel membership does not include access to or booking rights for the tennis courts.

7. What is the membership process?

Existing Brookfield members will have an exclusive two-week period in which to apply for padel membership.

Following this period, membership will be opened to the general public, subject to a membership selection process similar to that currently used for Brookfield tennis membership.

Membership numbers will be limited. Once the available padel memberships have been filled, new memberships will generally become available only when an existing member leaves.

8. Who can book the courts, and when?

- **Padel Members:** Have **48-hour priority booking** before other Brookfield Tennis members. (They cannot include non-padel members during this window).
- **Brookfield Tennis Members:** Can book remaining courts after the 48-hour window for **€32/hour**.

Examples

- **Family Membership (1 Brookfield member, 3 non-Brookfield):** All members of a family membership have priority booking rights only with padel members I,e the above 3 non padel members cannot book in the priority window.
- **Couple Membership (Both Brookfield Tennis members):** Both hold priority tennis booking rights but only if playing with a padel member.

9. When will Brookfield Padel Members have access to the courts?

During the school term, from September to June, Brookfield will have exclusive use of the courts:
Weekday evenings: 6.00 pm–10.00 pm
Weekends: 8.00 am–9.00 pm

During July and August, Brookfield will have access seven days a week, generally from 8.00 am–10.00 pm. The following closures will exist also.

- The courts will be closed over the Christmas period – 10 days to 2 weeks, as the College is fully closed. These dates change each year depending on how the school calendar falls.
- The courts will not be available the week of the Transition Year Musical. This is generally in January each year.
- Courts remain on evening schedules only for June due to the State Examinations.
- Courts will not be available for a 3-day to one-week period in August where the courts will be deep cleaned. This will be confirmed in Mid-June annually
- Courts will revert to a 4 pm-8 pm schedule for the last week of August annually due to the return of staff and some boarding students as well as Pre School Students.

10. What is the nature of the lease between Brookfield and Alexandra College?

The proposed arrangement is a three-year lease, with a break clause available to either party after two years.

11. Will car parking be available at Alexandra College?

Yes. Padel members and other permitted users will be entitled to use the car park. All vehicles will be parked at the owner's risk.

12. Can children use the padel courts?

Yes. Children under 16 may use the courts but must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 16 can book their own courts.

Children between 16 and 18 will be given an induction meeting on using the facilities to ensure smooth running.

13. What does padel membership include?

Annual fee includes padel court use, access to changing room facilities in Alex, and access to the Clubhouse and facilities in Brookfield.

14. How long is each court booking?

Bookings are 60 or 90 minutes, and members cannot make consecutive bookings.

15. How many advance bookings can a member hold?

We are proposing initially that members can book a maximum of 3 sessions per week ensuring fair access, particularly at peak times. This will be monitored and may increase or reduce depending on court availability experience.

16. How far in advance can padel members book?

7 days in advance, as with the tennis courts.

17. What is the cancellation policy?

24hours notice must be given to cancel without it counting as a no-show.

18. What happens if bad weather makes the courts unplayable?

In red and amber weather warnings, and when stated by the club, courts will be closed and non-playable; otherwise, bookings are treated as normal.

19. Will floodlights be available?

All three courts are floodlit and will be charged in addition to membership and court bookings as with the tennis courts.

20. Can I bring guests and is there a guest fee?

Yes, you can bring as follows:

Guest Allowance: You are allowed up to **10 guest visits per year**.

Guest Limits: An individual guest can be invited a maximum of **5 times per year**.

Guest Fee: £8 per hour, and all guests must be registered on the system.

21. Can junior members book courts themselves?

An adult must accompany under-16s, but as with the tennis U16 members will be able to make bookings independently.

22. Will coaching and lessons be available?

There be a club coach, individual lessons, group coaching, beginner session and junior coaching? This will take 3 to 6 months to put in place.

23. Will there be organised social padel?

There will be club nights, social games, and tournaments. This could take a few months to organise.

24. What if I am new to padel and don't have anyone to play with?

There will be WhatsApp groups, player-matching, social sessions, or a grading system to help members find games at their level. This will take 3 to 6 months to put in place.

25. Will rackets and balls be available to hire or purchase?

Yes, rackets will be available to rent and balls to buy from a vending machine.

26. Is there a dress code or footwear requirement?

Appropriate padel court footwear and clothing as per the tennis club.

27. Is padel membership separate from Brookfield tennis membership?

Yes. Padel membership does not automatically give rights to the tennis.

28. What happens if demand for membership exceeds the available places?

There will be a waiting list, and places will be allocated on a timestamp basis, based on when the application was made.

29. If I'm a member but my family are not, can I apply for family membership?

Yes

30. Does the discount apply to family membership if I'm the only tennis member?

Yes

31. Can I add 1 adult & 3 kids to family membership, 2 of which are over 18 years?

Yes

32. When is membership renewed? 12 months or roll over to include 2027

Membership is renewed annually every 12 months. Membership will most likely commence 1st December 2026 (TBC), so the first membership invoice will be for 13 months to include December 2026 and 2027.

33. Is there a penalty for no-shows? What is it?

Yes, if somebody has 3 no-shows in 2 weeks, their court booking will be suspended for 2 weeks.

34. Who decides when it's ok to cancel due to weather?

Same protocol as applies with the tennis courts: red and orange courts will be closed; after that at the discretion of the committee as with the tennis courts

35. Can my family use the Tennis Club facilities, i.e. bar and showers if we have family membership but I am the only Brookfield Tennis member

Yes, as long as your family are family padel members.

36. Who do I contact if I am having difficulty accessing my padel court or the lights are not working?

You can contact the Club Manager on 085-8330382.

37. Whose responsibility is it to maintain the courts?

Alexandra College, but members need to keep the courts clean after using them as with the tennis courts