

TENNIS OXFORDSHIRE

BABOLAT SUMMER LEAGUE (BSL) AND BABOLAT WINTER LEAGUE (BWL) RULES

OCTOBER 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2019

Please be aware that while most rules for the 2 leagues have been aligned, there are some important differences which are specified in this document. Please ensure that all players are conversant with these rules before playing matches

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CONFIRM YOUR MATCHES AT LEAST 4 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MATCH

1 TEAM COMPOSITION

1.1 A team comprises 4 players arranged in 2 pairs in strict order of merit by their respective captains

2 FORMAT OF MATCHES

2.1 Order of Play Round 1. Home 1 v Away 2 Home 2 v Away 1

Round 2. Home 2 v Away 2 Home 1 v Away 1

(AWAY team remain on same the courts for the duration of the match)

2.2 **Babolat Winter League:** Each pair plays 2 sets against each opposing pair with the tie-break operating at 6 games all in every set. 1 point is allocated for every set won. The team with the greatest number of points shall be the winner of that Division

2.3 **Babolat Summer League:** Teams competing in **Divisions 1- 4** MUST play the best of 3 sets in both rounds. The tie-break will operate at 6 games all in every set. In **Division 5 and below** the first round will consist of 2 tie-break sets. The second round (1 v 1 and 2 v 2) shall be the best of three sets with the tie-break at 6 games all. If BOTH Captains agree at the start of the afternoons play a Championship Tie Break (a tie break to 10 points with 2 points clear and with change of end every 6 points) may be played in place of a third set. If one captain does not wish to play a Championship Tie Break then a full set (with normal tie break at 6-6 games) must be played. One point is allocated for every set won. The team with the greatest number of points shall be the winner of that Division

2.4 If a team is unable to raise 2 pairs on the day of a match:

Babolat Summer and Winter League: on ONE occasion ONLY during the course of the season they may field just one pair. If on a second occasion a team can only field one pair then it must concede the match (see 3.5). The team fielding one pair shall have one point deducted from its match total.

Both Leagues: Teams fielding only one pair must make every effort to inform their opponents of this before the match so that they can make appropriate travelling and start time arrangements.

3 CONFIRMATION AND START TIME OF MATCHES

3.1 It is the responsibility of the HOME team to phone the visiting club at least 4 days prior to the match. Team captains must always confirm the match START time, DATE and LOCATION OF COURTS. Email contact is also acceptable but confirmation that any email has been received must be sought. If no such confirmation is received then telephone contact must be made and efforts must be made to try other team captains listed on league planner or the Match Secretary. If, on the day of the match, the visiting team captain has had no contact from the home team and has him/herself attempted contact but been unsuccessful, then that team should arrive at the venue of the match regardless. If a visiting team arrives, and the home team is not present, then the visiting team will be entitled to claim a walkover provided that the home team is at fault (see 3.8).

3.2 Matches in both the summer and winter seasons are scheduled to start at either 10:00am or 1:00pm. Players must be on court and ready to play at the scheduled time. If an alternative time is mutually agreed, players must be on court and ready to play at that time.

3.3 If any player(s) are absent at the agreed start time, the opponents shall be entitled to one love set for every half hour of lateness in each event in which such player(s) should have competed. However if no member of a team is present after half an hour a walkover can be claimed. Players must not leave the venue once the match has commenced even during a rain break.

3.4 All clubs must arrange their home matches so that there is no restriction on the time available for the completion of such matches. It is not acceptable to allocate a fixed time for a home match on the basis that if a match overruns this allocated time, the match cannot be completed. By their very nature, matches can have quite different finish times, depending on a number of factors, including weather interruptions and how long individual sets last, but each match must have as much time as necessary to run its course, including a reasonable time for warm ups. In the event of the home team being unable to provide sufficient court time to finish the match any outstanding sets will be awarded to the visiting team.

3.5 Should a Club be unable to raise a team and thus concede a walkover to another club an 8-0 score may be claimed by the team receiving the walkover, while the team conceding the match shall have 8 points deducted from their current league table score. This applies to both summer and winter leagues.

3.6 In the event of a walkover, the team receiving the walkover must complete the online match card.

3.7 Any team conceding 2 walkovers in the same season shall have its record deleted from the tables for that season and will be relegated by at least one Division.

