

## **SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE RULES**

### **1. NAME**

The League shall be called The Southport & District Tennis League

### **2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the League shall be:-

- (a) to promote tennis generally in Southport and District.
- (b) to ensure any action to further the interests of the game.
- (c) to ensure that affiliated members shall observe:
  - (i) the laws of tennis
  - (ii) the regulations of the LTA
  - (iii) the regulations of the Lancashire County LTA.

### **3. CONSTITUTION**

- (a) The League shall be affiliated to the Lancashire County LTA.
- (b) Members, eligible for affiliation to the League at the discretion of the Executive Committee, shall be:
  - (i) clubs of which at least one of the objects is lawn tennis and which have their headquarters and courts in Southport and district. The Executive shall determine the effective district boundary.
  - (ii) individuals, known as private members who shall:-
    - (a) pay an annual subscription.
    - (b) receive copies of all League circulars.
    - (c) be eligible to attend League general meetings and hold office
    - (d) private members shall have no vote.
  - (iii) Honorary Life Members

Individual members of individual clubs are ipso facto indirect members of the League.

- (c) The League year, for which all Officers and committee members whether elected, co-opted, or substituted shall hold office and during which the registration of players shall subsist, shall be from the 1st day of March in one year to the last day of February in the following year.

### **4. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. Executive Committee – Structure**

- (i) The Management of the League shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of:-
  - (a) the officers of the League who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
  - (b) nine other members, not more than two from any club to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, three of whom shall retire each year in rotation.
- (ii) The officers of the League shall consist of:-

President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Match Secretary, Hon. Tournaments and Competitions Secretaries.

(iii) Six members shall form a quorum at any committee meeting.

(iv) All retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

(v) The Chairman shall have a casting vote at all meetings of the Executive.

#### **B. Executive Committee – Terms of Reference**

(i) The Executive Committee shall have power to:-

(a) transact the general business of the League.

(b) co-opt such assistance as the Committee see fit; these members shall not be full members of the Committee.

(c) fill any casual vacancy occurring to the Committee, including a vacancy under Clause (iii) of this rule but anyone so appointed shall serve only until such time as the original member would have retired by rotation;

(d) elect at any time any number of Vice-Presidents of the League, to hold office for such period as the Executive may determine;

(e) take any steps which they consider necessary for the purpose of enforcing payment of any subscription or fines payable or imposed under any rules for the time being of the League;

(f) elect Honorary Life Members;

(g) appoint and delegate powers to sub-Committees for any purpose considered desirable and such sub-Committees may co-opt members to the sub-Committee from outside the Executive provided that the number of co-opted members is always less than the number of members of the Executive on the sub-Committee.

(ii) The Executive Committee shall meet not less than three times annually. Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Chairman or at the request in writing of at least six members of the Executive.

(iii) If any member of the Executive Committee be absent from three consecutive meetings he may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be treated as having thereby tendered his resignation.

#### **5. GENERAL MEETINGS**

(a) The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in the month of February on a day and at a place and time appointed by the Executive Committee for the adoption of the Executive Committee report and audited accounts, any alterations to rules, the election of officers and the Executive Committee as required under Rule 4, the election of the Hon. Auditor, and such other business as may be transacted in general meeting.

(b) All items to be placed on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting, including nominations for office and for the Executive Committee, shall be sent in writing to the Hon. Gen. Secretary so as to reach him/her not later than 31st December in the preceding year.

(c) Not less than 14 days notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given. Written notification to each affiliated club secretary, which shall include the agenda for the meeting and a copy of the audited accounts, shall be deemed to be sufficient notice of the Annual General Meeting.

(d) An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened upon a resolution of the League Executive or at the written request to the Hon. Gen. Secretary of not less than 20 members being representative of at least six member clubs. Such requests shall state the purpose for which the meeting is required and no other business shall be transacted. The meeting shall be held within one

month of such requisition being received by the Hon. Gen. Secretary and the notice and agenda shall be circulated to all member club secretaries at least 14 days in advance.

(e) Accidental omission to give the required notice to any Club Secretary shall not invalidate the proceedings at a general meeting.

(f) Clubs shall have one vote per team providing the number of representatives is equal to the number of the teams.

(g) Voting shall be by show of hands unless any 6 persons present, and entitled to vote, demand a secret ballot.

(h) No member may vote by proxy.

(i) No individual may have more than one vote, except the Chairman of the meeting, who shall have a casting vote.

(j) At all general meetings, if half the clubs in the League are represented, that shall form a quorum.

