



## ***EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION***

### ***MINI GRANT PROGRAMME***

### ***GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS***

We want tennis to be relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone in Oxfordshire, no matter your background, gender, beliefs, age or ability.

At Tennis Oxfordshire, we are joining forces with the Lawn Tennis Association to deliver the national Inclusion strategy in our clubs and venues throughout the county. We wish to break down barriers and increase participation in tennis in Oxfordshire.

Our focus is primarily on increasing diversity and equity and on embedding long-term cultural changes within the sport we love. And to this end, we are launching a grant programme for 2025, where clubs and venues, members of the LTA, can apply for funding to support and enable local solutions to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion.

- **Women & Girls**

On court and off court, our sport has been a trailblazer for women in sport, with the likes of Billie Jean King paving the way for women for decades. However, we know that there is still more progress needed to make it a truly gender-balanced sport.

We need a concerted drive to get more women and girls involved in tennis and lead the way in gender equality and equity in sport.

We look forward to seeing inspired proposals to get more women and girls involved in tennis, focussing on the key areas of participation, workforce and visibility where we know we can make the most difference.

- **Lower socio-economic groups**

We're committed to ensure that tennis in Oxfordshire can be relevant and accessible to all communities, particularly those from lower socio-economic groups (LSEG).

Evidence still shows that people within higher socio-economic groups are more likely to be playing tennis, which creates unacceptable inequalities in the sport.

We need to do more to widen our reach and impact and hope to see creative proposals for how we can tackle underrepresentation in the sport from Oxfordshire's underserved communities.

- **Ethnically diverse communities**

We hope to see ideas that engage with ethnically diverse communities at local level to better understand the challenges, barriers and opportunities involved with tennis.



We should be taking steps to ensure we reach all audiences, particularly communities where tennis is not played at the moment and where people may feel it is not a sport for them.

Also, greater representation in our tennis workforce should be a key area of focus.

- **LGBTQ+**

Everyone should be able to thrive by being their authentic selves and tennis can provide a welcoming environment for those in LGBTQ+ communities.

Together, we must be working to create safe spaces for those that identify as LGBTQ+, while educating our wider sport on key issues, barriers and opportunities.

We hope to see proposals activate in key awareness periods, such as PRIDE month and the Stonewall Rainbow Laces campaign.

While this request for proposals is focused on the above four challenges, we do recognise that our sport would also benefit from more initiatives that give equal and equitable access to children and young people with physical and intellectual disabilities. If your venue is interested in running Disability Tennis sessions the LTA may be able to provide funding through its Open Court scheme. To learn more about Open Court, please visit: <https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/coaches/products-and-programmes/open-court/> and then contact Tennis Oxfordshire via [inclusivetennis@tennisoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:inclusivetennis@tennisoxfordshire.co.uk) for more information.

## **FUND CRITERIA**

1. The applicant must be a registered club or venue under the LTA, located in Oxfordshire.
2. The applicant must have a company bank account in the name of the club or venue.
3. The applicant must have appropriate safeguarding policies in place, which have been updated in the last 2 years.
4. Projects must be delivered in Oxfordshire.
5. Applicants must address issues related to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as explained in the introduction above.
6. Grants can be up to £2,000.
7. Proposals are expected to have a duration of up to 12 months.

The grant programme will **NOT** fund infrastructure, unless it can be justified to advance Equity, Diversity or Inclusion.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

If you are interested in applying for this funding opportunity, please fill in our Expression of Interest form and send it to [inclusivetennis@tennisoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:inclusivetennis@tennisoxfordshire.co.uk) by 16 March 2025.

The process will be competitive, and not all proposals can be funded. The incoming proposals will be assessed by a committee comprising members of Tennis Oxfordshire's governing board and an expert in Sport for Development.