

LEEDS TENNIS LEAGUE 2023 JUNIOR DIVISION RULES

1. Philosophy

The divisions exist to introduce young players to inter-club tennis and enable them to have an enjoyable experience. It is hoped that all clubs that participate in the divisions will respect this philosophy and seek to ensure that it applies to all players in the competition.

2.1 Eligibility – Age

Age group eligibility is based on a player's age at the end of the **calendar year (31st December 2023)**. For example, if a player was born on **23rd February 2011**, then they will be 12 years old on **31st December 2023**, meaning they can play 12 & under competition.

2.2 Eligibility – BTM number and rating

All players must be a British Tennis Member. Sign up to British Tennis Membership free of charge: <http://www.lta.org.uk/BritishTennisMembership/>

Clubs are encouraged to use junior players in senior competitions. This league is not for performance players and therefore the leagues have rating caps;

12 & Under League, no better than 9.2

14 & Under League, no better than 8.2

16 & Under League, no better than 8.1

These are based on a player's rating when they first compete in the league. If they subsequently improve their rating, they are still eligible to compete for that team, including in the Masters Cup Series.

2.3 Eligibility – Gender

The competitions are open to both boys and girls without restriction.

2.4 Eligibility – Multiple teams

The spirit of the League is that different players should compete for a club at 12, 14 and 16 & under level, but there is no absolute restriction on the use of lower age group players in older categories (League rule 11c does not apply in this instance).

Clubs are asked to govern the use of junior players in a range of different competitions in accordance with the stated philosophy of the League.

3 Form of Competition

The competitions shall take place on a suitable round-robin league basis, depending on the number of teams in the divisions.

4 Format of Matches

Each match shall comprise four singles and two doubles rubbers. Additional rubbers may be played, by agreement of the two clubs concerned.

5 Players

No player shall play more than one singles match, and no player shall play in more than one doubles match, except by agreement of the two clubs concerned.

6 Rubbers

All rubbers shall comprise of a best of three set match. Set numbers 1 & 2 are identical, first to 4 games. The set can be won 4-0, 4-1, 4-2, and 5-3. At 4-4 a tie break is played up to 7 points (must win by 2 clear points). If after 2 sets the match is tied at one set all a Match Tie-Break is played to decide the winner. A match tie-break is scored like a tie break but up to 10 points and must be

won by 2 clear points. A sudden death deuce point is played in every game – if a game gets to deuce, the winner of the next point wins the game.

7 Result of Match

The match result shall be determined by the number of rubbers won by each side. If rubbers won are equal, then the match is a draw.

8 Starting Time

Please be prompt for your start time, to allow players to have a proper warm up. If you are running late, please ensure you keep the opposition captain informed.

9 Draw

The four nominated singles players shall be ranked 1 to 4 in order of merit. The two players ranked No. 1 shall oppose each other; similarly for those ranked 2, 3 and 4. For the doubles matches each team shall designate two pairs ranked 1 and 2. The two pairs ranked No. 1 shall oppose each other, and the two pairs ranked No. 2 shall oppose each other. The home club shall endeavour to contact the visiting team prior to the match to confirm arrangements and to discuss the composition of the teams, with a view to fielding comparable teams in terms of standard and gender as far as is possible and reasonable.

10 Balls

The home club shall provide six new balls for each match, or six balls of good quality, with the agreement of the visiting team.

11 Refreshments

The home club shall provide light refreshments (tea, squash, and biscuits) for each match.

12 League Positions

3 league points are awarded for a match won, 2 league points for a draw and 1 league point for a match lost. In the event that a match remains un-played, neither team receives any points. In the event of a tie in league points, the difference between rubbers won and lost will decide final positions. In the event that these are also equal, positions will be decided by rubbers won.

13 Unfinished Matches

A match is considered to be complete if four rubbers have been played or conceded, or a club has won more than three rubbers. Otherwise, the match shall be replayed in its entirety, unless the clubs concerned agree otherwise.

14 Un-played Matches

Matches shall be played on the date designated by the League, unless changed with agreement of both captains and the section coordinator. Every effort should be made to fulfil all fixtures. Matches which remain un-played will result in neither team getting any points.

15 Rescheduling fixtures

All captains have the opportunity at the beginning of the season to review the fixture lists and highlight any matches that they can't fulfil without threat of penalty points being issued and forfeits awarded. Once the season begins, if a team cannot make a fixture, they must contact the opposing captain immediately and suggest 3 alternative dates for the fixture to be played on. The team who has cancelled the fixture must make every effort to be flexible, including potentially switching venue. In the event that the game doesn't get played, the team who originally forfeited may lose the points if the section coordinator thinks insufficient effort has been made to reschedule. However, teams

are in the competition to play matches and so all captains are asked to make every possible effort to get matches played.

16 Conceding Rubbers

Clubs may concede rubbers due to unavailability, late arrival, injury or inclement weather, but may not concede more than two rubbers in a match. Any player without a rating shall have to concede his/her singles match. The rubber should be played but be awarded to the opposing team regardless of outcome.

17 Score-sheets

It is the responsibility of the winning team (in case of a draw, the home team) to record the result online (see guidelines distributed to all team captains) and retain the score-sheet for future reference. The home team shall announce its players first, and enter the names on the score-sheet.

PLEASE USE FULL NAMES & BTM NUMBERS FOR EACH PLAYER.

18 Other Rules

The junior divisions are part of the Leeds Tennis League and are governed under the constitution of the league. In all cases which are NOT otherwise covered in these regulations, the rules of the senior divisions of the League shall apply.

March 2023

Michael Green