(k) If there is no quorum for:

(i) an Extraordinary General meeting, the motions(s) on the agenda shall be deemed to have been defeated and the meeting concluded;

(ii) an Annual General Meeting, it shall be adjourned and another notification shall be circulated without a time restriction. At the adjourned meeting the members present shall form a quorum.

## **6. FINANCE**

A The financial year of the League shall end on 31st December.

B. Annual subscriptions shall be paid by 31st May in each league year.

C. Any member club affiliated to the League whose subscription remains unpaid after 31st May in each year shall be liable to penalty, suspension or forfeiture of membership at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

D. All monies due to the league shall be deemed to be owing to the League Hon. Treasurer.

E. The rate of subscriptions shall be:

(i) Team Tournament £5.00; Spartans Trophy £5.00

(ii) Annual subscription per club £30.00

(iii) Private members annual subscription £1.00

F. The rate of registration shall be:

Bulk registration per team £20.00

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS**

A. Rules.

Any matter not provided for by these rules shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee, who shall also be the sole authority for the interpretation thereof, provided that any decision given by a General Meeting shall be binding. Any addition to, or interpretation of, these rules made by the Executive Committee shall only be operative until the next Annual General Meeting of the League when they shall be reported to such meeting for confirmation or otherwise. No amendments or alteration to these rules shall be made at a General Meeting.

B. If any club wishes to make a complaint against any other club or clubs the complaint shall be made in writing to the League Secretary or any of the particular League Secretaries concerned within

seven days of the incident. Upon receipt of a complaint to any of the above officials, a copy of the complaint shall be forwarded to the club or clubs who are complained against and a written reply requested within 14 days. The League Match Regulations Sub-Committee (L.M.R.S.C.) shall be convened to hear the complaint and all parties to the complaint shall be invited to attend the meeting. The absence of all or any of the parties to the complaint shall not invalidate any meeting of the sub-committee hearing the complaint.

#### C. Appeals.

Any club or player shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Committee on any matter and any such appeal or other application hereunder shall be dealt with in such manner as the Executive Committee may determine and their decision shall be final.

#### D. Dissolution.

Any resolution for dissolution shall be presented in accordance with Rule 6 and a general meeting shall be held as soon as convenient. Two thirds of the votes cast, in accordance with Rule 6, must be in favour for any such resolution to be carried. If the resolution be lost, a further resolution cannot be presented for five years. If, upon winding up or dissolution of the League, there remains, after the satisfaction of all the debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to, or distributed among the members of the League, but shall be given or transferred to some other body or bodies, institution or institutions, having objectives similar, wholly or partially, to the objects of the league, such body or bodies, institution or institutions, to be determined by a simple majority of the members of the league at or before the time of dissolution, and insofar as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provision, then to some charitable object.

### **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 reconstituted 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 table should include sets for an against.

4. All new clubs shall have a minimum of 4 courts suitable for match play, undertake to remain affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association while they remain members of the Southport and District Tennis League 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 four Mixed doubles, two Ladies doubles and two Gents doubles with a tie-break operative at 6 games all. Therefore each of the eight 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. Clubs must make every effort to field complete teams. However, if this is genuinely not possible then a match may go ahead so long as each team contains a minimum of two men and two ladies and the shortage of players has been notified to the opposing team at least two hours before the match is due to take place. Any gaps in a team must be in the lowest positions in the team and must only be in the club's lowest team.
7. No player shall play more than one like event in the same match. A player may play for more than one team in the same week as long as they comply with the 'starring' described in Rule 9.
8. Each club shall register up to 20 men and 20 ladies for each League team. Individual players may be registered for any number of teams but must still be played in order of strength. Clubs agree that the names of all registered players will be shown on the League results.
9. Each club with more than one team in the League shall nominate 4 men and 4 ladies for each team, excluding the lowest team, who will be known as 'starred players'. Three of the men and three of the ladies shall be 'starred' for the team in which they usually play while the other man and lady will be 'starred' for the team below. The 'starring' shall be indicated by adding the number of the team for which they are 'starred' after their surname on the player registration. 'Starred players' may not play for a team which is lower than the one for which they have been 'starred' and must be regular League players.
10. Player registration and 'starrings' must be sent to the League Planner Manager two 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 Manager Planner SMALL numbers of changes to the registrations MAY be accept up to the Friday before the start of the season. All registration spreadsheets and any change request must be copied to the League Match Secretary for information.
11. Up to four additional men and four additional ladies may be registered per team between the 7th and 8th week of the season. Clubs may request a change to 'starred' players between the 3rd and 4th week and/or between the 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> week of the season. Any change requests must be sent to the League Planner Manager and the League Match Secretary in writing or email to arrive no later than the Friday of the 3rd or 7th week. Apart from these changes, and those described in Rule 18, no other changes to registrations or 'starrings' may be made except in the case of injury or as directed by the League Match Secretary.
12. Any team that concedes a match will suffer a two point penalty in addition to the loss of points from the conceded match. This rule will apply to all teams apart from the lowest team in clubs with more than one team. (This rule not to be applied in 2021)
13. 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.

