

LEEDS TENNIS LEAGUE GENERAL RULES

1. COMPETITION FORMAT

Men's, Ladies and Mixed Divisions	Medley Division
In this format, for match scoring and result recording a rubber and a set are exactly the same.	A team shall comprise 2 men and 2 women, who shall each play 3 rubbers against the opposing team: 1 Men's Doubles, 4 Mixed Doubles and 1 Ladies Doubles.
A team shall comprise 2 pairs who shall play two rubbers (sets) against each of the 2 pairs of the opposing team.	Each rubber is the best of 16 games and is completed if one pair has reached 9 games.
Each rubber (set) is first to 6 games (or 7-5), with a tie-break at six-all.	If necessary, a tie-break will be played at 8 games all, with the winning team being the first to 7 points.

In all divisions the match score is decided by rubbers. In the event of equality on rubbers the match shall be considered a draw.

League positions shall be decided by awarding points as follows:

Match won	-	2 points
Match drawn	-	1 point
Match lost or un-played	-	0 points

If a team forfeits a match, then that team shall automatically have one point deducted from its record.

If a team forfeits more than half of its matches during a season, it will be removed from the league. All of its other matches (if any) will be declared null and void, with no points awarded for their results, for either the removed team or their opponents.

In the event of a tie in League points, the difference in rubbers won and lost shall decide the placings.

All matches shall be played by **31st August** of the current year, and all results must be submitted online using the LTA results reporting software by this date. Otherwise they shall be deemed to have been un-played.

In all competitions, normally the top placed team in the second and any subsequent division shall be promoted. The team finishing in second place in the second and any subsequent division shall be entitled to be promoted, but shall have the option of accepting or declining promotion. An appropriate number of teams shall be relegated at the end of the season to maintain an equitable balance to the league structure.

2. FIXTURES AND ARRANGING MATCHES

Following the AGM each year, the League Committee will produce a set of fixtures for all divisions in all competitions and distribute via e-mail to the team captain nominated on each team's Entry Form.

From receipt of the fixtures until 30th April team captains have the option of requesting an amendment to any match date by contacting the opposition team captain.

In all requests for a change of fixture date, the home club should offer the away captain at least 3 suitable alternative dates (see Non-Suitable Dates below). The away captain should select one of the dates within 7 days and both captains should advise their Section Co-ordinator by e-mail of the new date so the fixture website can be amended accordingly.

Team Captains are expected to co-operate in amending fixtures in a timely manner. Any difficulties should be referred to the Section Co-ordinator who will designate dates if necessary.

Team Captains have no authority to amend fixture dates in the manner above after 30th April. After this date any requests for re-arrangement must be made by an e-mail application to the Section Co-ordinator. If authorisation is granted then team captains will follow the procedure and timelines above.

Non-Suitable Dates

The following are not regarded as suitable dates for the purposes of alternative dates except with the approval of the visiting team:-

- May Day Bank Holiday - Sunday or Monday
- Spring Bank Holiday - Saturday, Sunday, Monday
- Late Summer Bank Holiday - Saturday, Sunday, Monday
- Any two consecutive days
- Any date on which the visiting club already has a fixture for that team in that division.
- Any date within 7 days of the visiting team receiving the notification.
- Any other date that the League deems to be unreasonable.

3. MATCH DAY PROTOCOLS

Matches shall commence at 6.30 p.m. on weekdays.

For matches on Saturdays and Sundays start times will vary but will be fixed at the start of the season and published on the fixture website.

Teams should always try to field a complete team, and it should be noted that repeated failure to play matches with 2 couples is against the spirit of the league.

Team captains must identify the names of all their players, and the pairings prior to the start of first rubber.

It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure the eligibility of all members of the team. At the end of the match both captains shall sign the score sheet to confirm the result and to verify the eligibility of all team members (See 9. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY). If it is subsequently found that a team member was ineligible, the captain may be held to be personally responsible.

In the case of unavailability, late arrival, injury or indisposition, a team may forfeit rubbers to their opponents, but under no circumstances may a team forfeit more than a total of 4 rubbers (3 in Medley) in a match, otherwise they shall be deemed to have lost the entire match by forfeit (with a match score of 0-8 (or 0-6 in the Medley format).

The home team;

- shall provide at least 3 new tennis balls for each court for each match
- shall determine the court numbers
- are encouraged to provide refreshments to the visitors after a match.

Order of play

Men's, Ladies and Mixed Divisions,	Medley Division
In the first round the 1 st pairs shall play against the opposing 2 nd pairs. In the second round the 1 st pairs shall play against each other, and the 2 nd pairs against each other	The match format is shown on the score sheet.

4. PENALTIES FOR LATE STARTS

Team Captains have NO AUTHORITY TO WAIVE any part of this rule.

