

The Herts League

1. **Entry** to the Herts League is open to LTA registered venues affiliated to the Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association ('Herts LTA')
2. Entries are accepted from venues on the understanding that there will be no general restrictions imposed on the playing of matches on Saturdays and Sundays
3. Entries are made online once the competition has been opened for entries (usually in January)
4. The entry fee is £20 per team
5. **Events:** There are two events: a Ladies competition and a Men's competition
6. There are no age restrictions and venues are encouraged to play juniors wherever possible and appropriate. It is the responsibility of the venues concerned to ensure that their young players are mature enough to behave in accordance with the Herts values (which are shown at the foot of the page), with particular reference to Honesty and Sportsmanship
7. A venue may enter as many teams in each event as it wants e.g. two Men's teams and four Ladies teams
8. Smaller venues are encouraged to join forces to form a combined team
9. The competition will be played on an annual basis and the winners of the Men's and Ladies Championship Divisions will hold shields for the year that follows
10. The competition will be played over the spring and summer, in the period beginning on 1st April and ending on 30th September unless extensions are granted beyond these dates
11. **Match fixtures:** The organiser will convene a dedicated fixtures meeting (usually in March) of the Match Secretaries of the venues who have entered the competition
12. Each venue with a team or teams entered in the competition will attend the fixtures meeting to arrange the dates for all of its matches with the other teams in their division(s)
13. At the end of the fixtures meeting venues will provide the organiser with a list of arranged match fixtures for each of their teams
14. Following the fixtures meeting venues will be responsible for adding their arranged fixtures on to the competition software, 'League Planner'. Details on how to do this are contained in the 'Herts League – Guide to online process'
15. Should any match have to be re-arranged because of bad weather or any other reason, Match Secretaries will assume the responsibility for making the necessary arrangements and updating the date of the fixture on League Planner
16. **Competition Structure:** The competition will be played on a league basis, with divisions formed from the entries received
17. Teams will be placed into appropriate divisions by the organiser based primarily on the previous season's final standings, with two additional considerations:
18. Where, in the opinion of the organiser, the performance of a team competing the previous season had proved exceptional, the team may be promoted to a higher division than that into which they would normally have been placed under the rules pertaining to the determination of final standings (Regulations 53 and 54) and;
19. Teams not entered in the competition in the previous season will usually be placed in the lowest division(s), except where the organiser considers that their standard of play warrants placing in a higher division
20. Unless the overall number of entries makes it unworkable, divisions will usually be formed of seven teams
21. Each team will play one match against each of the other teams in their division

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22. Teams will be given an equal number of home and away matches wherever possible by the organiser i.e. depending on whether the number of teams in their division is an even or odd number
23. **Match Arrangements:** Team captains should contact their opposite number before each fixture (using the contact details on the league's website) to confirm the match arrangements
24. Matches can be played at any time on weekends i.e. both mornings and afternoons
25. The home team captain is responsible for welcoming the away team and organising some light refreshments (unless there has been prior agreement not to have any)
26. Unless mutually agreed otherwise, teams should be on court and ready to play at the scheduled start time. If this is not adhered to, the captain of the team that is ready to play will be able to claim according to the following schedule:
27. If a player or players are 15 to 29 minutes late, the first rubber they are concerned in; if 30 to 59 minutes late, the first two rubbers they are concerned in; if one hour or more late, all of the rubbers they are concerned in
28. In the event that the away team is late for extenuating circumstances (e.g. motorway closure) and has contacted the home team in good time, the expectation is that the home team will show a reasonable degree of flexibility on start time
29. **Team and Match Format:** A team consists of six players. Captains should arrange their players into three pairs, which must be named in order of relative playing strength
30. The captain of a team, when realising that they have a player late, may reorganise their pairings but must still comply with Regulation 29 in respect of relative playing strength
31. A match consists of 9 rubbers, with each pair playing against each of the opposing teams' 3 pairs over 3 rounds
32. The order of rubbers:
1st round: Home team's 1st pair (H1) v Away team's 3rd pair (A3)
Home team's 2nd pair (H2) v Away team's 1st pair (A1)
Home team's 3rd pair (H3) v Away team's 2nd pair (A2)
2nd round: H1 v A2, H2 v A3, H3 v A1
3rd round: H1 v A1, H2 v H2, H3 v H3
33. The rubbers in the 1st and 2nd rounds i.e. those between non like pairs (1st v 2nd, 1st v 3rd and 2nd v 3rd) are 1 set matches with a 7 point tie-break at 6-6
34. The rubbers in the 3rd round between like pairs (i.e. 1st v 1st, 2nd v 2nd and 3rd v 3rd) are the best of 3 sets with a 7 point tie-break at 6-6 in the first two sets and with a deciding championship (i.e. 10 point) tie-break as a third set if necessary
35. A championship tie-break counts as one set and one game to the winner
36. **Player Eligibility:** A player may only represent one venue in the competition in any given season other than in exceptional circumstances and only then after permission has been obtained from the organiser
37. All players must have a British Tennis Membership (BTM) number which links to the venue they are competing for and be a bona-fide playing member of the registered venue they are competing for
38. Players may play a maximum of 8 matches and for a maximum of 2 teams for their venue in any given season. Any breaches of the criteria will result in the offending rubbers being awarded to the opposition

