



Southport & District Junior Tennis League (S&D JTL) League Regulations – 2026 Season

1. Age Groups

The League shall be organised into the following age groups based on year of birth:

- 1.1 18 & Under: Players born 2008–2015
- 1.2 16 & Under: Players born 2010–2015
- 1.3 14 & Under: Players born 2012–2015
- 1.4 12 & Under: Players born 2014–2015
- 1.5 10 & Under: Players born 2016–2018
- 1.6 8 & Under: Players born 2018 or later

2. League Structure and Player Eligibility

- 2.1** The League Coordinator shall determine divisions based on entries received.
- 2.2** Players must hold a valid British Tennis Membership (BTM) number and ITF World Tennis Number (WTN).
- 2.4** Any team fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit all matches in which that player participated.

3. Match Administration

- 3.1** Team captains must exchange a completed scorecard prior to the start of each match, including player names, BTM numbers and WTNs.
- 3.2** Each club must retain scorecards until the end of the season.

4. Match Scheduling

- 4.1** Matches (except 10U and 18U) shall be played on Saturday mornings at 9:00/9:30am (Match 1) or 10:30/11:00am (Match 2).
- 4.2** 10U and 18U teams must declare a fixed match day/time before the start of season, as part of the league registration process. Once specified, a club's home match day and time may only be changed with the consent of the club participating in the affected match.
- 4.3** Matches may be rearranged, for any reason, with agreement of both captains and at least 24 hours' notice. In the event that a match has to be re-arranged - the home team will offer the away team three alternative dates to select from, with at

least one of those having to be a designated 'spare match weekend' at the end of the season.

4.4 In the event that both captains do not agree to rearrange a match then the following rule applies: matches may only be postponed due to adverse weather (to be determined by the home Captain), in which case, the home Captain will offer the away team three alternative dates to select from, with at least one of those having to be a designated 'spare match weekend' at the end of the season.

If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture on the specified day and time (or is unable to play on any of the alternative dates provided due to inclement weather) then that team will be deemed to have conceded the match. In such circumstances, the 'winning' team captain **must** enter a 'walk over' result on the League Planner System

4.5 Any disputes arising from replays should be referred to the S&D JTL Organiser, whose decision regarding the dispute will be final

4.6 Matches played after 31 July will not count.

5. Late Arrival

5.1 If a player/team arrives 15 minutes late: first set of singles rubber forfeited.

5.2 If a player/team arrives 30 minutes late: singles match forfeited.

5.3 If a player/team arrives 45 minutes late: both singles and doubles match forfeited.

6. Match Formats

6.1 8 & Under

The 8 & Under League will consist of 2 players (any combination of any gender type)

- each player will play two singles matches (i.e. both home players will play both away players) with the scoring being the best of three standard tie-breaks (first to seven points with a deciding point at six all)
- All matches must be played with an orange ball on an orange size court. The dimensions of an orange size court are 18m x 6.5m (or 18m x 8.23m for doubles matches) with a net height of 80cm
- All matches must have a 'Scorer' (parent/team captain or similar) to assist with scoring and line/net calls.
- The recommended racket size is 23 to 25 inches.

6.2 10 & Under

The 10 & Under League will consist of 2 players (any combination of any gender type)

- each player will play the best of 3 short sets of singles with a tie break to 7 being played at 4-4 in the first two sets and with the third set being played as a championship tie-break (tie-break to 10). *In all games – ‘sudden death deuce’ will be played.*

In addition, there will be a doubles match, which will consist of one short set, with a tiebreak to 7 being played at 4-4. *In all games – ‘sudden death deuce’ will be played.*

- LTA approved mini green balls should be used for all 10 & under matches (3 x balls per event).
- All matches must be played on a green size court – note that doubles is played on a singles court; tramlines are out.

NB: Sudden Death Deuce - *In the event the score reaches 40-40 (deuce), a single point will be played to decide the game. The receiver shall decide which side the server should serve to for the final ‘sudden death’ point.*

6.3 12U / 14U / 16U

The 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 16 & Under Leagues will consist of 2 players (any combination of any gender type)

- each player will play the best of 3 short sets of singles with a tie break to 7 being played at 4-4 in the first two sets and with the third set being played as a championship tie-break (tie-break to 10).

In addition, there will be a doubles match, which will consist of one set, with a tiebreak being played at 6-6.

- LTA approved yellow tennis balls should be used for all matches (3 x balls per event).

6.4 18 & Under

The 18 & Under League will consist of 2 players (any combination of any gender type)

- each player will play the best of 3 sets of singles with a tie break to 7 being played at 6-6 in the first two sets and with the third set being played as a championship tiebreak (tie-break to 10).

