

RULES OF IPSWICH & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS SUMMER LEAGUE – valid 2024 [2024 housekeeping changes shown in **bold]**

1. CONSTITUTION

- a) To be known as Ipswich & District Lawn Tennis League
- b) Open to Clubs within approx. 12 miles radius of Ipswich.
- c) Clubs must be members of Suffolk LTA.
- d) Controlled by President, Hon. League Administrator, Hon. Treasurer plus Committee of seven members from different Clubs all elected at AGM. An officer can be from the same club as the committee, however in the event of a committee vote, only 1 vote per club allowed.
- e) Annual General Meeting to be held in April, attended by anyone but each member Club allowed only 1 vote.
- f) Rules alter only at AGM. An amendment to a previously approved rule (existing or new), where the subject is substantially the same, cannot be made for 3 years after approval.
- g) Written proposals of alterations to rules or resolutions to be given to League Secretary by 31 December.
- h) Committee to have full jurisdiction over any matter not covered by rules and its decision will be final.
- i) League trophies to be held for one year by winners who are responsible for their safekeeping and return to the League.

2. COMPOSITION

- a) Mens, Ladies & Mixed doubles sections arranged in divisions.
- b) Division to contain five teams where possible.
- c) Teams to play home & away matches against each other team in division.
- d) Teams to consist of three pairs who will play 1 set against each of the opposing pairs. Teams may contain no more than 2 professional coaches within the team of 6 players
- e) Number of sets won to decide result of match, two points awarded for a win.
- f) Position of teams with equal points at end of season decided by calculating percentage of sets won. If still equal, then percentage of games won will apply.
- g) All promotions & relegations subject to the requirements of league entries & division numbers.
- h) Clubs to enter teams by date, not more than 10 days before AGM, arranged by Committee.
- i) Committee to prepare composition of sections and divisions as recommendation to Annual General Meeting for approval or amendment.
- j) Late entries accepted up to AGM only to fill vacancies.

3. FIXTURES

- a) Will be made by the Annual General Meeting.
- b) Will be arranged to take place between 1st May and 31st July on any day of the week **(or earlier or later if mutually agreed)**.
- c) Each club to send fixture list to League Administrator by **date requested to allow for cross checking**.
- d) Matches to be played on or before fixture date.
- e) Fixture dates may be altered only in special circumstances if both clubs agree, and the League Committee gives permission.
- f) Permission is not required for postponement caused by weather.
- g) Failure to fulfil a fixture except for full and sufficient reason (made to the League Administrator in writing) will result in opponents receiving a walk over.

4. MATCHES

- a) All matches shall be played according to LTA rules.
- b) The home club to provide new "Official" or "Authorised" balls for each match.
- c) Matches must start at 6.30pm or earlier or later if mutually agreed.
- d) "Knocking up" is not allowed after the starting time of match except for 2 minutes when third pairs first participate in 2 court matches.
- e) Any pair responsible for play not starting on any court within 15 minutes of starting time shall forfeit 4 games and if not within 30 minutes shall forfeit one set.
- f) A match shall have started on playing of first point by any one pair.
- g) If play is suspended the score and occupancy of court will hold good on resumption unless both captains agree otherwise.
- h) The visiting captain, upon court inspection, shall decide whether or not conditions are suitable for play so long as the home club deems the court surface playable.
- i) Play shall not be resumed or completed on any date after that on which a result is obtained for the match.
- j) In 3 court matches, the visiting pairs play all their sets on same courts.
- k) Any team conceding 2 or more matches shall be automatically relegated to the next lower division and any match results discounted.

cont. overleaf

5. RESULTS
- a) Shall be **emailed as photo/image of signed score sheet** to League Administrator by Home Club including **full player names & both signatures, within 5 days of match. If match not played on scheduled date, League Administrator must be advised & reason given.**
 - b) Closing date for receipt of any result, claim or statement on any match shall be **23rd August 2024.**
 - c) Committee to adjudicate on information received about any unresolved matches.
 - d) Committee to prepare final league tables before 10th September.
6. PLAYERS
- a) Shall not play for more than one club in the same section during a season.
 - b) Shall not play in a lower team after playing three times in a higher team in a section during a season (i.e. may play up twice) **including when a club has teams in the same division.**
 - c) Clubs with two teams in a section must nominate 4 players who will play in their first team only. Clubs with three teams in a section must nominate a further 4 players who will play in the first or second teams only.
Failure to submit nominations by 1st May or by date of 1st match, may result in their being declared null and void.
 - d) Every effort must be made to complete unfinished matches with the original players. If this proves impossible a maximum of 2 substitutes are allowed in a team provided that they are:-
 - i) Players not previously involved in the match.
 - ii) of a reasonable comparable standard to original player.
 - iii) acceptable to opponents
 - iv) approved by League Representative if any dispute arises.
 - e) A player who is unable to continue playing shall concede the unfinished games of that set. Subsequent sets shall also be conceded, when they are due to be played, if the player or a substitute as defined in 6(d) is unable to contest them.
 - f) All players must be substantive, fully paid up members of the club they are playing for or representing in the Competition. Any team defaulting shall forfeit the match.
7. SETS
- a) A set to be completed when one pair has won 8 games with a clear margin of 2 games.
 - b) If a score of 7 games each is reached, then a deciding tie-breaker game shall be played in accordance with LTA rules.
 - c) A Tie breaker game shall be won by the pair who first obtains 7 points or a clear margin of 2 points after a score of 6 points each has been reached.
 - d) In a tie break game:-
 - i) All players receive service in same positions as previous games
 - ii) players whose normal turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the right hand court. The second and third points are from the left and right courts respectively. Thereafter each player shall serve in their normal rotation for two points only, first from left court and second from right court until the game is decided.
 - iii) players shall change ends after every 6 points and at end of game
 - iv) the tie break game counts as service game to pair who serve first.
8. SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
- a) Men's and Ladies events will be run as a knock-out competition.
 - b) Committee to make arrangements according to size of entry.
9. WINTER LEAGUE
- a) Rules 1(a) to (i) are to apply.
 - b) Clubs to enter teams **by date requested by League Administrator.**
 - c) Committee to prepare composition of divisions.
 - d) Rules of play to be as on separate sheet circulated to all teams.
 - e) League positions based on points obtained i.e. sets won with tied positions decided on matches won. All promotions & relegations subject to the requirements of league entries & division numbers.