



**HERTFORDSHIRE MINI TENNIS
WINTER TEAM LEAGUE
SEPTEMBER 2019 TO MARCH 2020**



HERTFORDSHIRE MINI TENNIS WINTER TEAM LEAGUE

Winter
2019-2020

WELCOME TO THE HERTFORDSHIRE MINI TENNIS TEAM LEAGUE

We hope that you and your team are looking forward to another exciting winter season of team tennis. Here are the rules of the league. If you are not running the teams yourself, make it easy for your match captains ensuring that they have all the information they need. **PLEASE READ THE RULES AND ENSURE THAT ALL TEAM CAPTAINS HAVE AN APPROPRIATE RESULT SHEET AND A COPY OF THE RULES AT EVERY MATCH.**

We are now accepting on line entry and payment. Please enter by 10th August 2019.

Please give your teams FUN names. The children like it and so do I. Example: Batchwood bulldogs; Welwyn wanderers etc.

Ensure that your venue is 'clicked' on each of the profiles of the players you are including in your team.

The league is run in two sections:

Challenger Draw

- played between September and December and each team entered into this draw may include no more than one experienced tournament player in each qualifying draw team at each mini tennis stage. See rule 1.8(1)

Main Draw

- played between December and March. Each player must be of the correct age, but there is no restriction on ratings.

LTA changes to player ratings apply after 1st April 2020. This league will adhere to the current Ratings and age groups until this date.

IMPORTANT Having entered all your teams on line please email Jennifer Keates with the names of the teams entered that are to be included in the Main Draw only. If you do not email this information your team will automatically be entered into the Challenger Draw.

Please note and adhere to the play by dates for each round. Rule 2.3 must be adhered to and the home team must offer three dates to the opposing team including the play by date. If no agreement can be reached then the play by date must be used.

Rule 2.4 should be noted regarding unplayed matches.

BE SOCIAL AND FRIENDLY: The home team should provide water and squash at all times during the match. Simple, light refreshments at the end of each match will give the players an enjoyable social experience. Parents may like to be offered tea or coffee. Parents, organisers and coaches give their time freely to provide enjoyable tennis experiences for the young players. We are all supporting Fair Play, Enjoy, RESPECT for all involved in the match including players and organisers.

Organiser and Referee: Jennifer Keates
Email: jkktennis4015@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07881788708

RULES

ELIGIBILITY

Club Eligibility

- 1.1 The Team League is open to any Hertfordshire registered club, school or park site. Out of County clubs can be considered by the committee.

Team Eligibility

- 1.2 Events:
- Mixed 8 and under (aged 8 or younger on 31st March 2020)
 - Orange rated players are eligible to play at Red during their last 2 seasons at Red and can play at both Red stage and Orange stage.
 - Mixed 9 and under (9 on 31st March 2020 or 8 if player has reached Orange rating.)
 - Once a player moves from Red to Orange stage then that player can only play at Orange.
 - Mixed 10 and under (10 on 31st March 2020)
 - An Orange 1 or Orange 1* player, in their last season of Orange can play at both Orange and Green stage. Once the player becomes a Green player they can only play at Green stage.
 - If there is any doubt use this link to view the age group calculator.
<https://www.lta.org.uk/competitions/junior/competition-age-groups1/1.3>
 - A team may enter more than one team in each Mini Tennis Rating stage, i.e. Red, Orange or Green, but in doing so must ensure that there are sufficient players available to fulfill match commitments. **Consider this point carefully.**
- 1.4 If you enter more than one team in each Mini Tennis Rating stage, it is essential that the team names are graded and the numbers 1, 2 or 3 etc., appear in the team name title. Example: Wimbledon Wombles 1, Wimbledon Wanderers 2, etc. We encourage fun team names.
- 1.5 Where two teams are entered by a club in the same league, a player may 'play up' in the higher team on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in the lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team more than once that player is no longer eligible to represent the lower team.
- 1.6 Turning out a full team is very important. In exceptional cases where an eligible player is not available an ineligible player can be used. Please consult LTA ratings eligibility. If a team is unable to field a correctly rated player any player can participate in a team providing the standard is appropriate and the opposition team manager agrees. Any variation must be agreed before the match between the team managers.
- 1.6.1 An illegible player must play in 4th place in the team.
- 1.6.2 Teams should include at least one girl. If a club is unable to field a complete team of 3 boys and one girl a fourth boy can be included in a team. In this case rules 1.6 and 3.11 will apply.