14. 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.
15. In the event of a player being incapacitated after play in a match that 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 after play in the match had begun and was not due solely to tiredness.
16. 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.
17. 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 72 hours of the completion of the match. Missing either of these deadlines may result in points being awarded to the opposing team, at the discretion of the LMRSC/EC.
18. When entering match results, clubs may add additional **players** to any team so long as the player is already registered for a lower team at the same club. An email recording the addition(s) must be sent to the League Match Secretary within 48 hours of the addition being made.
19. The cancellation of matches due to weather shall be made by 6.00pm to the person nominated in the handbook, or by 5.45pm in the matches due to start at 6.30pm.
20. 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.
21. In the event of inclement weather or bad light during a match, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if eight sets have been completed. All sets not completed or begun shall be deemed void and recorded 'not played' on the system. In the event of eight 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.
22. Both captains must be in agreement that conditions are safe to commence or continue play.
23. 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.
24. All matches should start at 7.00pm apart from the first three and last two which should start at 6.30pm. 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 appointment 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.
25. THREE COURT CLUBS: all matches will commence at 6.30pm. 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 7.00pm, when the 20, 30 or 60 minutes lateness Rule (see above) will apply whether a court is available or not.
26. The home team shall provide three new LTA approved tennis balls for each of the first four events.
27. 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 shall be re-arranged for the alternative night of the home team.

28. Clubs are responsible for highlighting any irregularities in relation in 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.

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

30. 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.

31. 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.

## **SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT LEAGUE**

### **REGULATIONS – INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS**

1. (a) At its first meeting each season, the Executive Committee shall consider organising the following tournaments restricted to Southport and District

Tennis League Club members.

Tournament A: Level

Tournament B: restricted to players in the fifth and lower divisions.

Tournament V: Veterans.

Tournament J: Junior

(b) Each tournament, unless decided otherwise by the Executive Committee / Individual Tournament Secretary, shall consist of:

Men's singles, Ladies' singles.

Men's doubles, Ladies' doubles.

Mixed doubles.

2. All tournaments shall be run in accordance with the regulations of the LTA.

3. (a) All players registered with the League shall be eligible to enter the level tournament.

(b) Entry shall be on forms obtainable from the individual Tournament Secretary or in the handbook.

(c) Players may be seeded in the A and B Tournaments at the discretion of the Tournament Secretary.

(d) Veteran competitors shall conform to the following criteria:

Gentlemen: 50 years old and over before the closing date.

Ladies: 50 years and over before the closing date.

4. Unless decided otherwise by the Executive Committee / Individual Tournament Secretary:

(a) Matches shall consist of 3 sets, 1st and 2nd sets to tie break at 6-6. Final set to be an advantage set.

(b) The first named player(s) in any draw shall be at home.

(c) The home player(s) shall provide three LTA standard balls acceptable to the opponents.

(d) The visiting player shall be offered within four days of the commencing date of a round, three alternative dates for the Match to be played. At least one of the three dates shall be a week night. If

the offer is not made within the four days mentioned and the visiting players cannot accept the dates subsequently offered then the Home Team shall be eliminated. If the offer is made within four days and the visiting team cannot accept any of the three days offered, the visiting players shall be eliminated. The commencing date of a round is the day following the day on which the previous round is due to be finished. In the case of 1st round matches the commencing date is to be 14 days before the round is due to be finished. If authority is given for a match to be played after the closing date for a round, then the new date shall be treated as the date for which the previous round is due to be finished.

5. The Executive Committee / Individual Tournament Secretary:

(a) shall determine the entry fees per player per event;

(b) shall determine the date by which entries, accompanied by entry fees, shall be in the hands of the tournaments secretary.

(c) shall arrange the seeding and draw;

(d) shall direct when and where matches shall be played and the disposal of the results:

(e) shall determine the prizes to be awarded:

(f) may delegate their authority to such sub-committees as they see fit;

(g) shall have the power to refuse the entry of anyone who, in its opinion, is too good a player for the B Tournament.

