



Swindon & District Tennis League

League Rules

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Swindon District Tennis League



@SwindonTennis

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Swindon & District Tennis League Rules

1. League Organisation

- a). There will be separate sections for Men's, Ladies', Mixed and Winter Mixed teams if there are sufficient entries to form a league or leagues for each section. Each league shall be divided into divisions. The number of teams in each division shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
- b). The League will only consider entries from LTA Affiliated Tennis venues.
- c). All venues must comply with LTA Safeguarding policies and procedures.
- d). Promotion and relegation will be at the discretion of the Committee prior to the new season but will normally be two up and two down.
- e). In the event of a team withdrawing from the league, matches already played by this team shall be declared null and void.
- f). Any team withdrawing after the initial sort is published shall forfeit its entry fees.
- g). The League Committee will endeavour to, wherever possible, place new teams in the most appropriate division and will not automatically be defaulted into the lowest division.
- h). The number of teams in a division from the same venue should, wherever possible, be limited to a maximum of two.
- i). To maintain the integrity of the divisional structure of the League by ability levels, venues shall select their teams appropriately from players that are eligible. The use of 'occasional' players to influence the results of a specific fixture shall be actively discouraged and the Committee shall have the power to decide player eligibility in such circumstances, where the occasional player does not play in the top team, either in advance or retrospectively, and to take whatever action is deemed necessary.
- j). The LTA Competition software will be used to administer leagues.
- k). The League will be compliant with and support the World Tennis Number (WTN) scheme.
- l). All players participating in the league must be registered with LTA Advantage.
- m). Venues will be charged a £4.00 entry fee for each team entered in a league.
- n). Venues will be charged a £2.50 fee on each league entry to pay for raffle prizes at the annual presentation evening.
- o). To off-set the emissions produced as a result of travelling to league matches, each team will be charged a £2.00 emissions levy in Summer and Winter leagues. All monies raised from this levy will be invested in a registered carbon off-setting scheme.
- p). All trophies should be returned in a clean condition by 31st August for engraving ahead of the presentation evening. A committee member will contact venues holding trophies for safe return.

2. Match Rules

- a). A match sheet should be completed with the names of all players prior to the commencement of the match and the scores added as and when rubbers are completed.
- b). A team shall normally consist of two pairs; if only one pair is available the opponents must be informed at the earliest available opportunity.
- c). Summer League matches shall consist of two tie-break sets(a rubber) against

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each opposing couple (a total of eight sets).

- d). Winter League matches shall consist of 2 mixed doubles in round 1 (pair 1 v pair 1; pair 2 v pair 2) and in round 2 a Men's Doubles and Ladies Doubles; all to be rubbers of 2 tie-break sets (a total of eight sets).
- e). The number of sets won shall determine the result.
- f). Each team shall play each of the other teams in their division at home and away.
- g). Eight new ITF approved balls of the same manufacture and type are to be provided by the home team.
- h). The league will continually seek the best sponsorship deal for tennis balls. Venues are strongly encouraged to use the tennis balls from the sponsor's range for league matches. The current sponsor is Babolat. All courts should have LTA approved centre bands.
- i). The league positions shall be decided by awarding two points for a win and one point for a draw. In the case of two or more teams having the same points, the positions shall be decided on total sets won, then matches won, then results between the tied teams, and then on the highest ratio of 'games for' to 'games against' in the matches between the tied teams.

3. Match Day and Start Time

- a). Summer League matches shall take place during the course of one week, Monday to Friday. Men's matches should be played on Monday nights. Ladies' matches should be played on Tuesday nights. All Mixed matches must be played on Thursday nights. No Men's or Ladies' matches may be played on Thursday nights.
- b). Winter League matches shall take place during the course of one week Monday to Sunday. Winter League teams may nominate their home day and start time when entering the Winter League. Floodlit matches are permitted but may start no later than 6.45 p.m.
- c). All Summer League matches are to commence by 6.30 p.m. Teams who have floodlights available until at least 9.30 pm may choose to start matches after 6.30pm but no later than 6.45pm, provided they have informed the league at the time of entry.
- d). In the event of a couple not being on court by 15 minutes after the due start time, the offending team **must** concede the first set, and then concede a further set for each half-hour of lateness thereafter. There is to be no knocking-up after the published start time.
- e). Teams in the Winter Leagues who have a match scheduled for the morning of Remembrance Sunday are permitted to delay the start time of the match to the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, provided the home team has courts available at the new start time. The opposing captain must be informed of this change in start time at least 28 days in advance of the match.

4. Eligibility of players

- a). Any player participating in the League must be a full member of the venue he or she is representing. Full membership is defined as a player that has one of the following membership categories or similarly defined by the venue: Life, Family, Senior, Student, Junior, Honorary, Senior Citizen, Country (resident