Player Eligibility

- 1.7 A player may only represent one club.
- All players must:
- ✓ Have British Tennis Membership
 - ✓ Have a British Tennis rating

- ✓ Be a linked member or registered user of the club they are competing for. Ensure that your venue is 'clicked' on each of the profiles of the players you are including in your team.
 - ✓ Be of the correct age (see 1.2 and 1.6).
- 1.8 Challenger Draw – no more than one level one rated player may be included in each Challenger Draw team at mini tennis stages Orange and Green. A player in the challenger draw remains eligible if their rating increases to a Level 1 after having played two matches.
TTP can identify a player's RED rating. Do not divulge this information to the parents.
- 1.8(1) At Red Stage the Challenger Draw provides competition for less experienced players. Only one player who competes regularly to a good standard should be included in each team. Through TTP it is possible to establish the ratings of each RED player. Team Captains should ask the qualified person at your club for the specific rating of your RED players. Do not divulge this information to the individual player or parents.
- 1.9 Main Draw – each player must be of the correct age, but there is no restriction on ratings.

THE COMPETITION

- 2.1 The league will be organised in two stages. Challenger Draw and Main Draw.
The Challenger Draw will be played between 1st September and 8th December 2019.
The Main Draw will be played between 8th December 2019 and 29th March 2020.
The Challenger competition will be organised in divisions of 4 teams as far as possible.
The Main draw will be organised as a knockout draw. The final format can only be set when entries have been received.
- 2.1.1 The main draw will include 16 teams at each Mini Tennis Stage.
The Main Draw Consolation event is for first round losers of the Main Draw competition and the finalists of the Main Draw Consolation will be invited to Finals Day.
However, the number of teams entered and the geographical destination of the teams entered will determine the final format of both the Challenger Draws and the Main Draws.
- 2.2 **All matches in the Challenger draw must be completed by 8th December 2019.**
Play by dates will be set for each round of the Challenger draws and Main draws.
Hertfordshire School Term Dates can be found on the link below:
<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/schlife/termdates/>
- 2.3 Home team to provide three dates which must include the play-by date. Opposition selects one date. This date must be agreed and confirmed, preferably by email. This date cannot be changed other than for bad weather.
- 2.3.1 In the event that teams are unable to agree on a date, including the play-by date, then the referee has the discretion to toss a coin to determine the winner.
- 2.3.2 In the event of bad weather the re-arranged match must be played within two weeks of the original date and the play by date for the next round must stand. Please inform Jennifer Keates of the change of any date by email: jjktennis4015@btinternet.com.
- 2.4 All matches must be played. In the event that a team concedes a match and gives a walkover, that team should play all remaining matches. The scores for all remaining matches will be included on the individual players' profiles. However, for the purposes of the league all the matches for that team will be null and void and shall not be included.
- 2.5 A team must complete all the matches in the Challenger Draw to be eligible to play in the Main Draw. A team that has not completed all its Challenger Draw matches will only be allowed through to the Main Draw at the discretion of the Referee.