(h) shall have the power to cancel any event in the B, V or J tournaments if, in its opinion, the entry is not sufficient to warrant the event. Five events shall be played in the A tournament.

(f) shall deal with any matter not provided for by these regulations and shall be the sole authority for the interpretation thereof.

## **SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT LEAGUE**

### **TEAM KNOCKOUT TROPHY REGULATIONS**

1. (a) The Team Trophies shall be called

CHRISTIANA HARTLEY TROPHY

TRINITY SHIELD

JOSEPH LORD CUP

COLLEGE CUP

SPARTANS TROPHY – entries to SPARTANS TROPHY Secretary. Rules for the Spartans Trophy will be available on the website.

(b) The competitions shall be played annually on a knock-out basis and the League Executive Committee shall be responsible for the organisation.

(c) An entrance fee decided at an A.G.M. to be paid to the League Treasurer by 31st May.

2. (a) Eligibility (Teams)

CHRISTIANA HARTLEY: 1st and 2nd Div. teams

TRINITY SHIELD: 3rd and 4th Div. teams

JOSEPH LORD: 5th and 6th Div. teams

COLLEGE CUP: 7th and lower Div. teams

SPARTANS TROPHY: All league teams. Rules on the website

The team trophies are intended for play between Club League teams. It is therefore expected that regular players will be used by member clubs. For Round 2 of all four knockout competitions a player who has not played in two league matches may not be used unless playing for a club's lowest team and with the permission of the tournament secretary. After Round 2 of all competitions a player who has not played in three league matches may not be used unless playing for a club's lowest team and with the permission of the tournament secretary. The count of league matches played is the week of the closing date for the round not when the match is played.

(b) Eligibility (Players)

All registered players who meet the criteria under Rule 2(a) above and who have played for the team for which they are selected, or lower, in at least 50% of their matches. The League rules regarding playing of teams in order of strength apply to all knockout trophy competitions.

(c) Players may play in more than one team in the same or different rounds of a competition if they are eligible.

(d) All games and points won by an ineligible player will be forfeited to the opposition team. Persistent breaches of the rule may result in the team being barred from entering the following season's competition.

(e) If, as a result of (d) the match is tied then games will be decided. If level on games, then a coin will be tossed.

3. Order of Play, Christiana Hartley, Trinity Shield, Joseph Lord, College Cup.

(a) Each match shall consist of the events as follows: Men's and Ladies' singles, Men's, Ladies', and Mixed Doubles.

(b) Events shall be decided over three tie break sets.

(c) No player shall play in more than one event.

4. (a) The team designated the 'Home Team' shall decide the venue.

(b) The visiting team shall be offered within four days of the commencing date of a round, three alternative dates for the match to be played. At least one of the three dates shall be a week night (excluding the away teams' actual league match nights). If the offer is not made within the four days mentioned and the visiting team cannot accept the dates subsequently offered, then the HOME team shall be eliminated. If the offer is made within four days and the visiting team cannot accept any of the three dates offered, the VISITING team shall be eliminated. The commencing date of a round is the day following the day on which the previous round is due to be finished. In the case of 1st round matches, the commencing date is to be fourteen days before the round is due to be finished. If authority is given for a new match to be played after the closing date for a round, then the new date shall be treated as the date for which the previous round is due to be finished. Whilst the responsibility rests with the Home Team to offer the dates for the fixture, the away team should make every effort to obtain dates.

(c) Any difficulties in arranging matches must be reported to the Tournament Secretary immediately. Extensions are only permissible in the case of bad weather and for no other reason.

(d) Matches shall be played by the stated closing dates for rounds. Failure to do so may result in either or both teams being eliminated.

(e) The Home Team will provide all the balls, the Away Team will pay half the cost of the balls and take half the balls home.

(f) Should a match have to be abandoned due to bad weather before a result is achieved, events sets and games completed shall stand and the match continued from close of play.

5. (a) Team captains shall complete their teams on both copies of the score sheet prior to the start of the match.

(b) A completed score sheet signed by both Captains shall be sent to the Tournament Secretary by FIRST CLASS POST immediately following completion of the match.

6. The League Executive Committee shall:

(a) Arrange the venue for each final and provide the balls for the match.

(b) Appoint a referee in each final who shall have full charge of the match.

(c) Be responsible for the insurance and engraving of the trophies.

(d) Deal with any matter not provided for by these regulations.

(e) Be the sole authority for the interpretation of these regulations.

(f) Arrange the date for each Final which should not coincide with the Wimbledon fortnight.