

SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT TENNIS SPARTANS RULES 2025

(Changes from 2024 are indicated by red text)

Please note this is an extract of the full league rules – this document shows the Spartans rules only

SPARTANS KNOCKOUT TROPHY REGULATIONS

1. (a) The competition shall be called the SPARTANS TROPHY and played annually on a knock-out basis, starting after completion of the league season. The League Executive Committee shall be responsible for the organisation.

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

2. (a) The SPARTANS TROPHY is a handicapped competition. The handicap will be based on the team's league position after the end of the Summer League season with teams that are relegated or promoted handicapped according to the division in which they will start the next year's Summer League.

(b) The handicaps will be as follows unless the Tournament Secretary deems that a team is clearly playing well above or below its league status at week 12, the handicap will then be adjusted accordingly.

Division 1 -40

Division 2 -30

Division 3 -30, -15

Division 4 -15

Division 5 -15, scr

Division 6 scr

Division 7 scr, +15

Division 8 +15

Where two handicaps are given above, the first handicap will be used for odd numbered games within each set and the second for even numbered games.

These handicaps must be cancelled down:

-40 vs -40, -30 vs -30, -15 vs -15, scr vs scr and +15 vs +15 are cancelled down to love all.

-40 vs -30 and -30 vs -15 are cancelled down to -15 vs love

-40 vs -15 is cancelled down to -30 vs love.

Handicaps that include both minus and plus (e.g. -30 vs +15) cannot be cancelled down and must be played as published.

(c) Eligibility (Players)

To be eligible to play for a team in the Spartans Trophy a player must be a Registered Player for their club. They must have played at least 3 league matches during the entire summer league season for their club and must have played at least 50% of **their** league matches for that team or a lower team.

(d) Players may play for more than one team in the same or different rounds of the competition providing they meet the eligibility criteria.

(e) Players who have played fewer than three league matches may only play by permission of the Tournament Secretary.

(f) If a team chooses to play an ineligible player whether known or unknown prior to the match then all games and points won by an ineligible player will be forfeited to the opposition team. If both teams choose to play ineligible players and it is known before the match then, if feasible, they must be put down to play each other therefore creating a dead event (0-0, 0-0). Persistent playing of undeclared ineligible players may result in the team being barred from entering the following season's competition

3 Order of play SPARTANS TROPHY

(a) Each match shall consist of four events as follows: 1 Mens Doubles, 1 Ladies Doubles, 2 Mixed Doubles.

(b) Events shall be decided over 2 sets – if the score reaches 6-6 the set will finish.

(c) The winner will be the team winning the most events. Should the match end at 4-4 the team winning the most sets will prevail. Should the number of sets be equal the team winning the most games will prevail. Should the number of games be equal the result shall be decided by 1 Gent from Gents Doubles and 1 Lady from Ladies Doubles playing best of 11 games against a similar par from the other team.

(d) No player may play in more than one event except as in rule (c) above.

4 (a) The team designated the "Home Team" shall decide the venue. (The "Home Team" is the first named team in the draw.)

(b) Each round will take place over a designated one or two week period. Matches (or replays) will be played on the normal league match night (or replay night) for the home team in the first week of the period unless both teams mutually agree a different date within the designated period. If a date cannot be mutually agreed then the match must revert to the original normal league match night. Where a club enters two teams with the same home night and both are drawn at home then the lower team will play their match in the second week of the designated period.

(c) If a match cannot be played on the designated or mutually agreed night or replay night due to bad weather it must be re-arranged to take place within the designated period unless agreement to an extension is received from the Tournament Secretary. Failure to play within the designated period may result in either or both teams being eliminated.

(d) The Home Team will provide all the tennis balls, the Away Team will pay half the cost of the balls and take half the balls home unless otherwise agreed by both team captains.

(e) 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 the close of play.

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

(b) A completed score sheet signed by both captains must be sent to the Tournament Secretary immediately following completion of the match.

6 The League Executive Committee shall:

(a) Arrange the date and venue for the final and provide the tennis 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 trophy.

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

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