

HULL & DISTRICT

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION



League Rules (Updated 13th March 2022)

1. Administration of the League

- a) The League shall be called the 'Hull and District Lawn Tennis League'.
- b) The objects of the League are the promotion of inter-club and other tennis competitions, the advancement of the game and the arrangement of events locally for the benefit of its members.
- c) The League shall consist of Tennis Clubs in the wider Hull and District area who are willing to abide by these Rules.
- d) The Officers of the League shall be a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a League Secretary. All Officers shall be elected by the Council annually and all officers shall be 'ex-officio' members of all Committees. Retiring Officers continue to act until the close of the meeting at which their successors are appointed.
- e) The Council shall have the power to delegate all/any of its powers in such a manner as it shall deem expedient.
- f) The League shall be managed by a Council consisting of the Officers and up to two members nominated by each Club that is a member of the League. Council Members hold office until they resign in writing to the Chair or their Club ceases to be a member of the League.
- g) An Annual Council Meeting shall be held at such time as the Council directs and other such Council Meetings as may be necessary or required to be held during the calendar year.
- h) The Secretary will call a Council Meeting at any time on the written request of not less than five members stating the business to be transacted.
- i) Seven days' notice must be given of all Council Meetings. Fourteen days' notice must be given of the Annual General Meeting.
- j) Council Meetings will be held at such places and times as the Officers appoint and may be held in person or virtually at the discretion of the Meetings Secretary.
- k) Quorum shall be at least all serving Officers.

- l) An attendance sheet shall be signed at all meetings giving name and Club represented or be compiled via the virtual meeting application.
- m) The decision of all matters arising at Council or Committee Meetings (except the alteration of these rules and the expulsion or suspension of a Member) is by the majority vote of the Councillors present at the meeting. The Chairman has a casting vote. Proxies are not allowed.
- n) For the alteration of these Rules and the expulsion /suspension of a Member there must be a majority in favour of the resolution of at least 75% of the Councillors present.
- o) Applications for Membership should be made in writing to the Secretary containing an undertaking to abide by these rules and signed by the Secretary of the Applicant Club. League Entry Forms are acceptable as applications and responsibility to abide by these Rules is inferred.
- p) Applications should be made prior to 31st March in the year of application and the acceptance /rejection of all entries without giving reason rests entirely with the Council or appropriate Committee. Any new teams enter any League in the lowest Division of that Section.

2. Finances

- a) An Annual subscription from clubs will be determined each year at the AGM. This should be paid by each Member Club to the Treasurer whose receipt will suffice.
- b) The subscription is £10 per Club plus £2 per team entered
- c) All subscriptions should be made before the season commences (1st May)
- d) If any subscription or part thereof be in arrears for more than two calendar months the defaulting Club, if the Officers so decide, thereupon ceases to be a member of the League for all purposes.
- e) The Financial Year of the League ends on 31st December in each year and the Treasurer's accounts shall be presented at the AGM for certification by the Officers.
- f) The accounts shall be externally audited if directed by the Council.

3. League / Sub League / Divisions

- a) The following terms will be used:
 - League – Encompasses all actions of the Hull & District League
 - Sub League – the League is subdivided into Men, Ladies, and Mixed

- Divisions – each Sub League will have a number of Divisions e.g. Men 1, Men 2, Ladies 1, Ladies 2, etc.
- b) The sub leagues shall be divided into divisions consisting of between four and nine teams, each of four players. Each team will play each other team in its division, both at home and away.
 - c) The assignment of Teams to Divisions shall rest entirely with the Council or appropriate committee. This responsibility is usually delegated to the League Secretary at the AGM.
 - d) The League Secretary shall provide all clubs with a full list of fixtures for each season, in good time for any problem dates to be identified.
 - e) Any match can be re-arranged with no reason given before 30th April. Both captains must be able to agree on the revised date.
 - f) Once all matches are rearranged you must reschedule the match in the League Planner software. Any problems with doing so inform the League Secretary
 - g) Once the season has started, matches may only be postponed in circumstances of bad weather, or exceptionally, if courts are unplayable through surface damage etc. If a match is postponed it shall be re-arranged by the captains concerned. In the case of disagreement the date and venue shall be determined by the League Secretary. Any re-arranged matches should be played before 31st August.
 - h) Again, once a new date is decided, League Planner should be updated and issues please speak with the League Secretary.
 - i) If a club cannot field a full team of four players they must concede to the opposing captain as soon as this is apparent, by 9pm on the previous day.
 - j) If a match is conceded prior to 9pm the previous day, this incurs a two-point deduction, and the opposing team will record the result as 8-0 sets, 48-0 games. Please add a comment to the League Planner when adding a result saying “Match Conceded by ‘Team Name’ – notice given in time”
 - k) If a match is conceded on the day of the match (rather than 9pm on the previous day) this incurs a three point deduction, and the opposing team will record the result as 8-0 sets, 48-0 games. Please add a comment to the League Planner when adding a result saying “Match Conceded by ‘Team Name’ – late notice given”
 - l) If a team is not informed that their opponents cannot make a team, and this is only discovered at the time of the match then the unavailable team will lose four points. Again the team who is available will have a result of 8-0 sets, 48-0 games. Please add a comment to the League Planner when adding a result saying “Match Conceded by ‘Team Name’ – no notice given”

