

COWDEN LAWN TENNIS CLUB – CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

TOURNAMENT RULES

Section 1 – Tournament Entry & The Draws

1. *Players can enter up to 3 draws*
2. *Entry fees are included within your annual membership. As such no additional fees are due.*
3. *Entries are to be received no later than the last Saturday of May unless otherwise publicised by the CLTC Committee*
4. *By entering any of the five draws, players agree for their basic contact information, namely email address and phone number, to be shared with other tournament entrants.*
5. *The Draws will take place on either the last Sunday of May, or the last Wednesday of May, at The Fountain Inn, following a club mix-in. The CLTC Committee will publicise the date once agreed.*
6. *Draws are made at random using the club's version of the old school national lottery machine.*
7. *For each competition, a place in each half of the draw will be reserved for the Champions and Runners Up of the preceding year's Championships. They will be awarded seeds 1 & 2 respectively. The first drawn of the two seeds will be placed in the top half of the draw, the second placed in the bottom half.*
 - a. *In the event that the Champions or Runners Up from the previous year's competition have not entered, the CLTC Committee reserves the right to assign the top two seeds at their discretion.*

Section 2 - Tournament Format

1. *All Round-of-16 matches are to be completed no later than the last Sunday in June.*
2. *All Quarter-Final matches are to be completed no later than the last Sunday in July*
3. *All Semi-Final matches are to be completed no later than 2 weeks prior to Finals Day*
4. *Finals Day will be the first Saturday of September, unless otherwise publicised by the CLTC Committee.*
5. *Players may arrange for their matches to be played away from the club courts, provided all parties agree.*
6. *Matches played on the club courts must not be played during club mix ins (i.e. Sunday mornings 10 – 12:30, Tuesday evenings 7 - 9pm Wednesday evenings 7 – 9 pm or coaching sessions Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9.0 pm).*
7. *It is advised that players using the club courts for their matches make use of the online booking system to ensure the courts are free and do not clash with private coaching sessions or club league matches.*
 - a. *Priority will be given to league matches; the courts are always pre-booked for these*
 - b. *Priority will also be given to any coaching sessions, private or otherwise where courts have been booked in advance.*
8. *Lights may be used up to 10:00pm.*

Section 3 - Game Play

- 1. The higher listed player in the draw will provide the balls and will be responsible for contacting their opponent(s) and offer some dates to ensure the match can be played in reasonable time.*
- 2. Matches are to be the best of 3 sets; tie-breaks at 6-6 if required.*
- 3. The final set, should it be required, will be a Championship Tie Break. First to 10, two points clear.*
- 4. Players are to call their own lines in all matches.*
- 5. The club will provide balls for all matches on Finals Day.*

Section 4 - Supplementary Provisions

- 1. Injury, Unavailability, and Incomplete Matches*
 - a. Should a player find themselves injured at any point during the course of the Championship, due time will be given beyond the previously mentioned deadlines to encourage completion of matches. This will be entirely at the discretion of the CLTC Committee.*
 - b. If matches are not completed due to injury surpass 2 weeks beyond the round deadline, passage through to the next round will be granted to the uninjured player/players.*
 - c. In the event that matches are not completed in a timely fashion, the CLTC Committee reserves the right to determine who progresses to the next round to ensure due time is given for matches in the subsequent rounds to be played.*
- 2. Availability on Finals Day*
 - a. Players are not prevented from entering any draws if they are already aware they will not be available to play on Finals Day. It is club policy to encourage inclusion and participation in all circumstances.*
 - b. Should a player be aware that they are unavailable for Finals Day, they are obligated to compete in all matches up to and including the semi-finals.*
 - c. Should a player who is not available on Finals Day reach a semi-final, the match is still to be played. In the event that they find themselves at match point, they are to shake hands and concede the match, allowing their opponent passage through to the final.*
 - d. In the event that a player reaches a final and is unavailable on Finals Day, but this only becomes apparent after the conclusion of the semi-final match, the losing semi-finalist will progress to the final. Should the losing semi-finalist also be unavailable, the CLTC Committee will, at their discretion, determine who will become the finalist for that side of the draw.*
 - e. Finals must be comprised of two players/double pairings from opposite sides of the draw. In the unlikely event that this is not possible, The CLTC Committee will arrange a match as appropriate, to ensure all five draws culminate with a match on Finals Day*
- 3. Umpires on Finals Day*
 - a. An umpire will be provided for all Finals to keep track of the score*
 - b. Players will be required to call their own lines; the umpire will only intervene if they feel a clear and obvious error has been made.*
 - c. In the event of a dispute between players, the umpires call is final.*