3.8 A walkover may be claimed by a Club in the event that the opposing Club has made an error in terms of the agreed date, start time, or venue subject to 3.1 above.

4 CANCELLING, POSTPONEMENT AND REARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES

4.1 All changes to the draft fixtures must be agreed by both clubs and inputted to League Planner, at the latest one week after the Fixtures Meeting. Matches may only be cancelled because of the unfit state of the courts or the weather (including cancellation by a visiting team which considers the roads unfit for travel).

4.2 The League fixtures shall take precedence over Club activities and are second only to National and Regional AEGON Team Tennis fixtures and only when such fixture dates are unknown by 31st March, or officially re-arranged by the organising body. The absence of one player does not constitute a valid reason for changing a League fixture.

4.3 If a match is postponed owing to the weather the HOME Team must provide at least 3 dates which should not clash with the opposing team's existing fixtures. The Home Club must input the new date to League Planner within 14 days of the original date. If no new date can be agreed, then the Leagues Committee will fix the date.

4.4 All **Babolat Winter** matches must be completed by the first Sunday in April (7th April 2019).

4.5 All **Babolat Summer** matches must be played by the last Sunday in September (30th September 2018).

Matches stopped after the arrival of the visiting team.

4.6 Play shall be suspended in matches when it is raining, except where the captains mutually agree that play shall continue.

4.7 If a match has to be stopped and cannot be completed after the arrival of the visiting team, any replay of the fixture (see 4.8 and 4.9 below) will take place at the same venue unless mutually agreed otherwise.

4.8 A date for the replay shall be fixed as set out in 4.3 above.

4.9 **Babolat Summer and Winter:** An unfinished match should be replayed unless the Captains mutually agree to let the score of any completed sets stand.

4.10 If a player retires through injury or any other reason during a rubber, the opponents shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets.

5 BALLS

5.1 Eight NEW Tennis Balls (ITF Approved) shall be provided by the HOME team. Tennis Oxfordshire is sponsored by Babolat so please try to use Babolat balls.

6 NOTICE OF RESULTS

6.1 The **Captain of the winning club (or the home team in the event of a draw)** is responsible for submitting the result of the match on-line to League Planner. You will need the full names of the players and the full score of all rubbers/sets and games won or lost. This should be done, within 48 hours of the conclusion of a match. No results will be accepted if the names of all the players are not included. A record of the score and names of players should be retained by both captains. The losing captain should confirm the result online.

6.2 All players must be British Tennis Members (BTM) with a BTM number and linked to their club in order to play in the OLTA Babolat Summer and Winter Leagues.

6.3 The result of the match should be agreed between the two captains immediately at the conclusion of the match. It is not permissible to change scores or alter the result in any way after the away team has departed. If the two captains cannot agree the result, within 48 hours of the end of the match they must notify the Leagues Committee at adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk giving a full explanation for the reasons for being unable to do so. The Committee will then determine what result should prevail.

6.4 The Leagues Committee shall be under NO obligation to accept the result of any match, notice of which has not been in accordance with 6.1.

7 QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

7.1 A Player may represent a Club if he/she is a full playing member of the Club and if his/her subscription for the current year has been fully paid. If a player represents a Club but then during the season leaves and joins a new Club they may represent that new Club in either League, subject to the approval of the Leagues Committee. A player may play in a Mixed team for another Club.

7.2 A Club shall not be bound to play the same team throughout any Competition but no change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in any match after the start of play. If, however, an unfinished match is replayed in its entirety, the composition of the teams may be changed.

7.3 The team a player represents in their first match of any season is their “designated team” and the one they stay in for the remainder of that season. However, in the event of a player being asked to play for a team that is higher than their designated team for their first match, they may revert back to their designated Team for the remainder of their matches. A player cannot play in a lower team from their designated team for any other reason. (The team they represented for the majority of their matches in the previous season will be taken into account when determining their designated team in the event of a challenge.)

7.4 No allowance can be made for players coming back from an injury playing in a lower team unless a request is emailed to the League Committee at least a week before the match is due to be played.

7.5 **Babolat Winter:** A player may only play TWO matches for a higher team and remain eligible to play in his/her designated team. On the third occasion of playing up, he/she will be committed to that team for the remainder of the season.

