

GENERAL

G1 The management of the League shall be by the Committee

G2 All clubs affiliated to the Association shall be eligible to enter teams in any competition organised by the Association. An entry fee shall be payable for each team entered and the amount of the fee shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

G3 All matches played in any competition shall be subject to The Constitution and within the general rules and Code of Conduct of the Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain.

G4 GROUPS

a) Leagues shall be organised in four groups as follows:

- Group 'A' - Men's Doubles
- Group 'B' - Ladies' Doubles
- Group 'C' - Mixed Doubles
- Group 'D' – Juniors

b) The Committee shall decide the formation in each group.

c) Each group shall have a Results Secretary appointed from within the Committee.

G5 Qualifications to play in any club team in the League shall be bona-fide membership of that club.

G6 PLAYERS IN TEAMS

a) Where a club enters more than one team in any group it shall be recognised that team 'A' shall be the club's strongest side and team 'B' the next strongest side and so on, where there are more than two teams.

b) In the event of a player in any team being unavailable, then a player from a lower team may be promoted with the proviso that should such a player be used more than twice in the higher team, he/she shall not be allowed to return to the lower team for the remainder of the season.

c) Players nominated for higher teams shall not be allowed to play in lower teams unless the Committee gives approval.

d) The Committee may sanction permanent changes in any team.

G7 NOMINATIONS

a) Clubs are required to nominate players for all their respective teams (except the lowest) to the group Results Secretary.

b) If nominations for a team have not been received prior to the commencement of that team's first match then the first 6 players (summer) or 4 players (winter) entered against the result of that team's first fixture online will be deemed to be the nominated players. Should the players from the first fixture be insufficient then the nominations will be completed by reference to the next players used in subsequent fixtures in the order displayed online.

G8 No player may play for more than one club in any one group during the season.

G9 Matches shall be played on a home and away basis in each group. In some instances, as decided by the Committee, Group 'D' matches shall be either home or away. In all cases, the home team shall be responsible for the provision of three new Lawn Tennis Association approved balls per court.

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G10 FIXTURE DATES: The Committee shall issue the fixture list and all arranged dates must be strictly adhered to. Matches shall not be postponed except for the following:

- a) Fixture dates and times as entered online will be deemed to be the official dates and times of matches.
- b) Bad weather prevailing at the home venue at the actual time laid down for starting.
- c) Unavailability of courts - clubs should make every attempt to hire alternative courts in order to fulfil fixtures if their own are unavailable.
- d) Teams must fulfil fixtures or forfeit points. Any appeal for postponement must be made to League Secretaries and shall only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

G11 POSTING AND KEEPING RESULTS

- a) Match details must be kept by both the home and the away team
- b) Results are the responsibility of the Home team. They must be entered into the LTA Online Results website within 8 days of the logged match date. If for any reason the match is not played then ADLTA support must be informed within 8 days either by email or by entering a relevant comment against the match in the online system.
- c) If a result (or comment/email notification - see G11b above) isn't entered by the deadline date then a minimum one point penalty will be applied to the home team in the first instance. Any subsequent failure will incur increasing penalties.
- d) When a result is entered into the LTA Online Results website it should include all the names of the players involved. If necessary a name will be accepted within the comments box.
- e) If a name is still missing 8 days after the result was posted then a minimum of a one point penalty will be applied to the home team in the first instance. Any subsequent name failure will incur increasing penalties, as will the continued absence of any names in question.

G12 CONCEDING MATCHES: In the event of a team conceding two or more walkovers during the season, the Committee shall give serious consideration to making all the matches of that team void.

G13 TIE-BREAK: In a tie-break, the next player to serve shall have one service only (from the right hand court). Thereafter, service shall continue in the original order, each player having two services, one from the left-hand court followed by one from the right hand court. After every six points scored, players shall change ends, the service order remaining unchanged. The first pair to score seven points, with a lead of at least two clear points, shall be the winner of the set. If this requirement is not fulfilled, play shall continue until one pair is two clear points ahead, when that pair shall be the winner. The opening game of the set following a tie-break set shall be served by the side which received the first point in the tie-break game.

