

Leeds League Tennis Rules

Winter Competition

General

Each team competing in the winter league undertakes the financial commitment for playing in both the Autumn AND Winter terms. Clubs/teams will be invoiced by the Leeds Tennis League for any unpaid fees. In the event that a club fails to fulfil a fixture then that club undertakes to pay for the court fees for both teams in full – and will be invoiced accordingly.

League format

The league will consist of 2 or 3 divisions depending on entries and available court time. At the end of each half season two teams will be promoted/relegated between the divisions. The annual champions will be the winning team at the end of the second or winter season.

Competition Format

1. A team shall comprise two men and two women, who shall play a total of six rubbers in three rounds and in the order of:

1st round Mixed pairs 1v1 and 2v2;

2nd round Men's doubles, Ladies doubles;

3rd round Mixed pairs 1v2 and 2v1.

2. Each rubber shall consist of one standard set (first to six games with a tiebreak to decide the set in the event that the score reaches six games all).

3. Each rubber will be scored using standard (or "long") deuces, such that a doubles pairing must lead by two clear points in order to win a game.

4. In all divisions, the match score will be decided by the number of rubbers won. In the event that both teams have won the same number of rubbers, the match shall be declared a draw.

5. League positions shall be decided by awarding points as follows:

1. Match won - 2 points

2. Match drawn - 1 point

3. Match lost or not played - 0 points

6. If a team forfeits a match, then the forfeiting team shall automatically have one point deducted from its points tally for the season. (Note New but consistent with other LL rules)

7. In the event of a tie in the final points standings within a division, the winner shall be decided in the first instance by the total number of rubbers won. If the winner still cannot be determined, the greatest game percentage shall determine the standings (total number of games won/total number of games played).

Match Day Protocols

8. Matches shall commence promptly at 20:10hrs, allowing for a maximum of a ten minute warm-up period.
9. Team captains shall be responsible for identifying the names of their players and their associated pairings before the first rubber commences. Team captains must also ensure that each player meets the relevant eligibility requirements of the league, as outlined in the guidelines below.
10. The home team is the team that is named first on the score sheet (available to confirm online prior to matches).
11. The home team shall be responsible for providing at least three new tennis balls per court (i.e. two new tubes).

Penalties for Late Arrival

12. All players must be present on the court, warmed up, and ready to play by 20:10hrs. A grace period of 10 minutes commencing from 20:10hrs will be permitted before a player is deemed to be late. Any player arriving after 20:10hrs forfeits any warm up period.
13. **Late arrival is, therefore, defined as having arrived more than twenty minutes after the start time of 20:00hrs.** If a player arrives at 20:20hrs or later, the opposing team captain **MUST** claim the relevant rubber.
14. **The stipulated starting time for subsequent rounds of rubbers is deemed to be ten minutes from the end of the conclusion of the preceding round** (i.e. the last completed match in the preceding round). If a player has not arrived by this point then the subsequent relevant rubber **MUST** be claimed.

Completing Matches

15. Pairs should commence play by 20:10hrs, if one player is late this should not delay the other match.
16. In the event that a match may not be completed before the available court time ends at 22:00hrs, the following rules shall apply:
 - a. If the match has not commenced by 21:30hrs then the rubbers must be played using sudden death deuce (receiver to opt which player receives).
 - b. If the match has not commenced by 21:40hrs then the rubbers should be played using sudden death deuce and short sets (ie first to 4 with two clear games/tie-break to 7 at 3 all).
 - c. If the match has not commenced by 21:45hrs then the rubbers should be played using tie-break to 10.

Recording scores

17. Recording and inputting results: it is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to submit the result online **within 48 hours of the fixture. Furthermore all scores must be entered within one week of the final match in each of the seasons (Autumn and Winter) for those scores to be taken into account for the relevant period (please note this overrides 21 below).**

18. It is the responsibility of the AWAY TEAM to confirm the result online.

19. Each team captain, for both the home and the away club, **MUST** sign the scorecard at the conclusion of each fixture to confirm that they have verified result.

20. Team captains **MUST** retain a signed copy of the scorecard for each match.

21. Any queries or disputes shall be notified to the Winter League Co-ordinator by e-mail as soon as is practicable after the match in question, but no longer than two weeks **(subject to 17 above)** after the match has been played.

Eligibility rules

22. Each team must consist of members of the relevant club/society. Players may only play for one club/society in any one year (Autumn and Winter). Any breach of this rule will cause the second club to concede the relevant fixtures 0-12.

23. In the situation where a club has two teams in the same division then a player may play for each of the teams twice within each half of the season. The third match would then tie them to that team up until Christmas. It would then start afresh in January.

24. In the situation where a club has one team in each division then a player may play for a team in the higher division once, but if they do so a second time then they will be tied to that higher division team for the rest of the half season. It would then start afresh in January.

(Most clubs prefer to have two different teams in order to provide winter tennis for more people, but some degree of flexibility is needed to deal with injury, illness etc).

Disputes

25. Any disputes or complaints arising between team captains or teams should be reported in the first instance by e-mail to the Winter League Co-ordinator, who will endeavour to reconcile the matter(s) between the concerned parties. If this cannot be done for whatever reason, the Winter League Co-ordinator will refer the matter(s) to the Chairman and Secretary of the Leeds Tennis Leagues and their ruling will be final.

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