

THE LEAGUE

A STRUCTURE

The League shall consist of such one or more divisions as the Executive should determine. The EC will form each division at its first meeting.

B COMPETITION

1. The team scoring the most points in each division shall be the champion team of that division and shall be entitled to the custody of the Championship Trophy of that division until the succeeding 31st August.
2. The two teams at the head of the second and lower divisions shall be promoted to the next highest division. The teams at the foot of each division may be relegated to the next lower division with the two teams at the foot of the bottom division being required to re-apply. This shall always apply except when the divisions are re-constituted by the EC/LMRSC. No more than two teams from any one club can play in Division 1 at any time.
3. Ties for promotion and relegation, if level on points, sets won will decide. If level on sets, games will decide. If teams are level on games then head to head will decide. If still level, a coin will be tossed. League tables should include sets for and against.
4. All new clubs shall have a minimum of 4 courts suitable for match play and meet the criteria for applications as determined by the EC.
5. All matches shall be played under the laws of Lawn Tennis in the particular week appointed by EC/LMRSC and on the night submitted to the League at the beginning of each season. (This night shall be Monday for 1st and 2nd teams.)
6. Each match shall consist of 4 Mixed doubles, 2 Ladies doubles and 2 Gents doubles with a tie-break operative at 6 games all. Therefore each of the 8 matches shall be worth 2 points and the completed match 16 points. Points awarded should be as follows:- 2 points for a win:: 1 point for a draw.
7. No player shall play more than one like event in the same match. No player shall play in more than 1 match in 1 week unless Rule 19 applies. A postponed or re-arranged match shall be deemed to be played during the week when the match should have been played.
8. Each club shall register 8 men and 8 ladies for their 1st team, 10 of each for their 2nd team, 12 of each for their 3rd team, 14 of each for their 4th team, 16 of each for their 5th team and up to 20 of each for their 6th OR LOWEST TEAM. One team clubs may register up to 20 men and 20 ladies.
9. Player registrations must be sent to the League Planner Manager 2 weeks before the start of the season and in the spreadsheet format as defined by the League Planner Manager. At the discretion of the League Planner Manager SMALL numbers of changes to the registrations MAY be accepted up to the Friday before the start of the season. Individual players may be registered for any number of teams but must still be played in order of strength. No other alterations to these registrations shall be made until after the 7th and before the 8th match of the season, except in case of injury or as directed by the League Match Secretary. Clubs agree that the names of the players taking part in each league match will be shown on the League Results Website.
10. Before the start of every match team captains must complete their teams on their copies of the match scoresheet and, having done so, exchange match scoresheets and complete their teams, as now arranged, on their opponent's match scoresheet. Signed match scoresheets MUST be retained by the club until the start of the following season in case of dispute.

11. Pairs must be played in order of strength. Players in the 1st Mixed event must play in 1st Ladies or 1st Gents doubles. Players in the 4th Mixed event must play in the 2nd Ladies or 2nd Gents doubles. Teams as well as individual players within a team must be played in order of strength.
12. In the event of a player being incapacitated after play in a match has begun, so that he or she cannot continue playing, a captain shall be entitled to include a substitute in any subsequent events in which the incapacitated player should have taken part, provided that the injury or other incapacity was caused entirely after play in the match had begun and was not due solely to tiredness or the worsening of an existing ailment.
13. Any team playing a player made ineligible under any of these rules shall forfeit all games and points won by that player whilst he or she was ineligible. Ineligible players must play in the lowest position in the team. Breaches of the rules by a higher team will not penalise other teams playing on different nights
14. The captain of the home team shall have submitted the results of the match, using the on-line system within 48 hours of the match being completed. The captain of the away team shall have verified the results within 96 hours of the completion of the match. Missing either of these deadlines will result in points being awarded to the opposing team. At the discretion of the LMRSC/EC this penalty may not be applied if a dispute or a problem with the on-line system has been notified before the deadline.
15. The cancellation of matches due to weather shall be made by 6 p.m. to the person nominated in the handbook, or by 5.45 p.m. in the matches due to start at 6.30 p.m.
16. Postponed matches due to weather conditions shall be played on the alternative date and time which shall be included in the handbook. Where two or more teams in a club have the same nominated alternative night/day the higher/highest team will take precedence at all times.
17. In the event of inclement weather or bad light during a match, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if 8 sets have been completed. All sets not completed or begun shall be deemed drawn. A half point shall be given to each team and recorded NC (not completed) on the scoresheet. In the event of 8 sets not having been completed, the match shall be treated as a postponed match and replayed as a new match. The scoresheet must show the actual date played.
18. Both captains must be in agreement that conditions are safe to commence or continue play.
19. In the event of a re-arranged match a player who has already played for a LOWER team than the one included in the re-arranged fixture, will be available for selection in the higher team's replay.
20. In the event of a match not being completed on the first or alternative night a further 14 days are allowed. Failing completion in that time, the match will be halved.
21. All matches should start at 7 p.m. apart from the first 3 and the last 2 which should start at 6.30 p.m. All players in a team should be available to play at the appointed time. Any player not ready to play 20 minutes after the appointed starting time shall concede the first set 6-0. Or if 30 minutes after the appointed starting time shall concede the first event. 6-0, 6-0, or if after 60 minutes of the appointed starting time shall also concede the second event. 6-0, 6-0. The order of play in all matches shall be MIXED events first.
22. THREE COURT CLUBS: all matches will commence at 6.30 p.m. The order of play MUST be 1st, 2nd and 3rd MIXED. Ideally 4th Mixed pair should be present at the appointed starting time but certainly no later than 7 p.m. when the 20, 30 and 60 minute lateness Rule (see above) will apply whether a court is available or not.
23. The home team shall provide 3 new LTA approved tennis balls for each of the first 4 events.
24. All league matches have precedence over cup matches except for the cup finals. If either team playing in a cup final has a league match scheduled for that night, the league match will be re-arranged for the alternative night of the home team.

25. Clubs are responsible for highlighting any irregularities in relation to the Rules and should notify them to the League Match Secretary in writing within 7 days of the match being played. The League Match Secretary will forward them to the LMRSC for consideration.

26. All communication by clubs with the League Match Secretary must be made via CLUB match secretaries only.

27. Any problems arising from the on-line system should be notified to the League Match Secretary and/or the League Planner Manager immediately by the Club Match Secretary.

28. The League Match Secretary shall report any irregularity in relation to the Rules to the LMRSC. Failure to comply with these Rules shall be subject to an LMRSC enquiry. The LMRSC shall have the power to impose any penalty or fine.