In addition, there will be a doubles match, which will consist of one set, with a tiebreak to 7 being played at 6-6.

- LTA approved yellow tennis balls should be used for all matches (3 x balls per event).

7. Team Selection and Eligibility

7.1 Players must be selected in order of strength based on WTN.

7.2 Teams of three are permitted; strongest two must play singles.

7.3 No player may play for more than one team, in the same age group, on the same scheduled weekend as shown on the on-line league planner.

In the event of a rearranged fixture, the fixture shall be played and result entered on the on-line league planner as if it had been played on the scheduled fixture date. If the online league planner shows a player playing twice (for two different teams participating in the same age group) on the same weekend, any points won by the player in the second fixture shall be forfeited

7.4 Where a player wishes to move clubs, once he/she has already represented another club in a S&D JTL match in the same season, the following should be observed:

- a) Seven days' notice shall be given to the S&D JTL Organiser, in respect of a player wishing to change clubs in the same season.
- b) The 'joining' club shall confirm that they wish for the new member to represent their club.

The S&D JTL Organiser shall consult with the 2 clubs involved, take into account any relevant circumstances, and shall inform both clubs of any resulting decisions within 7 x days

8. Conduct and Responsibilities

8.1 Clubs must ensure that team captains/parents are aware of guidelines when dealing with disputes between players:

Disputes between players may occur, and in most cases, will be resolved between the players themselves, e.g. line calls, score disputes, etc. All players are expected to discuss a dispute with their opponent to try to resolve it. If the dispute cannot be resolved, players shall raise a racket in the air as a signal to their Captains that there is a problem. The Captains shall then both come onto the court together to resolve the issue. It is important that both team captains stay for the whole fixture.

8.2. Parents and Spectators should not participate in junior fixtures in any way (e.g. no coaching, no scoring, no line calls, etc). If there is an issue with parent or spectator involving themselves in a junior fixture, this should be reported to the Team Captains (both) and the issue discussed and resolved with the parent/spectator. If a resolution is not possible – the S&D JTL Organiser should be contacted.

*The only exceptions to this rule is in relation to the 8 & Under League, where 'Scorers' for matches are compulsory and the 10 & Under League, where team captains **may** nominate an adult to assist with the scoring of the match if the players are unsure of how to apply the scoring format.*

8.3. While it is understandable that parents and spectators wish to give support to their players, Team Captains should ensure this support and encouragement is done in a way that is fair to both sets of junior players, e.g., applaud good play from the opposition players, not just your own players.

8.4. Both the Home and Away Clubs to ensure that their nominated Captain (who must be aged 18 or over) remains for the duration of the fixture. This applies to all age groups except for 18 & Under.

8.5. Clubs must display the Southport & District Junior Player Code of Conduct on their Notice Boards, and actively bring this to the attention of their players.

9. Results Submission

9.1 League results must be posted on the LTA League Planner website by the winning team no later than 3 days after the match has taken place.

9.2 The losing team must log into the website to verify the result after the above 3 days and before 7 days has elapsed.

9.3 In the event of a drawn match, it is the responsibility of the **home** team to post the match details and result, and the away team to verify the match

10. League Standings

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- a. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- b. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- c. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head-to-head result

11. Governance and Disputes

11.1 The S&D JTL Organiser shall:

- a) Deal with any complaint arising out of league matches.
- b) Deal with any matter not provided for by these regulations, including the organisation and administration of other competitions, which may be arranged under the auspice of the S&D JTL.

11.2. Failure to comply with any of the above regulations may, at the discretion of the S&D JTL Organiser, result in penalties including loss of points, forfeit of match and in extreme cases, suspension from the League.

11.3 Any captain shall have the right of appeal to the Junior League Executive Committee on any matter. The Junior League Executive Committee shall be made up of 1 x representative from each participating club in the S&D JTL (more than 1 x representative may attend a S&D JTL meeting however only 1 x representative shall be eligible to vote). That representative has 1 x vote on any matter concerning the S&D JTL (irrespective of how many teams they have entered into the S&D JTL). Should a representative be absent from the meeting they forfeit their right to vote for that

meeting. In the instance of a tied vote, the S&D JTL Organiser shall make the final and binding decision.

11.4. All Clubs who participate in the S&D JTL must possess an in-date LTA affiliation.

12. All stakeholders involved with the S&D JTL agree to operate with one simple core value in mind – our aim is to provide opportunities for young people to play competitive tennis in a friendly, caring and safe environment that facilitates their development as a player and encourages their enjoyment of the game.