

Rules of The DUNLOP Cambridge & District Lawn Tennis SUMMER League 2023

SECTION A - GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

- 1 The League shall be named the Cambridge & District Lawn Tennis League.
- 2 Membership of the League is open to all tennis clubs that are affiliated to the Cambridgeshire Lawn Tennis Association. Membership is also open to any tennis club affiliated to one of the neighbouring County Lawn Tennis Associations, subject to the approval of all members of the League. New entrants shall, in general, commence in one of the lowest two divisions of the League. Should a club withdraw from a higher division then its place shall be filled by the club most suited, as decided by the AGM of the League. A club may, in exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the AGM), be admitted into a higher division of the League.
- 3 The administration of the League shall be undertaken by the Honorary League Secretary or any deputy appointed by him/her. The Honorary League Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the County Lawn Tennis Association. The League Secretary and a committee of at least two other members shall be elected at the AGM. The committee should consist of representatives of at least three different clubs. Any appeals must be decided on a majority vote of the committee. A committee member will not be entitled to vote if his/her club is involved in the dispute.
- 4 The financial year of the League shall end on the 30th September and the accounts shall be incorporated into the accounts of the Cambridgeshire LTA
- 5 An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year for the purpose of receiving reports, electing officers, considering and amending the rules of the League and transacting any other business of the League.
- 6 Any member of a League club may attend the AGM but each club shall have one vote only, and that only on an issue in which it has teams involved.
- 7 Notices of the AGM must be sent out to all League clubs at least 21 days before the date of the Meeting.
- 8 All decisions at general meetings shall be decided by a simple majority. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- 9 Any proposed alteration or addition to these rules must reach the Honorary League Secretary in writing by 1st October each year for the propositions to be made at the AGM
- 10 Any club failing to return a trophy in its possession at or before the AGM shall be liable to a fine of £20 per trophy. Any trophy lost should be replaced by the League Secretary and charged to the club responsible.
- 11 An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Honorary League Secretary at any time on the instructions of the Executive of the Cambridgeshire LTA or within 14 days of the receipt of a written request from at least five League clubs. The notice convening the meeting shall state the purpose for which it has been called.
- 12 Failure to comply with these rules shall render a club liable to a fine at the discretion of the League Secretary, whose decision may be altered upon appeal to the AGM

SECTION B - LEAGUE OPERATION

- 1 The Entry Fee shall be **£10.00** for each team entered in the League and **£10.00** for each team entered in the Grays Cup competition. There is no limit on the number of teams a club may enter in the League
- 2 The Honorary League Secretary will, with the help of a sub-committee, arrange all fixtures, each team nominating the day of the week on which it wishes to play its home matches. The complete list of fixtures will be sent to each club not later than 28th February. If a club has more than one team entered in the same division those teams shall play each other before any other League fixture except where otherwise scheduled by the League Secretary
- 3 The League shall consist of one or more divisions of Men's, Ladies and Mixed Doubles. The divisions of the Men's and Ladies Leagues shall consist of eight teams each; the Mixed of six teams each. The number of teams in the **lowest three** divisions may be adjusted to suit the total entry.
- 4 Matches will comprise two pairs, both pairs to play each opposing pair for two sets, with a tie-break if the score of 6-6 is reached in either set. The winner of each match will receive two points, the loser nil points; if the match is drawn on sets each team will receive one point. When teams have an equal number of points, their positions in the League table shall be determined by the number of sets won, and, if still level, by percentage of games won.
- 5 All fixtures must be completed by 31st August each year, except with the express agreement of the League Committee
- 6 The top two teams in each division will be promoted at the conclusion of each season, and the last two teams in each division will be relegated. This may be varied with the agreement of the AGM if it is necessary to adjust division sizes to suit the total entry in any year
- 7 A player cannot represent more than one club in a season and must be a bona-fide member of that club. However, this rule does not prevent a player playing in the Mixed League for one club and Men's or Ladies for another, provided that player is a bona-fide member of both clubs. The definition of a bona-fide member of any club is that he/she shall be a full club member or have Country membership paying a subscription of not less than two-thirds full membership. Subscriptions to be paid by the date of the first match in which the player took part. The League Secretary may request certified confirmation of the above from any club via its Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 8 Any player who has played in any County Senior first team in any match over the past 5 seasons is ineligible to play in the leagues other than for a Men's, Ladies' or Mixed team in divisions 1 or 2. Should a club not have teams in Division 1 or 2; the said player must play for the Club's 1st team. The League Committee may waive this rule where it considers the facts in any case to warrant that action
- 9 If a club enters a team which fails to complete more than 50% of its fixtures, then that club shall be liable to a penalty of £50.00 Failure to pay this penalty will result in the League Committee accepting no further entries from that club until the penalty is paid. In exceptional circumstances the penalty may be waived by a majority vote of the League Committee
- 10 A team not fulfilling a fixture because of inability to raise a full team shall not only lose the sets 8-0 and the games 48-0 but will also have 2 points deducted.
- 11 A team unable to field two pairs may send 1 pair to contest 4 sets, and will then avoid the penalty for not fulfilling a fixture. However a team shall have 2 points deducted if it turns out only one pair for a fixture on more than one occasion during the season