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- over 50 miles from Swindon town centre) members, or a Coach at the venue.
- b). No player may play for more than one venue in any section of the League in any one season. The sections are Men's, Ladies', Mixed and Winter Mixed.
 - c). A player may not play for more than one team in any one section (Ladies, Men's, Mixed or Winter Mixed) in any one week as per published fixtures, penalty as per rule 8.a).
 - d). Any player, having played three times for a higher team, shall be ineligible to play for a team of a lower standing.
 - e). For re-arranged matches, players are ineligible if they had played for a higher-ranking team more than twice at the date when the match should have taken place, or more than four times when the match is actually played.
 - f). For re-arranged matches, Rule 4.c) still applies in general - players can only play in one match in each section in any week, as per published fixtures. However, for re-arranged matches played in July or August (Summer League) or February or March (Winter League), a team can include players who played for a lower-ranking team in a match originally scheduled for the same week, provided that they have played at least four matches for lower ranking teams.
 - g). If two teams agree to complete an unfinished match at the return fixture, then any player who plays (legally) in the return fixture will be deemed eligible to play in the extra sets played that day.
 - h). A venue involved in a player membership eligibility dispute shall provide a letter from their chairman or membership secretary to the League Administrators to certify the player's membership category and status, thereby confirming their eligibility to play.
5. Postponing and Rearranging Matches
- a). In the event of the postponement of a fixture due to inclement weather, it is the home team's duty to inform their opponents' representative as soon as the decision to cancel is made, otherwise it will be assumed that the match is still to be played.
 - b). Matches shall be re-arranged only in the case of bad weather, public holiday or where a team has players selected for County Week. If this occurs, the League Committee must be informed as soon as possible. In any other exceptional circumstances, an appeal may be made to the League Committee.
 - c). Except for bad weather, at least 6 days notice (preferably more) must be given to the opposing captain if a team wishes to cancel.
 - d). For public holidays, cancelled matches should automatically be re-scheduled (in sequence) to the Mondays after the end of the season, as shown on the fixture list for the season. Matches may be played before this date if both teams agree, in which case the League Committee must be notified. Matches between teams from the same venue are governed by 5.e) below.
 - e). If a scheduled match between two teams from the same venue is cancelled, it **must** be played no later than two weeks after that date. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the match being declared void, with no points awarded to either team, except at the discretion of the League Committee.
 - f). A match may be left unfinished due to bad weather conditions, bad light or dangerous court surface conditions, only on the agreement of both captains. In the event of a late start to a match, the option of ceasing play at the onset of bad light and/or bad weather will be at the sole discretion of the captain of

the non-offending team.

- g). In the event of a postponement or unfinished match due to weather conditions, the match shall be played and entered on the LTA System, if possible, during the following two weeks on a mutually convenient date, but in all cases before August 31st for the Summer League and 21st March for the Winter League; the League End Date.
- h). It is incumbent on both team captains to cooperate to rearrange the match, but final responsibility for rescheduling the match resides with the home team who must offer a minimum of three reasonable dates. A date must be agreed and the league notified of the new date by 31st July (Summer League) or 28th February (Winter League). If the away team is unable to accept one of these dates the un-played sets will be awarded to the home team.
- i). If the home team fails to provide three dates by the above deadlines, the un-played sets will be awarded to the away team. In the case of incomplete matches, only completed sets will be counted in the re-arranged fixture. Substitutes will be allowed, but players from the original fixture, if available, must continue in their original pair number.

6. Recording Results

- a). Match score sheets must be provided by the home captain on which all match details must be entered clearly and fully, before being signed by both captains. The home team must retain the signed copy until the final tables are published at the end of the season.
- b). The home team must enter the result on the online system within 72 hours of the end of the match.
- c). Postponements with a valid reason must be indicated in the announcement field within 72 hours of the original scheduled match.
- d). If a player is not registered with LTA Advantage when results are entered, the league will permit "unknown player" to be used temporally until that player is registered.
- e). When entering an unknown player, the user must complete the announcement field with their name and Advantage Number, if available
- f). Unknown player entries must be replaced by the offending team with the registered players details as soon as possible and ultimately by the League End Date.
- g). Failure by the offending team to ensure the unknown player is registered and replace unknown player(s) by the League End Date with a registered player entry will result in the player(s) being classed as ineligible and rule 8.a) below will be invoked.
- h). The away team must check the home team's entry and if the away team identifies an error with a recorded result, they should inform the home team captain no later than 7 days after the match date. The home team should amend the result as evidenced by the away team.
- i). A results entry deadline of 10 days after the completed match is set to ensure results are finalised in a timely manner. Failure by the home team to amend an incorrect result within this window will invoke rule 8.c).

7. Claiming Matches

- a). In the event of any venue claiming a match against another venue, unless

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there is complete agreement between the venues, a letter must be forwarded to the League Committee stating the reasons for claiming the match and the score claimed.

- b). A copy of this letter must be forwarded at the same time to the venue Main Contact against which the match is being claimed. Should this venue wish to appeal, a letter should be forwarded to the League Committee within fourteen days stating reasons for any disagreement.
- c). The Committee's decision will be forwarded to both venues within twenty-one days of receipt of the first letter.

8. Fines & Penalties

- a). Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit the events in which the ineligible player has taken part.
- b). Failure by the home team to record a result or a postponement announcement within 72 hours of the scheduled match will result in the offending venue being fined £3.00 initially and a further £3.00 for every week that the result or postponement remains unrecorded.
- c). Failure by the home team to amend an incorrect result within the 10-day results entry window that requires amendment by the system administrators will result in a fine of £3.00.
- d). For every 3 instances of late results entry the team will be deducted 1 point.
- e). If a venue fails to notify another venue of a match cancellation by speaking to a representative of that venue (email or text is insufficient unless there is a response) will be fined £20.00, suspended in the first instance. In the second instance the fine for both offences will be paid - £40.00. The fine is payable to the wronged venue(s) directly. This fine count is at venue, not team level.
- f). Failure by the home team to enter the dates of any rearranged fixtures on to the system by the dates specified in rule 5.h) will result in a fine of £3.00 and a further £3.00 for each week that the new date remains un-entered.
- g). Penalties for conceding matches are as follows:
 - i) On conceding one match the offending team will forfeit one point.
 - ii) On conceding a second match the offending team will forfeit a further two points.
 - iii) On conceding a third match the offending team will have all its results expunged and will automatically be relegated.
- h). A fine of £5.00 will be levied on any venue not represented at the Annual General Meeting.
- i). A fine of £50.00 will be levied on any venue that won a trophy and failed to attend the league presentation evening.