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39. If a venue has 2 teams in the same division, the match between its teams must be played before any other. In these circumstances, players can only play matches for one of the 2 teams (plus another of the venue's teams, if more exist) that season
40. **Courts:** Matches are expected to be played on 3 courts of the same surface and of satisfactory standard. If, in exceptional circumstances, it is necessary to use more than one surface, the away team has the choice of court allocation
41. The court allocation for matches is set out on the match card provided to venues by the organiser prior to the start of the competition and involves each pair from each team playing one rubber on each of the 3 courts. Exceptionally, this may be varied but only with the consent of both captains
42. **Balls:** It is the responsibility of the home team to supply a minimum of 12 new balls
43. **Determination of Match Result:** Except for the special provision of Regulation 50 a match result shall be deemed to have been obtained when one of the two teams has won at least 5 of the scheduled 9 rubbers. A win counts as one point
44. Both captains should complete a scorecard and retain their copy. It is the winning captain's responsibility to add the result to League Planner within 48 hours
45. **Concession of a match:** Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a team conceding a match by default may invoke further match losses, demotion to a lower division or, if deemed appropriate, a team conceding two or more matches could have all of its results discounted
46. **Player Retirement:** If a player retires during a rubber, the opposition shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets necessary to win that rubber. The player retiring from the rubber is eligible to compete in any remaining rubbers
47. **Postponed Matches:** In the event of a request for a fixture to be postponed on account of genuine difficulties fielding a team, the fixture should be rearranged wherever possible. Where, despite the best efforts of both teams, a revised date cannot be mutually agreed upon and arranged, the team who were ready and able to play are awarded a walkover. A walkover counts as if the match had been played and is scored as a win. At the end of the season, an average of the number of Rubbers, Sets and Games gained by the team receiving the walkover from their played matches (rounded to the nearest whole number as necessary) is given to the team receiving the walkover. The team giving the walkover receives no Rubbers, Sets or Games and will have one point deducted and 9 Rubbers, 12 Sets and 72 Games awarded against them
48. **Abandoned Matches:** If a match is abandoned for any reason whatsoever, such as bad light, or bad weather:
49. Before completion of the first 2 rounds: Regulation 43 applies, but if neither side has won at least 5 rubbers the match shall be replayed on a date to be mutually agreed between the two venues, such agreement to be made within 21 days of the abandoned match. It is the responsibility of the home captain to add the rearranged date to League Planner within 48 hours of the agreement
50. After completion of the first 2 rounds, but before completion of the 3rd round: Regulation 43 applies, but if neither side has won at least 5 rubbers, all rubbers, sets and games played in the 3rd round are ignored and the match is decided on the score standing at the completion of the first 2 rounds. If the score is 3 rubbers all upon completion of the first 2 rounds, the match shall be replayed on a date to be mutually agreed between the two venues, such

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agreement to be made within 21 days of the abandoned match. It is the responsibility of the home captain to add the rearranged date to League Planner within 48 hours of the agreement