SECTION C - NOMINATIONS

1 Clubs with more than one team in the Ladies, Men's or Mixed Summer Leagues must nominate (for each of their teams) four players per team who will form the basis of each team. These nominations must be sent in writing (by post or email) to the admin@cambslta.org.uk before 30th April (25th June for Mixed) in each season. Where no nominations are submitted the 4 who play in a team's first match played will be treated as the nominated players.

2 All teams other than the lowest team must be nominated, e.g. if a 1st, 2nd and 3rd Men's team are entered only the 1st and 2nd team need be nominated

3 Where nominations have been correctly submitted & except in the most exceptional circumstances agreed by the League Secretary:

At least two nominated players must play in the first match played by a team,

All four nominated players must have played for their nominated team on completion of the third match played (men's, ladies leagues) or second match played (mixed league)

Failure to do so will result in a penalty of -2 points.

4 Those players nominated may not play for a lower team irrespective of the Division(s) in which other teams from that club may play e.g. a nominated first team player may not play for the second team. Nominated players from lower teams may play for higher teams for a total of **two occasions only in Men's & Ladies and one occasion in Mixed**. Once the player has played 3 times (2 for mixed) for any number of higher teams he or she may not play again for the team for which he or she has been nominated. This rule will apply to all clubs having more than one team in any classification of Leagues.

5 A player, having played 3 times for higher ranking team(s) (twice in the Mixed League), may not then represent a lower ranking team during the season. (Explanatory Note not part of the Rule: Any doubt about the application of this rule should be referred to a member of the League Committee)

SECTION D - MATCH DAY RULES

1 Matches must be played on the day fixed, the only acceptable reason for postponement being the unfit nature of the courts through adverse weather conditions (or as detailed in Rule D2). The Home captain shall decide on the fitness for play and both teams must turn up unless they have been advised that conditions will not allow play.

2 Any team may change the date of a match scheduled for either May Bank Holiday Monday or the half term week in May. Such a change must be made by 1st April and the League Secretary notified. The rules for rearranging matches will apply.

3 Requests for postponements in exceptional circumstances must be agreed with the League Organiser. Where this is agreed the rules for rearranging matches will apply.

4 Play must start at the scheduled match time shown in the fixtures.

5 In matches arranged for evening play without floodlights play must commence at **6.30pm** or before. If there should be any dispute as to a suitable finishing time then it shall be regarded as unreasonable to continue play without floodlights after 9.15pm in May or 9.30pm in June or July