THE MATCH

- 3.1 Each team must have an adult captain present at each match and a copy of the rules and scoresheet must be to hand.
- 3.2 **Courts:** The home club 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.
- 3.3 **Balls:** The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 good quality balls for each rubber.
- 3.4 **Match format:** A match shall consist of 8 singles and 2 doubles rubbers.
- 3.5 **Match Nominations:** A team shall consist of 4 players only with at least one girl in a team. More than one girl can be included in any team.
- 3.6 **Nominations:** At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match, team captains must nominate in writing, on the match results card, the singles players in order of merit in accordance with current British Tennis Ratings. If players have the same rating, the captain can decide the team order which may change from match to match. Boys and girls may play against one another.
- 3.7 **Match Order:**
Doubles Pairings are at the discretion of the individual team captains and should be decided and agreed before the start of the match and noted on the scoresheet.
Player 1 v Player 1; Player 2 v Player 2; Player 1 v Player 2; Player 2 v Player 1; Player 3 v Player 3; Player 4 v Player 4; Player 3 v Player 4; Player 4 v Player 3.
- 3.8 Matches should follow one another immediately.
- 3.9 **Match Scoring:**
A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.
- 3.10 **Match Results:**
The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. The total number of points per match is 20.
- 3.11 Any rubber result involving an ineligible player should be recorded as played for ratings purposes. Two points will be allocated to the opposing team should the ineligible player win the match (i.e. a maximum of 6 points per player).
- 3.11(1) Please advise the opposition team manager when an ineligible player is used and identify the player clearly on the result card.
- 3.11(2) An ineligible player must play in 4th position in the team.
- 3.11(3) The overall match score should be amended to reflect this. The referee is the only person able to amend the overall match score on the website to reflect the results of ineligible players who win their match(s). Please leave a note on the 'comment' page detailing the results of the ineligible player. The result for the league will be recorded as a win only to the opposing team and two match points will be credited.
- 3.11(4) Fictitious results should not be recorded on the scoresheet, only actual scores must be used. If an ineligible player is used please 'comment' so that the tournament organizer can amend the results.
- 3.12 Where a match is not played and recorded as a walkover, no score should be entered and no recent form will be allocated. LTA Mini Tennis Rating Rules apply.
- 3.12.1 When registering results if a player is 'unknown' to your club please check that the player is assigned to your venue. In the event that a player still remains as 'unknown' please contact the Referee by leaving a 'comment' on the website.
- 3.13 The winning captain uploads the results on the website and the losing captain must confirm the results. This must be done within 48 hours of the match.
- 3.14 The final standings in each Challenger Draw division shall be determined by the following:
- ✓ The team with the greatest number of match wins

- ✓ If only two teams are level, their head to head result
- ✓ If more than 2 teams are level the round robin rule in the LTA Tournament Regulations will determine the league standings.
- ✓ The Challenger Group winner will go through to the main draw. Play-offs may be required. Runners up may be offered a place in the main draw if required. This can only be established once the number of teams is confirmed.

MINI TENNIS STAGE MATCH FORMATS

4.1 **GREEN STAGE– 10 Under**

4.2 **Rubber Scoring:**

Singles and Doubles matches: 1 short set. First to 4 games, tiebreak at 4/4.

Singles court only used for both singles and doubles matches at Green Stage.

- 4.2.1 In the event that the rubbers won is even a doubles tiebreak shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. The doubles team may be any two players who have played the match. When entering the result on line 1 bonus point should be awarded to the winning team (11-10). Please leave a 'comment' indicating which team won the shootout so that the Referee can amend the match result.

5.1 **ORANGE STAGE– 9 Under**

5.2 **Rubber Scoring:**

Best of three tiebreak sets. Tiebreaks to 7 points, with 2 clear.

- 5.2.1 At Orange Stage In the event that each team has accrued the same number of points, the number of sets should be counted and the team that has won the most sets shall be the winning team. If the total number of sets from all the matches for both teams is still even, then a doubles tiebreak shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. The doubles team may be any two players who have played the match. When entering the results on line 1 bonus point should be awarded to the winning team. (11-10). Please leave a 'comment' indicating which team won the shootout so that the Referee can amend the match result.

6.1 **RED STAGE – 8 Under**

6.2 **Rubber Scoring:**

One Match tiebreak to 10 points with 2 clear.

In the event that the rubbers are equal at the end of the match the team that has won the highest number of game points shall be the winning team and receive 1 bonus point and the match score entered on line shall be 11-10 points. In the event that the rubber points and game points are equal each team will be credited with 1 point for a draw and the score shall be 11-11. Please leave a 'comment' indicating which team won the shootout so that the Referee can amend the match result.

- 6.3 To clarify, at Red Stage the 8cm foam ball is recommended by the LTA for indoor use. The outdoor RED ball should be used for all outdoor matches. The foam ball will be used indoors on finals day.