51. The captain of either team may concede rubbers, sets and/or games to the opposing team for the purpose of completing any round
52. **Submission of match results:** It is the responsibility of the winning captain to enter the result online within 48 hours of the match and of the losing captain to confirm the result online within 7 days of the match. Details on how to do this are contained in the 'Herts League – Guide to online process'
53. **Determination of final standings:** At the conclusion of the competition the organiser places the teams in each division in order of precedence in accordance with the number of points won
54. If two or more teams score an equal number of points, the order of precedence is determined by the percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played, and if the percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played is equal, the percentage of sets won to sets played is decisive; and if the percentages of rubbers and sets are equal, the percentage of games won to games played is decisive
55. The teams that finish top in the Men's and Ladies Championship Divisions are the Herts League Champions for the year
56. **Grouping arrangements for the Men's competition, including arrangements for promotion and relegation:** The organiser arranges the teams that enter the competition into divisions in the Men's structure shown at the appendix based on the final standings in the previous year's competition and in conformity with the provisions of Regulations 53 and 54
57. The team finishing last in the Championship Division is relegated to Division 1A. The team finishing last but one in the Championship Division is relegated to Division 1B. The teams finishing first in Divisions 1A and 1B are promoted to the Championship Division
58. The team finishing last in any division below the Championship (except the lowest division/divisions) is relegated to second place in the same sub-division of the Group immediately below
59. The team finishing last but one in sub-division B of a Group is relegated to first place in sub-division A of the Group immediately below
60. The team finishing last but one in sub-division A of a Group is relegated to first place in sub-division B of the Group immediately below
61. In all Groups below the Championship Division and Divisions 1A and 1B:
62. The team finishing first in sub-division A of a Group is promoted to last but one in sub-division B of the next higher Group
63. The team finishing first in sub-division B of a Group is promoted to last but one in sub-division A of the next higher Group
64. The team finishing second in either sub-division of a Group is promoted to last place in the same sub-division of the next higher Group
65. If, under the above procedure, more than one team from the same venue would be placed in the same division, the organiser can separate them by swapping one with a team from a different venue in the other sub-division at the same level
66. **Grouping arrangements for the Ladies competition, including arrangements for promotion and relegation:** The organiser arranges the teams that enter the competition into divisions

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- in the Ladies structure shown at the appendix based on the final standings in the previous year's competition and in conformity with the provisions of Regulations 53 and 54
67. The teams finishing last and last but one in the Championship Division are relegated to the Premier Division. The teams finishing first and second in the Premier Division are promoted to the Championship Division
 68. The teams finishing last and last but one in the Premier Division are relegated to the Intermediate Division. The teams finishing first and second in the Intermediate Division are promoted to the Premier Division
 69. The team finishing last in the Intermediate Division is relegated to Division 1A. The team finishing last but one in the Intermediate Division is relegated to Division 1B. The teams finishing first in Divisions 1A and 1B are promoted to the Intermediate Division
 70. The team finishing last in any division below the Intermediate (except the lowest division/divisions) is relegated to second place in the same sub-division of the Group immediately below
 71. The team finishing last but one in sub-division B of a Group is relegated to first place in sub-division A of the Group immediately below
 72. The team finishing last but one in sub-division A of a Group is relegated to first place in sub-division B of the Group immediately below
 73. In all Groups below the Intermediate Division and Divisions 1A and 1B:
 74. The team finishing first in sub-division A of a Group is promoted to last but one in sub-division B of the next higher Group
 75. The team finishing first in sub-division B of a Group is promoted to last but one in sub-division A of the next higher Group
 76. The team finishing second in either sub-division of a Group is promoted to last place in the same sub-division of the next higher Group
 77. If, under the above procedure, more than one team from the same venue would be placed in the same division, the organiser can separate them by swapping one with a team from a different venue in the other sub-division at the same level
 78. **Complaints or disputes:** Any complaint or dispute should be put to the organiser by the team captain(s) within 48 hours of the of the complaint/dispute arising

Players are expected to adhere to the Herts Values of **Honesty, Excellence, Resilience, Teamwork and Sportsmanship** throughout