

THE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS LEAGUE
RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1 The League shall be called the South Bedfordshire & District Lawn Tennis League and shall be open to all clubs in South Bedfordshire affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association. Clubs from outside South Bedfordshire may be admitted to the league subject to agreement at an AGM or EGM.
- 2 The object of the League is to put Lawn Tennis in South Bedfordshire on a competitive basis and to encourage the game in accordance with the rules of Lawn Tennis.
- 3 The League shall be governed by a committee comprising one member of each club and in addition a Chairman, Secretary, League Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Secretary and Auditor who shall be elected annually. Four shall form a quorum. A President may be appointed annually by the Committee.
4. Any dispute or query concerning the application of these Rules and Regulations shall be referred to the League Secretary and the matter considered and adjudicated upon by the League committee. All decisions by the League committee shall be final.
- 5 An annual fee for each team entered is payable to the Treasurer of the League. The fee will be agreed annually at the AGM. A club is deemed to have resigned if the fees are not received.
- 6 The League shall be equally divided into divisions as far as possible, with automatic promotion and relegation between divisions. Should any team withdraw, selection to the higher division will apply to the next highest team in the lower division. The Committee are empowered to waive the promotion or relegation of a team where it is unanimously agreed that this would not be in the best interests of the team or the League as a whole.
- 7 A Club may enter more than one team in the competition, but any player taking part in two matches in one team in one season is disqualified from taking part thereafter in that season in a lower team that the Club may enter but may play once in any higher team. The Committee have the power to reinstate at their discretion any player so disqualified upon application being made by the Club concerned.'

Examples:

- A player who plays once for the A team then twice for the B team, then from that point could not play a C team match. If they play again for the A team they then become an A team player and could not play again for the B team.
 - A player who plays twice for the A team cannot play in any lower team that season
 - A player who plays twice for the C team can play once only for either the A or B team, or both.
- 8 Only bona fide members of a Club shall be eligible for League matches and no player may play for more than one Club in the same section in any one season, a section being the Ladies, Men's or Mixed, unless by the consent of the League Committee. In the case of transgression the Committee shall have the power to deduct points from the offending Clubs and to award the match to their opponents.
 - 9 Clubs who have more than one team entered in the League have to nominate their best players. These players would not then be eligible to play in a lower team. For

example, a Club with two men's and two ladies teams have to nominate their four best men and four best ladies.

10 Arrangements for match formats are as below:

- a In the summer Mixed section a team shall consist of two ladies and two men playing two mixed rubbers each. In the winter Mixed section, a match is to be played as two mixed rubbers followed by a men's and ladies' doubles. Each team shall decide number one and two pairs in the winter Mixed so number one pairs play each other, and number twos the same.
 - b The Men's and Ladies sections consist of two pairs playing each other and players can play in any mixed division.
 - c In the annual tournament, rubbers shall be decided on the best of three sets. The tie-break shall be used at six games all in each set. For the junior and veteran events, a 10 point championship tie break will be played as a deciding third set if required.
 - d In the League, a rubber consists of two sets.
- 11 A team on whose ground the match is being played shall provide four new balls per court. The home team captain should provide a post match tea in both the summer and winter leagues, unless otherwise agreed with the away team captain.
- 12 The League Committee will determine certain fixed periods within which matches will be played. Clubs will be informed of these dates and will mutually arrange their fixtures within these periods. Such dates will not be changed except in exceptional cases and with the consent of both Clubs concerned.

Matches may be played on any day of the week, Sunday included, and at any time as mutually agreed. All matches are to be completed by 15th September in the summer season and by 15th April in the winter season.

Matches may only be postponed by reason of weather or the unfitness of the courts for play. The decision as to the fitness of the courts shall be made by the captain of the home team.

Whenever possible at least an hour's notice of postponement will be given to the away team. In the event that a match is not started due to the weather, and the away team has travelled, the away team can choose to host the re-arranged match. If they choose to do so, the responsibility for advising their opponents of alternative dates passes to them. Responsibility for providing match balls and refreshments does not.

If a team is unable to play an arranged fixture (for reasons other than the weather or the condition of the courts), that team must provide at least 3 days notice to their opponents, who will, in the first instance, agree to a rearrangement,. Any subsequent request for postponement of that match may be rejected, and the match claimed by the opposing team. If less than 3 days notice is provided, or the match date is within 3 weeks of the end of the season, the rearrangement need not be accepted, and the match can be claimed.

When a rearrangement is agreed, the home team captain must provide at least two alternative dates, at least 7 days apart. If, for whatever reason, both teams are unable to agree a rearrangement date, the team that did not request the rearrangement in the first instance will be awarded the walkover.

Once a rearranged date has been agreed by both parties, the original fixture date is deemed not to have existed.

The team receiving the walk-over will, at the end of the season, be awarded the average number of points it has earned during that season, with a minimum of 4 points..

