

Rules and Regulations 2020

The Yeovil & District Lawn Tennis League

- 1 CONSTITUTION.** The League competition is open to Clubs situated within a 15 mile radius of Yeovil having access to at least 2 courts. Clubs outside this area may be accepted, subject to full AGM approval. The competition shall be run in accordance with the Rules of Tennis, the rules of the LTA, and these rules.
- 2 COMMITTEE.** The Management of the League shall be vested in a Committee of 9 to consist of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and such other Officers as are deemed necessary at the AGM. Subject to a quorum of 5 Members, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt. The Chairman and Treasurer shall be elected or re-elected annually at the AGM. In the absence of a volunteer, Clubs shall be expected to nominate a person to serve as Secretary for a term of one year, the Clubs to be appointed on an alphabetical basis.
- 3 POWERS OF COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall have the power to fine, suspend or expel any Club or player if in the opinion of the Committee the rules of the League have been broken or conduct prejudicial to the interest of the League has occurred. Should a complaint be received concerning the condition of any court, the decision of the Committee regarding further use of the court for League matches shall be final.
- 4 MEETINGS.** The Annual General Meeting and the Registration Meeting shall be held in the months of October and February respectively. Representatives of all affiliated Clubs shall be entitled to attend both meetings but only 1 delegate from each Club shall be entitled to vote. Only member Clubs may submit proposals to amend League rules. Proposals must reach the League Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting. The Registration Meeting shall be called to organise fixtures and collect subscriptions and fees. Any member Club not represented at an AGM or a Registration meeting shall be liable to a fine of £5
- 5 FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.** The current season's fees are: each member Club £5; each participating team £5.(For 2020, the fee for each team is waived.)
- 6 GROUPING AND FIXTURES.** The competition shall be divided into groups of not more than 8 teams. New Clubs and Clubs rejoining the League shall be placed in the lowest division or waiting list.
- 7 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION.** Generally, the two teams scoring the most points in each division shall be promoted and the two teams scoring the fewest points shall be relegated. This Rule is subject to new entries or withdrawal of teams at or prior to the Registration Meeting. If two or more teams are tied on points, their relative positions shall be determined by:

(1) Matches won. (2) Percentage of sets won. (3) Percentage of games won (4) The aggregate results of matches between the teams. If still tied, by the toss of a coin.

Any team conceding more than one match (to include fielding an incomplete team) in any season shall have all their results up to that date immediately deleted and be relegated to one division below. The lowest team of the lowest division shall be placed at the bottom of any waiting list.

8 TEAMS. Each team to consist of 4 players. If a captain cannot raise a full team, provided 24 hours notice is given and the opposing captain agrees, the match can be played or rearranged. The opposing captain is at liberty to refuse. Where a team plays with only one pair, that team shall forfeit the unplayed rubbers, with the scores recorded as 6-0, 6-0. Each team is to play a home and an away fixture against each other team in the same division per season. Clubs may enter a maximum of 2 teams in any division. Any player may only play once in any one category in any one week unless he/she is also playing in a rearranged match in that week. Where a Club has more than one team competing in the same category (Mixed, Men's or Ladies) the players considered to be the strongest shall compete in the team(s) of highest standing. In addition, after the scheduled end of the season, any player who has played more than a total of 7 matches in any higher team(s) cannot play in a lower team. Points won by any player found to be in breach of this rule shall, at the discretion of the Committee, be awarded to the opposing team.

9 PLAYING MEMBERS. A player may represent more than one Club in different categories providing they are a fully paid up, bona fide member of each Club. A player wishing to change Clubs during the season must give 14 days' notice to the League Secretary, during which he/she cannot play for the new club. All points won by an ineligible player in any match shall be awarded to the opposing team. For representation purposes the League and Knock-out sections shall be treated as one competition

10 MATCH DAYS. The first round of Summer League matches each year shall commence in week **17** of the calendar and shall be played on any weekday. Winter League matches are to be played at weekends commencing the weekend of week 45. Knock-Out matches may be played on any day.

11 UNCOMPLETED MATCHES. Where matches are started and abandoned after 2 rubbers have been completed, the points for any completed rubbers shall stand. The 2 points for any uncompleted rubbers due to poor light or bad weather shall be divided equally between the teams. If, after the allocation of the 2 points for any uncompleted rubbers, the teams are level on points, the 2 bonus points referred to in Rule 16 will be awarded to the team with more completed sets, or, if tied on sets, more games in all completed sets. Where fewer than 2 rubbers have been played at the time of abandonment, the match shall be replayed on another occasion from the beginning. If a player retires due to injury, the opposing team will be

awarded as many games as are required to achieve a result in their favour in each of the unfinished/unplayed rubbers. Eg, if a player retires when his/her pair are leading 4-3 in the 1st set, the opposing team win 6-4, 6-0.

