



## **BERKSHIRE LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION - SENIORS (VETS) LEAGUE RULES-2022**

### Management

1. The Competition is open to clubs affiliated to the Berkshire LTA and clubs affiliated to neighbouring counties who had been accepted into the Berkshire Leagues before the 1974 boundary changes took place.

2. The Competition is managed by a Sub-Committee approved by the Berkshire LTA, consisting of a League Organiser, plus two members of the Leagues Committee of the Association. All questions of eligibility, qualification of players and clubs and interpretation of the rules shall be referred to the Sub-Committee, whose decision shall be final. Should any of the clubs concerned in any dispute have a member(s) on the Leagues Committee, the said member(s) shall not be eligible to sit on the Committee while such dispute is being considered.

### Qualification and Eligibility of Players

3. A player shall be qualified to represent a Club if he/she is a bona fide member of said club and must be a signed-up LTA member. No player may represent more than one club in the same competition in the same season. This however doesn't stop a player playing for two different clubs in two different events in the league, (e.g. You can play in the Ladies O40s for one club and the ladies over 50s for another).

4. Clubs entering more than one team in any competition must nominate at least two players for all teams except the lowest. Nominated players may play in higher teams but must not play in lower teams. Where a player plays for a team higher than the one, they were originally nominated for these counts towards the minimum number to matches they are required to play. Nominations are to be included at the time of entry but may be changed at any time later in the season by informing the League Secretary. The minimum number of appearances for a nominated player in the men's, ladies and mixed divisions will be three. Where the nomination rules are clearly breached, the penalty shall be the loss of all rubbers, sets and games in which the offending player is involved. Should nominated players not play in the required number of matches, their team shall have one rubber from their final match total deducted for each match missed. The total number of matches in which any player shall represent a club in any competition shall be equal to the maximum to be played by any team for which he/she is eligible plus one.

4a Age group limits will be in accordance with the veterans LTA of Great Britain Rules, thus

Over 40, born on or before 31 December 1982

Over 45, born on or before 31 December 1977

Over 50, born on or before 31 December 1972

Over 55, born on or before 31 December 1967

Over 60, born on or before 31 December 1962

Over 65, born on or before 31 December 1957

### Composition of Teams & Divisions

5. Each competing team in the men's, ladies' or mixed competitions shall be represented by a team of two pairs and each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team. Play shall take place in the following order. The away pairs will play both their rubbers on the same court.

Round 1 Home pair 1 v Away pair 1 and Home pair 2 v Away pair 2

Round 2 Home pair 2 v Away pair 1 and Home pair 1 v Away pair 2

6. A club shall not be bound to play the same team throughout any competition, but no change shall be made in the composition of any of the teams engaged in any match after the start of play. If a match is unfinished, or postponed before any play shall have taken place, the composition may be changed.

7. Teams will usually be divided into divisions of approximately seven. Promotions and relegations shall on the basis of two up & two down.

#### Balls

8. Eight new balls of a make authorised by the LTA shall be used for each match. The balls will be provided by the club whose home fixture it is.

#### Method of ascertaining results

9. In all competitions each match will consist of four rubbers. Each rubber shall consist initially of two full sets with tie-breaks at six games all. If after two sets in a rubber the score is level at 1 set all then a championship tie break game (first to 10 or 2 clear points) shall be played to determine the winner which will count as 1 game when added to the winning teams games total.

10. Should any player be absent 20 minutes after the scheduled or otherwise agreed starting time, the first set must be conceded. A further 10 minutes absence will result in the second set and therefore the first round being conceded. This rule will also apply to the second round.

11. The match result will be decided firstly on rubbers won. If these are equal, then the most sets won, and if sets are also equal, then the most games won will determine the result. Three points will be gained for a clear win of either 4/0 or 3/1 in rubbers, two points for a narrow win where rubbers are equal and one point for narrow loss.

12. In the rare event of a tie where ALL SCORES are equal, a tie-break shoot out must be played to determine the winner. The championship tie-break shall be won by the first pair to reach 10 points with a 2-point difference. Any two of the four team members can contest this shoot out. This tie-break will count as one game only and should be clearly shown on the match card.

13. If a club concedes a walkover to another club, the score will be 4/0 in rubbers, 8/0 in sets and 48/0 in games to the opponents. Any club needing to postpone a match other than for adverse weather, should give seven days' notice for the convenience of opponents. In such a case opponents should make every effort to find a new agreed date. If 48 hours' notice or less is given, then opponents are entitled to claim a walkover. Should any team concede two or more matches during the period of the scheduled rounds, they will be relegated at the end of the season, regardless of the number of points gained.

14. Final league positions will be decided by the most points, then matches, then rubbers, then sets and then games won. Any team that wins all its matches but finishes lower than a team that wins fewer matches but has more points it will receive a bonus of 1 point per match won by a narrow margin. If all points, matches, rubbers, sets and games won are equal then the fewest sets or games lost will be the deciding factor.

15. Matches are scheduled on the Monday at the start of each week, should be played during or before that designated week. If this is not possible due to adverse weather or for other reasons (but not due to the non-availability of higher team players), home captains must offer a choice of new dates. Where matches are delayed by more than three weeks, the League Secretary should be informed. If clubs with multiple teams cannot field all their teams on the scheduled day, they must fulfil all their higher fixtures and postpone or, if necessary, concede the matches of the lowest team or teams.

16. Should any match be started and abandoned before the first two rubbers round have been completed, it must be replayed from the start on another day. If adverse conditions force curtailment at a later stage, i.e. after two rubbers have been completed, the result will be taken from all completed rubbers, sets and games.

17. The winning team is responsible for entering the result on-line in a timely fashion, and also for retaining a match card for future verification, should it become necessary.

18. As soon as possible after all matches are completed and all results sent in, the League co-ordinator will compile final league tables. The winners of each division will receive a Berkshire LTA Certificate.

19. If it is desired to play any league match indoors, the prior agreement of the visitors should be obtained. Clubs are under no obligation to play all or part of their matches on indoor courts.

20. All matches must be completed by the end of September 2021.

#### Days and Time of Play

21. Other than for the exceptions a)-c) below, clubs are free to fix whichever day of the week they like for their home matches, but effort should be made to choose a weekday when possible. Unless mutually agreed otherwise by the clubs concerned the time of commencement of evening play shall be 6.15pm.

a) the ladies' O50 will be a weekday daytime competition

b) the men's O65 will be a weekday daytime competition

c) the mixed O60 will be a weekday daytime competition

#### Appeals

22. Any dispute arising between clubs in a competition shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the league subcommittee, and its decision shall be final and binding on all clubs involved in the dispute.

#### **Steve Vaux-League Secretary**

Home telephone no: 01256880776,

Mobile telephone no: 07745449626,

E mail address: sgmvaux@hotmail.com