- 13 No match shall be arranged to start later than 7.00pm. In the event that a rubber is not completed due to the arrival of a team or part of a team after 7.15pm resulting in loss of light, the offending team may, at the discretion of the non-offending team, forfeit the affected rubbers. In the event of a team arriving 45 minutes late the non-offending team may claim the match. All claimed rubbers must be clearly shown on the result sheet and signed by both captains.
- 14 At the finish of play of a fixture, if less than four sets have been played, then the match will be declared void. If four sets or more have been played, then two points will be awarded for each set won. One point will be awarded for each unfinished set. The team with the most points wins the match. If equal on points, the team with the most games wins the match. The winning team will be awarded a further four bonus points. If tied on points and games, the teams will be awarded two bonus points each.
- 15 The winning team in each division shall be decided by the number of points won. If two or more teams are equal in the number of points won, then positions will be decided on difference in points. If this proves equal, then difference in games will be used.
- 16 The composition of the League and fixtures shall be finally decided at the fixtures meeting.
- 17 The Captains of the winning team shall send by email the result of every match counter-signed by the Captain of the opposing team (on the form provided) to the League Secretary or delegated person within 24 hours of its being played. The losing team captain should also keep a record of the result either on paper or as a digital image in case of accidental loss of the result sheet.
- 18 Each Division Trophy shall be held by the winning team for one year and shall be returned in good condition to the League Secretary by or at the first winter season fixtures meeting.
- 19 Junior events are in line with L.T.A. competition framework.
- 20 A team knock-out competition shall be held annually. Each entering club will supply players for the following: men's singles, ladies' singles, men's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles. No player shall play in more than one foregoing element in the team. The draw will take place at the fixtures meeting. Teams must complete rounds on the date specified and at a time agreed by both clubs prior to the day of the match. The winning team will receive the President's Knock-Out Cup.
- 21 All competitions shall be run strictly on the rules of tennis as laid down by the International LTA in the Handbook.
- 22 The Annual General Meeting shall be held before 31st December and proper reports and accounts shall be submitted. Twenty-one days notice of this meeting shall be given in writing by the Secretary.
- 23 Proposals for alterations to rules are to be sent by email to the Secretary by the Chairman of an affiliated Club not later than 28 days prior to the AGM.

The Committee may also propose changes to the rules, not later than 21 days prior to the meeting to allow affiliated clubs the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes before the AGM. The Secretary shall provide each affiliated club with any such proposals with the notification for the meeting.

Rule changes will be agreed by majority decision at the AGM with the Chairman having a deciding vote if tied.

24 The financial year shall be defined as from 1st October to 30th September.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES FOR THE ANNUAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

- 1 The competition shall be open only to clubs affiliated to the South Bedfordshire Lawn Tennis League.
- 2 Each club shall enter only one team in the competition and this team must compose of 'bona fide' members of that club. No individual can play for more than one club in this competition in any one season.
- 3 The draw for the competition shall be made at the annual League fixtures meeting. The first-drawn club in each pairing shall be deemed to be the home team. Dates for the matches shall be specified at the fixtures meeting.

- 4 Each match shall be the best of 5 rubbers with one each of the following:

Men's Singles, Ladies' Singles, Men's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

No player may play in more than one rubber (ie each team will consist of 8 players – 4 men and 4 ladies).

All rubbers should be completed but once a team has won 3 rubbers they shall be deemed to have won the match even if the other rubbers are not completed.

A list of players for each event in the Team Knock-Out Competition should be submitted to the opposing captain prior to the commencement of the match.

- 5 All rubbers shall be played as South Bedfordshire Lawn Tennis League rules, ie best of three normal sets with a tie-break being used at 6 games all in each set.
- 6 The winning team will move into the next round.
- 7 The result sheet shall be sent to the League Secretary/Competition Organiser within 48 hours of the match being played.
- 8 To play in the final players must have represented their clubs in at least two South Beds league fixtures, or at least one previous round of the knock-out competition in the current summer season.
- 9 After the first round if both teams have played the same number of times at home and away, the venue will be decided on the toss of a coin. If either team has played more matches away than the other, that team will get the home venue
- 10 Any points not covered by these supplementary rules, the general rules of the League will apply.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES FOR THE JUNIORS' SECTION (aged 12 and over)

The general rules of the league will apply to the juniors' section, together with the following supplementary rules:

- 1 All junior and mini-tennis age groups are in line with the L.T.A. competition framework.
- 2 In the junior section, a team is to consist of two players of any gender. A match is to be played as two singles rubbers, and one doubles rubber. Team captains must play their better player as their number 1 singles player regardless of gender or LTA rating
- 3 Each rubber is to be played as the best of three sets with a tie break at 6 – 6 in the first two sets. The third set is to be played as a champions tie break, i.e. the first to ten or a margin of two clear points after nine all.
- 4 Junior singles matches will be processed for ratings purposes.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES FOR THE MINI-TENNIS SECTION

The general rules of the league will apply to the mini-tennis section, together with the following supplementary rules:

- 1 All junior and mini-tennis age groups are in line with the L.T.A. competition framework.
- 2 In the mini-tennis section, a team is to consist of two players of any gender. A match is to be played as four singles rubbers, and one doubles rubber.
- 3 Each rubber is to be played as a short set, first to 4 games with a margin of 2 games. In the event the set reaches 4 games all, a short tie break will decide the winning player.
- 4 The mini-tennis events may be held as a league or one day competition as decided by the Committee.

Approved at AGM 2023-12-04