12 ORDER OF PLAY. Summer League matches to consist of 4 rubbers in which each pair plays both pairs of the opposing team. Each visiting pair to play both rubbers on the same court. All rubbers shall be the best of 3 sets.

Winter League matches: 4 mixed doubles matches of 1 set per rubber to be followed by 1 Men's doubles and 1 Ladies doubles of 2 sets per rubber.

Tie-breaks: All full sets are to be decided by a tie-break game (7 points) at 6-6 and recorded on the result card as 7-6 or 6-7. At one set all, a match-deciding Tie-break game (10 points) shall be played unless both captains agree to play a full set. The match-deciding Tie-break game shall be scored 1-0 or 0-1. If a full third set is to be played, it can be delayed until after the completion of the second round of matches.

13 POSTPONEMENTS. Matches may only be postponed by reason of bad weather or in accordance with rule 8. A match not played for any other reason shall be deemed lost (conceded) by the offending team who will lose 4 points and their opponents will gain 10 points, and 8 sets scored 6-0. The Home Team captain must inform the League Administrator by e-mail so that he/she can enter the points and penalty points. In the event of any postponement, the Home Team must offer their opponents 3 dates for the re-match, taking into consideration any scheduled League commitment of the other Club. The Home captain must enter the rescheduled date on the website within 21 days of the original fixture. All Summer League matches must be played by August 31st or be registered as conceded by the Home Team.

14 BALLS. Four new ITF-approved balls of any make are to be provided by the Home team for each court. Other balls may be used with the consent of the visiting captain.

15 TIME OF START. All summer matches will commence at 6.15pm and any player not ready to play 30 minutes after the scheduled start time shall lose the first set 6-0. Should any player not be ready within 60 minutes of the scheduled start, the first rubber shall be conceded and if not ready within 90 minutes, the second rubber. The League Administrator must be informed by email within 48 hours of the match, so that he/she can enter the points for the rubbers conceded. Where a set(s) has been claimed due to late arrival, the offending player(s) should be informed before any further play. Consideration should be given to a late arrival who has previously notified the opposing captain and offered adequate reason.

16 SCORING. Teams are to be awarded one point for each set won. 2 bonus points are to be added to the score of the team winning most sets or, if tied on sets, the most games. If tied on games and sets, the teams get one bonus point each.

17 ENTERING RESULTS. The match card must be signed by the captains of both teams and retained by the Home Captain. The Home team captain should enter the result within 48 hours. If he/she fails to enter the result by the end of that week, or a comment that the match has been postponed, or fails to enter the name of every player or a comment identifying any unnamed player, the Home team may receive a 2 point penalty.

18 TROPHIES. Any Club failing to arrange to correctly engrave and deliver a trophy to the AGM will incur a fine of £10.

19 DISPUTES. Any dispute must be notified to the Chairman by email within 1 week. The Committee can take any action to resolve the dispute including, but not limited to, awarding the match to one or other of the teams in dispute, direct that the match be replayed or order that the points for the match be shared between the teams.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION RULES

All K.O. matches shall be played to the relevant rules of the League and may be played on any day of the week.

Any participating League Club may enter a team in any category.

The draw for the event shall be made at the Annual Registration Meeting.

The first and second teams in the previous seasons League competition shall be placed in separate halves of the draw.

The K.O. Match Secretary shall notify all teams of their opponents in the competition by email. The Home team shall then offer their opponents a choice of 3 dates (4 in the case of a semi-final match) within the stipulated time schedule of the competition, taking into consideration any previous official League commitment of that Club.

Should none of the dates offered be accepted, the Home team shall claim the tie as conceded. Results to be entered on the LTA website.

If a knock-out match is tied on both sets and games the winner is to be decided by a Championship tie-break (10 points) between one of the pairs from each team.

All finals shall be played on such date and at a venue to be decided by the League Committee.

DISCLAIMER

All clubs and their members participating in the League must agree, as a condition of their participation, that no claims are brought against the League arising from any injury, however caused, or losses incurred while participating in the League.