G14 A Deciding MATCH TIE-BREAK is when the players who win the first ten points shall win the match tie-break and the rubber, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponents. When using the deciding match tie-break to replace the final set the original order of service continues. In doubles the order of serving and receiving within the team may be altered as in the beginning of each set (i.e. it counts as a new set). After every six points scored, players shall change ends, the service order remaining unchanged. This will count as 1 game in the event of games count-back at the end of the season. The result should show the 3rd set as 1-0 or 0-1.

G15 In the event of a tie on points in any division, promotion and relegation issues shall be settled on games won.

G16 In the event of a dispute, the matter shall be referred to the Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.

G17 In bad weather, both teams must turn up to play, unless advised otherwise by the home team.

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SUMMER LEAGUE

S1 The Summer League season shall open on Monday of the week in which 1st May falls and shall close at the end of the week in which the last Monday of July falls, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

S2 All matches shall be played on at least two courts. By mutual agreement, a third court, and three good quality balls, may be used for any part of the match.

S3 A match shall consist of nine sets, with teams of three pairs, and each pair shall play all other pairs of the opposing team over one set. A tie-break (see G13) shall come into effect at 6-6.

S4 All matches start at 18:30 except by mutual agreement. Match Secretaries should make the starting time quite clear when arranging their fixtures. Actual match play (excluding the knock-up) shall commence within 15 minutes of the time laid down for starting.

S5 A team not having its full side present when play is due to commence must arrange pairings from the available players. Such pairings shall remain operative for the entire match.

S6 2 sets must commence within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time. Failure to start within the stipulated time shall result in the non-defaulting team being awarded either or both of the sets 6-0.

S7 If thirty minutes after the time laid down for starting a match, fewer than two pairs of a team have arrived, the match shall be abandoned and awarded to the non-defaulting team as a walkover.

S8 If not all members of a team have arrived on completion of the second set, the non-defaulting team shall be awarded one set for every incomplete pair. In addition, if all players are not present within one hour of the starting time, the non-defaulting team shall be awarded the remaining sets.

S9 Match points shall be awarded on the basis of 2 points to each team for each set won; e.g. winners get 18 points for a 9 sets to 0 win, losers get 0 points; winners get 12 points for a 6 sets to 3 win, losers get 6 points, etc. In the event of a team giving a walkover, the opposition is awarded 18 points and the offending team is penalised 8 points. If count back is required at the end of the season, then Rule S14 will apply for games.

S10 If any set is not played because of default by both teams, that set shall be void.

S11 In the case of a match having to be abandoned after play has commenced, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if seven or more sets have been played. The points for the unplayed sets shall be shared; e.g. if a match is abandoned at 8 sets to 0, the winning team shall be awarded 17 points and the losing team shall be awarded 1 point. If a set is unplayed or curtailed due to bad weather or lack of light, any games played in that set shall be counted if a count-back is required at the end of the season.

S12 Any set claimed shall be regarded as played for the purposes of Rule S11.

S13 Where seven or more sets have not been played, the match shall be rearranged and completed by the end of the season. In such rearranged matches, both teams shall start at scratch. Postponed matches must also be completed by the end of the season.

S14 Where a team fields an incomplete team in a match, any sets not played shall be conceded to the opposing team, each set to score 0-6 against the offending team.

S15 At the end of the season the two top teams in each division, except the highest, shall be eligible for promotion to the next highest division, and the two bottom teams in each division, except the lowest, shall be liable to relegation to the next lowest division in their respective groups.

WINTER LEAGUE

W1 WINTER MIXED LEAGUE: The rules for Winter Mixed League shall be applied in conjunction with the existing Winter League Rules, except W4 and the first sentence of W5, in addition to the following.

