

S & D Tennis League Match Secretary Report Season 2019

I start my report with the knowledge that the season was played predominately in good spirit and clubs made every effort to field their quota of teams. However, there were many issues experienced by several clubs.

Team Shortages

From week 1 it was evident that a few clubs were struggling to field their teams (4 teams played ineligible players and 1 team played a player short). This theme plus conceding matches continued throughout the season and raised the question what constituted a valid team? I thank all team captains and players concerned who made every effort to field a team offering a sportsmanship effort appreciated by their opposition on the night.

Concessions

Teams conceding remained high (2018 = 30 / 2019 =29) however due to the increase of squad sizes allowing more players to be available per team and a revised rule 12 change the burden shifted to club's lower teams rather than 1st teams. As Match Secretary and indeed with the teams concerned this did not sit well. The reality of incurring extra penalty points for conceding (often through no fault of their own) meant a few teams finished with a negative score line.

Players Activity Review

At week 5 a "starring's review" for noncompliance took place (rule 9 - players must be regular players for which team they are "starred" for) and letters were circulated to the offending clubs. I am pleased to report all clubs concerned made the necessary changes.

LMRSC Reviews

Only 1 LMRSC review took place - the decision to award 2 penalty points for conceding a rescheduled match was upheld following an official complaint. Rule 12 did not differentiate for re-play matches.

Weather Delays

The weather played its part in adding extra challenges causing match postponements in weeks 6 & 7 particularly, which saw Tuesday night fixtures a washout. This created a confusing next few weeks chasing up outstanding results involving 20+ matches in total. Most matches were completed within the approved timescale leaving only 2 teams conceding and 2 teams sharing points.

Other Matters

During weeks 8 & 9 following concerns raised by two team captains regarding player eligibility the opportunity of adding names through an unofficial pathway was highlighted. Referring to Christian Bryan LPM for guidance, I was assured the facility to add names other than through the correct channel was disabled therefore it may be a fault of the system.

Summary

To address some of the problems mentioned above, all League clubs were invited to give feedback post season followed by a full review by the Executive Committee. This resulted in further rule recommendations which have been circulated for consideration and will be discussed and voted on at the League AGM. My thanks to all persons who offered support and assistance when required.

Jeanette Heague – League Match Secretary