

# **RULES OF THE NORWICH WINTER TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

## **1. TITLE**

The league shall be known as the Norwich Winter Tennis League.

## **2. ADMINISTRATION.**

The league shall be administered by the Norwich Winter Tennis Association Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee).

## **3. AFFILIATION**

- (a) The Norwich Winter Tennis Association is affiliated to the Norwich Lawn Tennis Association.
- (b) All competing clubs must be affiliated to the Norfolk Tennis Association or their appropriate County Tennis Association. In the event of the leagues being oversubscribed, Norfolk clubs will be given priority when the committee decides which teams are accommodated.

## **4. LAWS.**

The Rules of Lawn Tennis and the Regulations for the management of Lawn Tennis Tournaments, as far as possible, shall be observed.

## **5. REGISTRATION.**

- (a) All match players are to be bona fide and regular playing members of their clubs and must be registered before they play in a match. If players are not registered in writing before the first fixture the offending club will be fined £5 for each match completed before the registration list is received by the Hon Results Secretary.
- (b) Registrations should be sent to the Hon. Results Secretary and will remain valid for one season only. No player may be registered or play for more than one club in any one season without the express permission of the committee.
- (c) The following are ineligible to play:
  - Any player who has played in more than one match in any one year, either at county week or the Indoor County Championship, during the two years prior to the beginning of the winter season.

This rule does not apply in division 1.

- (d) Where one club enters two or more teams in the league a player may not play for a junior team after having played more than two matches for any senior team(s). Players may not represent more than one team in any division. Two men and two ladies must be nominated for each team except the most junior team. A nominated player must not play for a team junior to the one for which they were nominated.

## **6. TEAMS.**

Teams will consist of two men and two women. They will play two mixed doubles first and then a men's double and a women's double. Rubbers will be two sets. If the score is 6-6 a tie break will be played.

## **7. TROPHIES.**

A trophy will be awarded to each team winning a division. The trophies shall be perpetual challenge trophies and shall be returned to the organiser as directed.

## **8. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

Normally the top two teams will be promoted to the next higher division and the bottom two teams will be relegated to the next lower division. However, between Divisions 1 and 2 only the bottom team of division 1 shall be relegated and the top team of division 2 promoted. The teams at the bottom of the lowest division, together with any new applicants, will apply for re-election or election as appropriate.

## **9. LOCATION**

All matches are to be played on all weather courts at locations directed by the Hon. Organiser or on other courts at the Hon. Organiser's discretion.

## **10. BALLS**

The first named club will provide at least eight new balls for each match

## **11. CANCELLATION**

In the event of bad weather conditions Captains must decide and agree on the fitness, or otherwise, of the conditions and teams must abide by the decision. It is the responsibility of the first named team to inform the Hon Organiser, immediately, of any cancellation. The Organiser will arrange an alternative date and venue. Matches will be replayed if a result is not reached.

#### **12. POSTPONEMENT**

In the event of no play being possible it shall be left to the Hon Organiser to arrange a suitable date and venue.

#### **13. FORFEITURE**

- (a) Players should arrive at the courts at 10:15 a.m. to ensure that matches commence promptly at 10:30 a.m. For indoor matches at Easton players should arrive at 8:45 to ensure matches commence promptly at 09:00.
- (i) If any player or players have not arrived by 10:45 a.m. (09:15 at Easton) they will forfeit their first set, both sets if not there by 11:00 a.m. (09:30 at Easton)
- (ii) Failure to arrive by the start of the second round rubber involving that player or players will mean the forfeiture of both second round sets.
- (b) If any team fails to honour any fixture for any reason other than bad weather, whether on the original fixture list or a subsequently arranged fixture, the team will be deemed to have lost the match by 8 sets to 0.\*
- (c) Any team unable to complete all their fixtures through default may be relegated or required to apply for re-election at the discretion of the Hon Organiser.\*

**PLEASE NOTE\*\* (b) and (c) do not apply for the 20/21 season as matches may be called off for unavoidable reasons such as players having to isolate. Clubs can try to rearrange but may declare the match 'unplayed'.**

#### **14. POINTS**

Two points will be awarded for an overall win. Should the number of sets be equal one point shall be awarded to each team.

In the event 5 or more sets of a match have been completed but it is not possible to finish all 8, the score should be submitted as it stood when the match was curtailed with a brief explanation. This result, based on completed sets, will stand and the match will not be replayed unless it is considered necessary by the Hon. Organiser.

When the league has been completed, if the teams tie on points, rubbers and sets the final league placings will be decided by considering:

- (i) the team which won the greater number of matches
- (ii) the team which gained the greater number of sets in the matches between the teams involved.

If this does not split the teams it may be necessary to arrange a play-off. In a play-off match, if the number of sets be equal the number of games to decide.

**PLEASE NOTE For 20/21 SEASON the final positions may be decided on average points per match if fixtures cannot be completed. If insufficient matches are completed the season may be declared void.**

#### **15. RESULTS**

The first named team on the fixture list shall be responsible for the completion of the results sheet, signed by both captains, and the forwarding of this to the Hon. Results Secretary within 48 hours of playing.

#### **16. DISPUTE**

In the event of any dispute arising the matter shall be settled by the Committee which shall, at its discretion, deduct points or impose a fine for any infringement of the rules.

#### **17. REGISTRATION FEE**

A registration fee shall be payable on demand, such fee to be calculated by the Committee and shall include the cost of court hire.

#### **18. FLOODLIGHTING**

If required the cost of floodlighting shall be shared between the participating clubs.

### **19. FINES**

Any club failing to comply with any of these rules is liable to be fined a minimum of £5 up to a maximum of £20 depending on the severity of the offence as interpreted by the Committee. The Hon. Organiser has the right, at any time of the season following an offence, to impose a fine on the offending club. The club may appeal to the Committee if aggrieved by the decision, otherwise the fine must be paid within 14 days.

### **20. RULES**

All matters not dealt with in these rules may be decided on by the Committee who will have the right to decline entries to the league. Any alteration or addition to these rules can only be carried out at the Annual General Meeting of the N.W.T.A. unless any alterations are made by the L.T.A. Trust in which case the Organiser will advise each club as soon as possible of such alterations or additions.

**September 2020**