

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT – RULES

Entries

Entries must be made by completing the application form and returning it to the Secretary together with an entry fee prior to February 28th

After the cut off date of February 28th, the competition committee will meet to compile a list of entrants for each event in order of current standard. This year's committee will be decided at January's committee meeting. With many people struggling to play matches during team tennis season and over the summer holidays, finals day will remain later in the year. This year it is Saturday 14th September in the afternoon (reserve date Sunday 15th September)

Please note: All rounds must be played by the deadline date otherwise players will be scratched.

The Draw

The draw will take place at the beginning of March and be carried out by this year's competition committee.

Singles Events

Where possible a minimum of four players shall be seeded and placed on the tournament draw sheet. Seedings shall be decided by considering both current standard of play and results from the previous year's tournament. Opponents shall be drawn from the remainder of entrants and placed on the sheet in order descending from top to bottom.

Where there are an odd number of entrants, these players will be placed in an appropriate place for the draw to run its course. i.e. a player may get a bye in the first round .

Doubles Events

The lists compiled by the competition committee will be split through the middle thus creating two lists for each gender and partners will be decided for all doubles events by drawing names from opposite lists. In the case of the mixed event, a man from the top half of the male list will be drawn with a woman from the bottom half of the female list.

Seeded players will not be allowed to partner other seeded players. We will draw the seeded men first to find a non seeded partner and then the seeded women (in mixed) against non seeded men. The remaining non-seeded entrants will then be drawn. Once all names have been drawn the competition committee shall seed the pairings (not the player but the players) bearing in mind current standards of play and taking into account results from the previous year's tournament. There will be a minimum of four seeded pairs in each doubles event. Opponents shall be drawn from the remainder of entrants and placed on the sheet in order descending from top to bottom.

Where there are an odd number of pairings in the draw, these will be placed in an appropriate place for the draw to run its course. i.e. a pairing may get a bye in the first round.

Fixtures

All fixtures shall run from the end of April to September with the finals being played on 14th September (or 15th if wet).

All rounds must be played by the deadline date otherwise players will be scratched. The first round must be played by April 21st and the second round must be played by May 19th. If a player is unavailable for any reason, including injury then they must retire from the tournament. The top player/s in the draw must contact the bottom player/s and offer two dates. If these dates are unsuitable then the bottom player/s should offer two further dates. Should a player have a problem in organising a match they should inform the competition committee as soon as possible. First round losers in the mixed doubles will go into the plate competition. This will ensure that participants get at least two games.

Finals

All finals shall be played on Saturday 14th September (juniors am and adults pm). If play is not possible owing to inclement weather then all finals shall be played on Sunday 15th September (again juniors am and adults pm). There will be no exception to this rule unless weather prevents play. If a finalist is not available to play (owing to other commitments or injury), then the player (if singles) or the players (if doubles i.e. you and your partner) will be substituted by the player/s that that player/s beat in the semi-final. If inclement weather prevents play on finals weekend then the finals shall be played at a time that is agreed between players but no later than two weeks after the advised finals weekend.

Substitutions for Doubles Events

Should the number of entries determine that some players require partners then those partners shall be drawn from the relevant list of the previous rounds losers. (i.e. from a draw of either the top part of the original list or the bottom part of the original list – the opposite list to that of the player requiring a partner).

If a player needs to withdraw from the tournament, up to and including semi-final stage, then an available extra player will be chosen from the original lists that is closest in standard to the retiree. Once the semi-final has been played, then both players shall be scratched and the losing pair of that semi-final shall go through to the final. If there is a withdrawal on the day of the final or through injury from an earlier match on finals day, then the opposition have the right to claim the match. As a small family club, the committee would hope that the opposition would prefer to play, opposed to claiming the match, and if this is the case, will endeavour to find opposition (of a similar standard) from members present on the day so the match can be completed.