PROBLEM SOLVING

7.1 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. No substitutions or alteration to the nominations or playing order may be made. If a player arrives later than 15 minutes of a rubber due on court then that match is conceded and should not be

played. The player concerned shall be permitted to play a doubles rubber (and tiebreak shoot-out) 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 7.2 will apply.

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 must be shown by the home team.

7.2 Incomplete Teams:

An incomplete team means less than four players, one of which one must be a girl. If a club is unable to field a complete team for the whole match then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the second doubles rubber, followed by the next lowest rubber and so on. 6 match points will be forfeited for each player missing from the team. These points are credited to the opposition match points. In addition, any team that does not include at least one girl in their team will forfeit 6 match points and the points are allocated to the opposing team's score. See rule 3.11.

Ineligible players play as lowest singles rubber and lowest doubles rubber.

If this should happen it is essential that the actual rubber scores are included on the match result card. These results will be recorded for Mini Tennis Ratings.

7.3 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/tiebreak shoot-out.

7.4 Completion of Matches

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 within two weeks of the original match date.

Where one or more rubbers have been completed, the winner of the match shall be the team winning the most number of completed rubbers. 2 points shall be awarded for each completed rubber with any remaining points shared. Should each team have won an equal number of rubbers then the points should be shared.

7.5 If weather conditions are uncertain modified scoring format may be used providing both team captains are in agreement.

For example: 8&U – could play only one further point at 9 points all (9-9) achieving a score of 10-9, or could play a tiebreak, first to 7 points at 6 points all (6-6) play only one further point. 9&U – could play a match tiebreak to 10 points at 9-9 only one further point should be played, resulting in a match score at Orange of 10-9. Or only one further point can be played when a tiebreak set score reaches 6 points all resulting in a tiebreak score of 7-6.

If this becomes necessary please highlight the issue and comment so that the referee can modify the results.

Any other modified formats may result in the match scores not being eligible for Mini Tennis Ratings.

7.6 Playing out of order / Ineligible Player(s)

If players play out of order the singles rubbers involving the higher rated player shall be forfeited and the points shall be awarded to the opposing team. The result of the match will be recorded for ratings purposes.

If an ineligible player competes then the rubbers involving the player concerned shall be forfeited and two points shall be awarded to the opposing team.



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If both teams field a player out of order or an ineligible player then each team shall be deemed to have lost the rubbers in a similar manner and neither team receives the points. Likewise if a team fields an ineligible player as a doubles only player they shall forfeit that rubber.

REGULATIONS

8.1 All players are subject to the Rules of the LTA.

THE MAIN DRAW

ELIGIBILITY FOR MAIN DRAW

- 9.1 Clubs wishing to field teams that include more than one Level One Rated player at Red, Orange and Green stages.
- 9.2 The league rules apply to both Challenger and Main Draws
- 9.3 Only genuine club members or regular squad players may be included in the Main Draw Teams. There is no restriction on the number of higher rated players in the Main Draw.
- 9.4 Acceptance into the Main Draw is at the discretion of the referee.
- 9.5 All Main Draw teams must agree to compete in the consolation draw if knockout in the first round of the Main Draw.

PLAY-BY DATES

- 10.1 The home team is the team at the top of the draw
- 10.2 Rule 2.3 and 2.3.1 apply. Matches must be completed by play be date.

ORGANISATION OF MAIN DRAW

- 16 teams will compete in the main draw of each Mini Tennis Stage.
- All Main Draw matches must be completed by finals day, 29th March 2020.
 - Play-offs may have to be arranged if number of eligible teams for main draw exceeds 16.
 - Main Draw Semi Finals and Finals along with Consolation Finals will take place on Sunday 29th March 2020.
 - Team members selected for Main Draw semifinals and finals must be bona fide members of participating club or regularly attend squad sessions at the participating club. A final decision on eligibility of team members will rest with the Referee, Jennifer Keates.
 - Finals Day Venue: Herts Tennis Centre, Gosling Sports Park, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XE. Timing schedule for these events will be announced nearer the time.

Organiser and Referee: Jennifer Keates
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