

# Box Leagues Rules



**Bearsted &  
Thurnham**

## How the Box Leagues will be administered

Each round of the box league lasts 10 weeks with an option for a 1 week extension at the discretion of the tournament organiser. Each player gets to play all other players in the same division. At the end of the round, the 2 players who come top and second in each division gain promotion to the division above, while the 2 players who come last move down to the division below. If there is a significant amount of bad weather, the round may be extended by an additional week.

Players should contact each other player in their division to arrange a match at a time that is suitable to both players. Contact details for all players are included in the WhatsApp Groups which are amended at the beginning of each new season. By participating in the league, all players agree that their contact details will be shared with the other players in the league.

## Match Format

Box league matches will be played as best of 3 sets. The first 2 sets will be regular sets with a standard 7 point tie break played if the score reaches 6 games all. If the score is one all after 2 sets have been played, a championship tie break (first to 10 points, 2 points clear) should be played as a final set to decide the match.

Some players have expressed a wish to play a full set as the third set. They may do so, as long as they are both agreed, and make the decision before the start of the match, but the score for the final set should be entered as if it was the score in a championship tie break (10-8) to the winner, to keep the scores the same as players who play the tie break. If both players are not agreed, the tie break must be played.

## Promotion / relegation

To gain promotion a player must win the division or come second, and the 2 players who come last will drop a division. In line with latest LTA guidance, the position within the group is worked out using the criteria in the following order.

- a) Greatest number of points (from wins and/or winning a set)
- b) Number of games played
- c) Head to head results (if only two players are tied)
- d) Highest percentage of matches won
- e) Highest percentage of sets won
- f) Highest percentage of games won
- g) Draw by lot

Occasionally adjustments to positions may be necessary due to players dropping out of the league, or new players entering. While players may be moved up a division due to these adjustments, every effort will be made to ensure that players are not moved to lower divisions as a result. If a player is moved up in this way, it will normally be a player who has retained their place in the lower division who moves up, rather

than one staying in the higher division when they have come in the bottom two. The decision will be taken by the competition organiser.

At the end of season 9 and the end of the calendar year. All boxes will be rebalanced back to 7 players per box. This might mean that a player is demoted even after promotion but your absolute ladder position will be the same as it was before. We will do this reset annually to accommodate the challenges that happen from new members periodically through the year.

## Submitting results

To ensure that the players are put in the correct positions, it is essential that all players submit their results online at the end of each match. In order to submit a result, select the relevant Box League and the relevant match under the Upcoming Matches section. Once a player has submitted the match result no further modifications can be made to the results. Only the competition organiser can make changes to the result when a dispute is flagged. Such flag to occur before the end of the season cut-off date.

## Walkovers

A player may claim a walkover if they are unable to arrange a match at any time during the round with another player, due to the opponent being unable to play. To be able to claim a walkover, the player must have offered at least 3 dates to play, and the opponent must have refused these dates, and not offered any alternative dates – if both players have suggested a date then no walkover can be claimed.

If two players arrange to play a match, and one fails to turn up on the arranged date, the other player should claim a default win.

If a player cannot complete a match because they are injured during or before a match and cannot continue, they should retire injured and record the match as such. Should a player be injured and time runs out on the box, walkovers will be awarded to players trying to schedule matches with the injured player before the box end date.

If players run out of court time in a scheduled match. They should pause the match and continue and complete the match at the next available opportunity. If the remaining portion of the match cannot be rescheduled, the players will inform the competition organiser to agree the best course of action.

## Other information

From 2024, all players wishing to play in the box leagues will pay £10. This is to cover the price of trophies awarded during the course of the year. Good luck and have fun out there.

Warm regards,

**Gavin Oberholzer**

Organiser