- 6 Where a club has floodlights on the two courts to be used, play must commence at the scheduled time but no later than **7.00pm** PROVIDED the floodlights are usable until at least **10.00pm**.
- 7 If a pair or pairs arrive late, the opposing captain may **claim one set** 6–0 for each complete half an hour that each pair arrives after the scheduled match time. If a team should arrive more than one hour fifteen minutes late then the opponents may claim the match
- 8 Reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that evening fixtures are completed before bad light or floodlight timers interrupts play. It is the responsibility of the home captain to offer that shortened games are organised to bring matches to a conclusion, and such arrangements must happen except where the away team captain commits to return to compete the match if all sets are not finished. A home team captain can offer that where rubbers are in a final set, shortened games should be played to decide the set before bad light or lack of floodlights prevents further play. This could involve sudden death deuces, or where time is very short games starting games at deuce.
- 9 Where the home captain does not take steps as outlined in Rule D8 the League organiser after receipt of the facts has the option to award the final set(s) to the away team or to instruct that the teams reconvene to finish the match
- 10 Where Rule D8 is not appropriate, or by agreement is not used, and it proves impossible to complete a match started but not finished, the procedure detailed in SECTION F - COMPLETING MATCHES STARTED BUT NOT FINISHED shall apply.
- 11 The home team captain at each match shall arrange for a handwritten results sheet to be completed on the form provided by the League Organiser for that season. This sheet must be completed immediately at the conclusion of a match and must be signed by both the home & away team captains to clearly state the set and games scores and the full names of all eight players. In all cases the home captain must retain the original handwritten & signed sheet until the date of the following AGM. Failure to produce the signed form when requested by the League Committee may be taken into account by the Committee when considering any dispute
- 12 The home team captain is responsible for submitting the results online within 7 days of the match (instructions on how to do this are available). In addition to entering the scores, the names of the players need to be included in the comment box to enable nominations to be checked. The away team captain is responsible to check that the results have been entered correctly. To challenge the result, send an email to admin@cambslta.org.uk within 7 days of the result being posted.
- 13 When a team fails to submit a result or send a notification email within one week of a match date, the League Organiser will award a walkover to the away team with -2 points to the home team. Should the result be entered late, the organiser, at their discretion, may accept the result. Second and subsequent late submissions in the same season will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.
- 14 In the event of a match postponement involving two teams from the same club, a result card naming all players involved in the match must be completed and sent to the League Secretary. For team eligibility purposes all named players will be considered to have played in the match
- 15 Soft-soled tennis shoes must be worn by all players. The home Captain has the right to refuse to allow a player to take part in a match if he/she is wearing training shoes with serrated soles
- 16 Home Captains will contact Away Captains in advance of each match to confirm if Match Teas are required. Players with allergies will be required to notify both Captains.

SECTION E - RE-ARRANGED MATCHES

- 1 Where a match is postponed because of adverse weather on the scheduled date, or in exceptional circumstances agreed by the League Secretary, the home captain must within a week offer the away captain three alternative dates, avoiding other League fixtures, to be within one month of the original date. The away team captain must accept one of the three offered dates within a week of receiving them
- 2 If the home captain fails to offer three alternative dates then the away team will be given a walkover - so the home team will lose the sets 8-0 and the games 48-0
- 3 If the away captain fails to accept any of the three alternative dates then the home team will be given a walkover - so the away team will lose the sets 8-0 and the games 48-0
- 4 Teams are to make the best endeavours to notify the opposing Team Captains at least 48 hours in advance of a fixture where they are unable to field a full team.

(Note to the Rules but not part of the Rules. Where despite either E2 or E3 applying the two teams mutually agree to rearrange the match at a later date, then provided the League Organiser has been kept informed, the result will be accepted provided the match is played by 31st August (or later with the express agreement of the League Organiser). If the match does not get played then either Rule E2 or E3 will apply as appropriate)

SECTION F - COMPLETING MATCHES STARTED BUT NOT FINISHED

- 1 When a match has been started but is prevented from being completed, for example, by bad weather or bad light, then arrangements should be made to continue the match within one month of the original date.
- 2 If at the time the match is suspended no set has been completed then the match should restart from the beginning in which case different players may contest the rearranged match
- 3 If at least one set has been completed then the match should be restarted from the point reached at the time of suspension involving the same players from each team.
- 4 It is the responsibility of the home team captain to ensure that the match is completed. The home captain must within one week offer the away captain three alternative dates, avoiding other League Fixtures, to be within one month of the original date.
- 5 If the home captain fails to offer three alternative dates then the away team will be given all the remaining unplayed games and sets.
- 6 If the away team does not accept any of the three offered dates for completion of the match then the home team will be awarded all of the outstanding games and sets.
- 7 If all of the players cannot make themselves available on the same date to continue the fixture then the outstanding sets can be completed piece meal on different dates within one month of the original date.
- 8 In the event that a player is unavailable for the month following the original fixture date, the unfinished sets must be conceded unless there are exceptional circumstances that would have to be agreed by the League Secretary in which case the result shall be void and the match replayed within one month with the strongest team available.

9 In the event that the interrupted match is between two teams from the same club, the match must be continued within eight days of the original date. Failure to do so will result in the match being considered a draw 0-0 but no points will be awarded.

SECTION G - WINTER & VETS

1 A Winter League (played in October, November and December) and a Veterans League (played in February and March) may be organised by the League Secretary, or a deputy. The committee shall decide the size of the divisions.

2 Nominations (Section C) will not be active but teams should abide by the spirit of Section C wherever possible.

3 In deciding on any disputes the League Committee may take account of the spirit of the 'summer' rules.

4 Alterations to the timetable can be made by agreement between the relevant captains, but in the event of matches not being played the Summer rules will apply