

Hertfordshire Autumn Junior & Adult League Rules

Entry to the Hertfordshire Autumn League ('the Competition') is only open to LTA registered venues.

1. **Events:** Girls/Boys 12 & Under (born 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2009) Girls/Boys 14 & Under (born 1 April 2005– 31 March 2009) Girls/Boys 16 & Under (born 1st April 2003 – 31 March 2009) Girls/Boys 18 & Under (born 1 April 2001 – 31 March 2009) Adult : Men and Women (born earlier than 1st September 2002)
2. A venue may enter more than one team in each event.
3. Where a venue has two or more teams in an event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on ratings, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team based on ratings etc.
4. Where the venue has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team.
5. **Player Eligibility** A player may only:
 - I. Represent one venue
 - II. Play in a maximum of two age groups, including Adult
6. All players must:
 - I. Have a British Tennis Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
 - II. Have a British Tennis rating.
 - III. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 September 2018
 - IV. Be of the correct age (see rule 2)
7. **Competition Structure** Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division.
8. **Match Arrangements Time & Date** Fixtures shall be played on the dates agreed between the teams between 1st September 2019 and 31st December 2019. Such agreement shall be reached no later than 30th September 2019. Fixtures are to start between 10am-4pm unless both teams agree otherwise. The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. Each team must have an adult captain (age 18+) present at each fixture. The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.
9. **Courts** The home team shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation.
10. **Balls** The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber.
11. **Team Format** A team shall consist of four to six players. Four players shall play one singles rubber each and the 5th and/or 6th player(s) may be selected for one doubles rubber only. Where the format is 2 singles, 1 doubles rubber, a team shall consist of two or three players.

Two players will play one singles rubber each and the 3rd player may be selected for the doubles rubber only.

12. Mini Tennis green players will be allowed to play up (in 12&U yellow ball only) when in their final season of green ball if they have reached a green 1 or green 1* Mini Tennis rating. Mini Tennis Passport players will be allowed to play up in line with the Player Passport system.
13. It is both team captains responsibility to contact each other before the match.
14. **Singles Nominations** At least 15 minutes before the start time of each fixture, team captains must nominate in writing (on a Team Tennis scorecard) their singles players in order of merit in accordance with current British Tennis ratings. In the 12&U event, Green 1* players will play above 9.2 rated players, but below 9.1 rated players. Green 1 players will play above 10.1 players but below 9.2 players. If players have the same rating, the captain can decide the team order which may change from fixture to fixture. Any player(s) playing doubles only must be nominated at the same time.
15. **Doubles Pairings In 12 U to 18U events** Pair 1: Singles players 1&2. Pair 2: Singles players 3&4. A 5th/6th player can substitute directly for any of the four singles players (e.g. if player number 5 substitutes for the singles player number 2, then player number 5 will play in the number 1 doubles pair). In Adult event the team captains shall nominate their doubles pairings after the singles rubbers have been completed. The doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the sum of the singles positions of the players in each pairing (see below). Where players are nominated for the doubles rubber(s) only then his/her singles position shall be regarded as Number 5 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the higher rating Number 6 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the lower rating. If singles player number 1 plays with 5 and singles player 2 plays with 3 then 2 and 3 shall be the first pair. Where the total is the same, the pairing which includes the player who played in the highest order singles match shall be nominated as the first pair (e.g. if the pairings are 1 + 4 and 2 + 3, then 1 + 4 must be nominated as the first pair). If one player from a team of 4 is unable to play doubles, the nominated pair must play number 1
16. There is to be a maximum of 30 minutes rest between rounds.
17. **Rubber Scoring 12&U – 18&U** 12&U – 18&U **SINGLES** NEW FAST4: First to 4 games, No Advantage Deuce, Tiebreak at 3 games all (to 7 points with 2 clear), Match tiebreak (to 10 points with 2 clear) in place of third set, normal service let rule. **DOUBLES** Normal tiebreak sets to 6 games, 2 clear. If one set all, match tiebreak to 10 points with 2 clear.
18. **Rubber Scoring Adult Events** **SINGLES**: Sets 1 and 2 tiebreak at 6-6. If one set all, match tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear). **DOUBLES**: No ad scoring. Sets 1 and 2 tiebreak at 6-6. If one set all, match tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear).
19. **Match Scoring** A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.
20. **Match Result** The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win. In the event of a draw each team will receive one match point. Both captains must complete and sign the Team Tennis scorecards, and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day.
21. **Division Standings** The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:
 1. The team with the greatest number of match points.
 2. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.

3. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
4. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league.
5. In the adult event 2 teams will be promoted and 2 teams relegated at the end of the season.

22. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 32.

Problem Solving Issues & Regulations (All age groups, all tiers)

23. **Late Arrival** If any nominated player is not ready to play within 15 minutes of a rubber due on court then the opposing team shall be awarded a walkover for this rubber (by a score of 6-0, 6-0). No substitutions or alteration to the nominations or playing order may be made. The player concerned shall be permitted to play a doubles rubber provided he/she is ready to play when the doubles rubber is due on court. If he/she is not ready when the doubles rubber is due on court the team will be deemed 'incomplete' and Rules 27 and 30 will apply.
24. In the event that the entire away team is going to be late for extenuating circumstances (e.g. motorway closure etc) and has contacted the home team in good time, a reasonable degree of flexibility on start time should be shown by the home team.
25. **Team Withdrawal** A team giving a walkover shall take no further part in the competition. All results against this team will be declared null and void for the purposes of determining the final placing in its group. However, the League Organiser shall have the power to consider a team's position regarding a team walkover with extenuating circumstances, in which case the team receiving the walkover will win all rubbers 6-0, 6-0, and will receive 12 rubber points and a match win. League organisers may - at their discretion - allow a team to fulfil their remaining fixtures following a walkover. However, the team will be retired at the end of the league season and as such all results will not be counted in the final league standings calculation. The results of the singles matches played will count for Ratings.
26. **Incomplete Teams** If a venue is unable to field a complete team for the whole fixture then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the second doubles rubber, followed by the next lowest rubber and so on. Incomplete teams will begin the fixture with 3 rubber points deducted where one player is missing and 6 rubber points from their match score where two or more players are missing. For example, an incomplete team consisting of 3 players will begin on -3 rubber points and will play 3 singles and 1 doubles rubber only. If the incomplete team win 3 rubbers (+6 rubber points) and lose 1 rubber the overall match score will be 6-3 to the complete team. The complete team shall be deemed to have won the forfeited rubbers by a score of 6-0 6-0. Where one team is incomplete, the complete team may play any two of the nominated players as the No 1 doubles pair. When it is known before the match that one team is going to be incomplete, the lowest nominated singles player(s) of the opposing team does not have to be present for the fixture.
27. **Player Retirement** If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets necessary to win the rubber. The player retiring from the rubber shall be eligible to compete in any remaining rubbers.
28. **Completion of Matches** (due to inclement weather) If play is suspended after a match has started then the match shall resume at the point of suspension. If a match cannot be started

due to rain or rain stops play before any rubbers have been completed then the match may be rearranged at the original venue.

29. **Playing out of order / Ineligible Player(s)** If players play out of order then the singles rubbers involving those players shall be forfeited by a score of 0-6, 0-6. If an ineligible player competes then the singles rubber involving the player concerned, and all singles rubbers lower in the team order shall be forfeited by a score of 0-6, 0-6. In addition, that team shall have 3 rubber points deducted from their match score for each ineligible player. If both teams field a player out of order or an ineligible player then each team shall be deemed to have lost the singles rubber in a similar manner. Likewise if a team fields an ineligible player as a doubles only player they shall forfeit that rubber. Where doubles pairings are not in line with Rule 16 that team shall forfeit both doubles rubbers.
30. Regulations All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct and the Hertfordshire Winter League Regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the Hertfordshire Winter League Regulations shall prevail). Each player participating in the competition grants and assigns to the LTA the right to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself. Such promotional activities by the LTA shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product/company.
31. The day to day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by the League Organiser under the auspices of the Herts Competitions Team (CT). The Competition is sanctioned by the LTA under the management of the CT. The CT shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of these regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these Regulations; to suspend or modify any of these Regulations in appropriate circumstances. The CT decision on all matters is final.
32. Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to the League Organiser by the team captain within 48 hours of the of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the League Organiser/CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.
33. All players are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the LTA (including, without limitation, the LTA's Anti-Doping Programme, the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and the Regulations Concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting) and fully and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction and authority of the LTA by competing in the Competition.
34. At the discretion of the league organiser, the home venue of a fixture may be reversed in the case of inclement weather and/or courts being unfit for play.