7.6 **Babolat Summer:** A player may only play ONE match for a higher team and remain eligible to play in his/her designated team. On the second occasion of playing up, he/she will be committed to that team for the remainder of the season

8 DRESS

8.1 Players' dress must be suitable sports clothing and footwear.

9 COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT

9.1 Should a dispute take place between two clubs, then any complaint must be put in writing to the Leagues Committee at adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk within 7 days . This MUST be sent with the endorsement of the Match Secretary of the Club, and NOT directly from a Team Captain or individual player. Communications from Team Captains or individual players will not be considered. A copy of the email from the Match Secretary will then be sent to the opposing Match Secretary. The Leagues Committee will take any necessary and appropriate action.

9.2 If a player is found to have played one or more matches for a team lower than his or her designated team, all sets won by the player in those matches shall be forfeited.

Disqualification

9.3 Teams will be relegated by at least one Division if any form of cheating on match results comes to the attention of the Leagues Committee.

Misconduct

9.4 The Leagues Committee shall consider all formal complaints of misconduct received at adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk . The decision of the League Committee will be final in any dispute.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Babolat Winter League will consist of Men's Doubles and Women's Doubles. The Babolat Summer League will consist of Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles competitions.

2. The Leagues shall be open to all venues/clubs registered to the Oxfordshire Lawn Tennis Association or another neighbouring County Association.
 3. Matches must be played on any LTA approved surface, in accordance with the League Rules and within the Laws and Regulations of Lawn Tennis for the time being sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, so far as they are applicable.
 3. The Management of the Competition shall be entrusted to the Leagues Committee which shall be a sub-committee appointed by the Management Committee of the OLTA. No changes to these Rules shall be made without the consent of the Management Committee.
 4. A Club wishing to enter any Competition shall complete an entry form by the specified date and return it to adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk. Such notice must be accompanied by an entrance fee to be decided by the Leagues Committee annually, per team, per Competition.
- 5 (a) Each League Competition shall be divided by the Leagues Committee into Divisions and the Leagues Committee shall determine the Division into which each Club shall be placed.
- (b) **For the Summer Competitions** in the following year, the Leagues Committee will, where possible, re-arrange the Clubs in each Division in such a manner that Clubs which were respectively first and second in the previous year shall be placed in the Division immediately above the one in which they last competed, and the Clubs which were respectively last and last but one shall be placed in the Division immediately below the one in which they last competed.
- (c) **For the Winter Competitions** in the following year the Leagues Committee will, where possible, re-arrange the Clubs in each Division in such a manner that Clubs which were respectively first, second and third in the previous year shall be placed in the Division immediately above the one in which they last competed, and the Clubs which were respectively last, last but one and last but two shall be placed in the Division immediately below the one in which they last competed.
- (d) **Both Leagues:** In the event of a tie on points, the result of the match between the two tied teams will decide the higher team position. If that match was a draw then the higher position will be decided by the percentage of sets won out of sets played. If after this

calculation the two teams remain tied then the percentage of games won to games played shall decide. If more than two teams are tied, the final standings will be determined by the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if, after this calculation only 2 teams remain tied the result in the match played between them will be used to break the tie). If more than 2 teams have the same percentage of sets won out of sets played, then the percentage of games won to games played shall decide.

(e) The Leagues Committee may re-arrange each year the number of Clubs in all Divisions in such manner as it may deem necessary.

(f) If any Club or new team, which was not previously entered for any Competition or which having previously entered has dropped out of such Competition shall give notice of its wish to compete, it shall be placed in an appropriate Division based on the playing ability of the team members and in agreement with Leagues Committee.

6. The Leagues Committee shall, immediately after the date fixed for receiving entries:

(a) Determine the Division into which each Club entries shall be placed in accordance with 5 above.

(b) Make the arrangements for and fix the dates on which the matches in all Competitions are to be played.

7. The Leagues Committee shall give notice to the Match Secretaries of the Clubs from whom entries have been received, the Division into which each Club has been placed; and furnish a list of the relevant fixtures; and the dates on which all matches must be played. Dates of matches may be altered if both Clubs agree and the change must be made on League Planner within the specified time period. If the two clubs cannot agree then the Leagues Committee will fix the date.

8. All Clubs MUST be represented at all Fixture Meetings and if a Match Secretary is unable to attend it is the responsibility of the Match Secretary to arrange a replacement representative.