- m) The choice of courts to be used for a match rests with the home team captain, unless the safety of the court surface is an issue, in which case agreement between the two captains is required. All questions of the fitness of courts shall be decided by the home club captain and all questions of ceasing play on account of bad weather or playing conditions shall be decided by the visiting team captain. In the case of matches played on courts equipped with artificial lights the use of such lighting will be decided by the captain of the visiting team.
- n) The home team captain is responsible for providing two sets of new tennis balls appropriate to the surface, four per court, for each match.
- o) No fees what so ever must be made to visitors to any club.
- p) Each team will comprise two couples. A match requires each couple to play two sets against each of the opposing couples. Should the score in any set reach 6-6, a normal tie-break shall be played.
- q) If during the match, one of the four players is unable to continue for any reason, then they are not allowed to be replaced by a fifth player. All of their subsequent games and sets will be conceded.
- r) The team winning the greater number of sets wins the match. If the numbers of sets won are equal, the team winning the greater number of games wins the match. If both sets won and games won are equal, then the match is drawn. The winning team is awarded two points, and the losing team none. In the event of a draw each team is awarded one point.
- s) If a match is terminated early because of bad weather or playing conditions, the following applies. If both captains agree to the score reached before play stopped being taken as a final score, then it will count as the final score. If the captains do not agree, but completing the match could not possibly bring about a change in the result (who wins and who loses), then the result as the play stopped should be taken as the final result. In all other circumstances the match should be re-played in its entirety (i.e. the score is NOT carried forward to the replayed match).
- t) At any time during the match, and if both Captains agree, the match can be shortened by the application of 'sudden death' at second deuce. The receiving team shall select the side for the serve.
- u) After a match, results should be entered in the League Planner as soon as possible by the winning team. Please use the Enter Rubber Results (not Enter Match Results). The home team score should be entered first. If the game is four sets all and one team wins on games, enter the winning team in the 'Shootout'.
- v) If any player or players are not ready to start within a quarter of an hour of the appointed time the opponents of the pair/pairs in the first round shall be entitled to

take one love set. If any player or players are not ready to start within 45 minutes of the appointed time that pair or pairs in the first round shall be entitled to a walkover of 2 love sets. If any player or players are not ready to start within an hour of the appointed time, the opposing team shall be entitled to take four love sets.

- w) If a Club withdraws before completing its matches in a season all results played by and against that Club will be voided.
- x) A Club may enter as many teams as it wishes in any **sub** league - Men's, Ladies', and Mixed. For each league the Club should indicate the order of the strengths of the teams being entered as "A", "B", and so on, with the A team being the strongest.
- y) A player is ineligible to play in a particular team in a league if they have played for stronger teams three times in that season.
- z) A player may not represent more than one Club in any sub league, in one season. A player may play for different clubs, in different sub leagues. To clarify, a player may play for Men for one Club and Mixed for another club. However a player may NOT play for Men A for one Club and play for Men B at a different club.

4. End of Season

- a) At the end of the season the teams in each division shall be ordered according to, first, the number of points they have won, and for equal points, the number of sets they have won.
- b) At the end of each season, the leading team of each division (apart from division 1) shall be promoted to the higher division for the following season, and the bottom team of each division (apart from the bottom division) shall be relegated to the lower division.
- c) In exceptional circumstances where in the following season certain teams no longer enter, it may be required to promote the 2nd place team in some division as well. The decision will be made by the League Secretary.
- d) Trophies for teams winning each division shall be awarded each year, and these will remain in the keeping of the relevant clubs throughout the year.
- e) It is the responsibility of the clubs to return trophies to the Secretary in good time for the presentation evening of the following year.
- f) Any disputes connected to the operation of these rules should be referred in the first instance to the Secretary. The officers of the League will decide on such matters as they consider fit, and other issues will be referred to the full Council, or an AGM.

- g) A club which wishes to challenge a decision by the officers of the League is entitled to have the matter raised with the full Council, or at an AGM.
- h) Any proposal for altering the rules of the League should be made in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days in advance of a General Meeting.
- i) Any breach of these rules, or any other act or omission which in the opinion of the Council is detrimental to the League's aims, may result in the imposition of a penalty. This could take the form of suspension or expulsion from the league, the deduction of points for a team, or other action as is seen to be appropriate by the Council.
- j) All property of the Hull and District Tennis League shall be held by such persons and on such terms as the Council directs.
- k) On dissolution of the Hull and District Tennis League any surplus assets shall be dealt with as the Council at that time directs.