- a) The Mixed League format shall consist of 2 mixed pairs playing 2 tie-break sets (at 6 all) against each of the opposing pairs.
- b) Fixtures are home and away with the option for the home team to elect to play either weekday evenings under floodlights or daytime at the weekends.
- c) Start time to be the home team's choice, but no earlier than 10:00 weekends or 18:30 weekdays (Match Secretaries should allow enough time to complete evening matches).

W2 The winter league season shall open on Saturday of the week in which 1st October falls and shall close at the end of the week in which the last Saturday of February falls, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

W3 A pyramid system shall be operated in the Winter and the League shall consist of a Premier Division, Division 1, Divisions 2a and 2b, Divisions 3a and 3b, Divisions 4a and 4b, etc.

W4 A match shall consist of four rubbers, with teams of two pairs, and each pair shall play all other pairs of the opposing team over the best of three sets. A tie-break (see G13) shall come into effect at 6-6 in the first two sets. In the Mens and Ladies leagues the third set is a Deciding Match Tie-break (see G14).

W5 All matches start no earlier than 10:00 am except by mutual agreement. Match Secretaries should make the starting time quite clear when arranging their fixtures. Actual match play (excluding the knock up) shall commence within 15 minutes of the time laid down for starting.

W6 A team not having its full side present when play is due to commence must arrange pairings from the available players. Such pairings shall remain operative for the entire match.

W7 All four players of each team must be present and ready to play within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time. If only one pair is present within this stipulated time, the 2nd pair shall forfeit the first set. If only one pair is present within 30 minutes of the stipulated agreed starting time the second pair shall forfeit the rubber (2 sets). Unless the 2nd pair is present on completion of the 1st rubber, they shall then forfeit both rubbers.

W8 If no pairs of a team have arrived within 30 minutes of the agreed starting time, the match shall be awarded to the non-defaulting team as a walkover.

W9 In the formation of the Winter League, teams promoted/relegated from (a) divisions shall be liable to promotion/relegation to the next highest/lowest (b) division and teams promoted/relegated from (b) divisions shall be liable to promotion/relegation to the next highest/lowest (a) division. The remaining teams may also be crossed over, and, where possible, teams from the same club, in the same division, may be separated, at the discretion of the Management Committee.

W10 Match points shall be awarded on the basis of 2 points for each set won. In the event of a team giving a walkover, the opposition is awarded 16 points and the offending team is penalised 8 points. If count back is required at the end of the season, then Rule W15 will apply for games.

W11 If any rubber is not played because of default by both teams, that rubber shall be void.

W12 In the case of a match having to be abandoned after play has commenced, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if three rubbers have been completed. The points for the incomplete rubber shall be shared as follows:

1. If no sets are completed then each pair will receive 2 points each.
2. If only one set is completed then the winners of that set will receive 2 points and the second set will be shared 1 point each.

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3. If the first two sets are completed one set apiece but the championship tie-break is not completed (not applicable for the mixed league) the first set winners will receive 2 points , the second set winners will receive 2 points and the third set will be shared 1 point each.

Any games played in that rubber shall be counted if a count-back is required at the end of the season.

W13 Any rubber claimed shall be regarded as played for the purposes of Rule W12.

W14 Where three or more rubbers have not been played, the match shall be rearranged and completed by the end of the season. In such rearranged matches both teams shall start at scratch. Postponed matches must also be completed by the end of the season.

W15 Where a team fields an incomplete team in a match, any rubbers not played shall be conceded to the opposing team, each rubber to score 0-6, 0-6 against the offending team.

W16 At the end of the Winter season the two top teams in each division, except the highest, shall be eligible for promotion to the next highest division, apart from Divisions 2a and 2b where one team shall be eligible for promotion. The bottom two teams in all divisions, except the lowest, shall be liable to relegation to the next lowest division.

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