Men's, Ladies and Mixed Divisions,	Medley Division
If a pair is not available, on court, to play within 10 minutes of the stipulated starting time, the FIRST SET shall be deemed to have been conceded. Each subsequent set shall be deemed to be due to commence not more than 30 minutes later and shall be deemed to have been conceded if the pair or player in question is still not then ready to start the set.	If a pair is not available, on court, to play within 10 minutes of the stipulated starting time, the FIRST FOUR GAMES shall be deemed to have been conceded. If that pair is still not on court ready to play within 30 minutes of the stipulated starting time then the rubber shall be deemed to have been conceded.
The stipulated starting time for the second round of rubbers is deemed to be 10 minutes from the end of the conclusion of the first round. (i.e. the completed match)	

5. COMPLETING MATCHES

Matches shall be played to a conclusion unless the captains both agree to postpone, abandon or temporarily interrupt the match.

If agreement cannot be reached, then the match shall commence, or continue, under existing conditions, except that **either side** may opt to terminate a match;

- after 9.00 p.m. (April & August), after 9.30 p.m. (May & July) or after 10.00 p.m. (June)
- or earlier in the event of bad light or adverse weather conditions

In addition,

- if a match commenced earlier than 6.30 p.m. or if floodlights or indoor facilities are being used, either side shall have the option to terminate the match when four hours or more have elapsed after the designated starting time.
- the home club shall have the absolute right to suspend play if to play would be liable to cause damage to the surface of the court.

If floodlights or indoor facilities are available, it is expected that these will be made available not later than the times indicated above, unless the home team had expressly advised otherwise, prior to the start of the match.

6. ABANDONED MATCHES

If a match is abandoned on account of bad light or adverse weather conditions the match score at the time of abandonment shall stand if one team has won 5 rubbers (4 for Medley), if not, then the match shall be re-arranged.

7. RE-ARRANGING POSTPONED OR ABANDONED MATCHES

If a match is postponed or abandoned by virtue of inclement weather the home captain shall notify their Section Co-ordinator by e-mail as soon as possible.

Within 7 days of the postponement / abandonment the home captain should offer the away captain the choice of 3 new dates (excluding any Non-Suitable Dates above) for the match. Within a further 7 days the away captain should select one of the dates and both captains should advise the Section Co-ordinator by e-mail.

Team Captains are expected to co-operate in agreeing new dates in a timely manner. Any difficulties should be referred to the Section Co-ordinator who will designate dates if necessary.

8. RECORDING RESULTS

It is the responsibility of the WINNING TEAM (Home team in the event of a draw) to submit the result online as defined in the Guidelines issued to clubs/team captains. It is the responsibility of the LOSING TEAM (Away team in the event of a draw) to confirm the result online, also in line with the issued Guidelines.

Team captains shall retain a signed copy of the scorecard for each match.

Any queries shall be notified to the Section Co-ordinator by e-mail as soon as possible after a match but in any event no longer than 2 weeks after the match was played and for any match played in August all aspects of the result must be entered, confirmed and any queries must be received by no later than **31st August**.

9. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A player must be a bona-fide member of a club to be eligible to represent that club in a match. No player may represent more than one club in the course of a season within each competition. However, a junior player may represent another club in the senior competition, and any player may represent different clubs in different competitions. Any player may also play for the same club in a different competition. However, junior players may only represent one junior team in the League.

If a club has more than one team participating in a competition, the following shall apply:-

- a. A player may not represent a lower ranked team once they have played in three or more completed matches for a higher ranked team or teams in a season.
- b. When a club has two or more teams in the same division, a player may not play against the same opposing team on more than two occasions
- c. No player may play more matches in a season than the maximum number possible for a team to play in any one of the divisions in which the player participates. This regulation also applies to players who are playing in both the senior and junior divisions, but does not apply to those playing solely at junior level.
- d. For the purposes of this regulation it is assumed that teams are ranked in order of the divisions in which they participate. Teams from a club in the same division shall be ranked in order by the club prior to the start of the season.

If, subsequent to the completion of a match (but not later than 15th September), it becomes clear to the League committee that a club has fielded an ineligible player in a match, then any sets scored by that player in the match shall be forfeited to the opponents, and the match score shall be amended accordingly.

If the committee are of the view that this action was unintentional then no further action shall be taken. In the case of deliberate breach of the regulation the committee may take further action, including deduction of league points or suspension of the player concerned, irrespective of when the breach is identified.

10. GOOD CONDUCT THROUGHOUT AND FAIR PLAY

Throughout the process of arranging a match, playing it and then recording the result, captains and players will conduct themselves in a polite and friendly manner.

During the match itself, the League expects all players to behave well, avoid the use of bad language and undertake 'fair play'. All players should go to the League's website www.leedstennisleague.org.uk and read the Fair Play Charter which is the behaviour standards that the League expects players to adhere to pursuant to this rule.

11. DISPUTES

If any disputes should arise between team captains or teams, then they should be reported in the first instance by e-mail to the Section Co-ordinator who will try to sort the matter out with those concerned. If this proves not possible, the Section Co-ordinator will refer this to the Chairman and Secretary of the Leeds Tennis League and their ruling will be final.