

RULES OF THE COMPETITION 2023-24

BOTH team captains are requested to ensure results within SEVEN days of the match are
Entered on the LTA WEBSITE – and a COPY retained in case of any query that may be raised with League Organiser
BASIL L WEIN in which case you send the result sheet to:
Email: blwein@dircon.co.uk

1. The Competition will run from September 2023 and end on 30th April 2024

This is a winter competition played on outside courts and the completion of the leagues relies on the willingness of teams to play their matches.

All matches are to be played on LTA approved tennis surfaces and the home team is responsible for all the costs of the match, to include the provision of six new LTA approved tennis balls. Where a **home club offers INDOOR courts to opponents that are not free to members, they may ask their opponents to make a contribution towards the cost. The away team shall not be put under any pressure to agree to such a request. Any agreement must be made at least 3 weeks before the match and confirmed in writing or email by the home captain.**

2. Each team will consist of FOUR players (two pairs) placed in order of merit, each pair, *who* will each play each other.
3. Rubbers to be best of three set as follows: 2 tie-break sets starting at 6-all, + a Championship Tie Break Set to 10 points with a 2 point advantage which is shown on the score card as 1-0 to the winners.

SCORING & REPORTING RESULTS

4. 1 point will be awarded for each RUBBER won.

The Winning team will receive a win bonus of 1 Point. Therefore a win of :

4-0 =5 Points to the winning team

3-1=4 Points to the winners & 1 point to losers

2-2 (shoot out) 3 points to winners & 2 point to losers

In event of a draw (2-2) the result will be decided by the following criteria:

The percentage of sets won

If equal, the percentage of games won.

If still equal then on the result of the rubber between the FIRST pairs.

This is called THE SHOOT OUT and the winner is recorded on the results page on the website in the box called SHOOT OUT.

At the conclusion of a match – THE WINNING TEAM is responsible for entering the result on the LTA Web Site. THE LOSING TEAM must confirm the result on the LTA Web Site within 7 days of the match being played. BOTH TEAMS MUST retain a completed EXCEL or PDF format RESULT SHEET – in case of a Result query - Which will allow the Captains concerned to send the sheet to the Organiser.

THEREFORE ALL RESULTS ARE NOW REPORTED ONLINE VIA THE LTA WEBSITE

5. SUBMISSION OF MATCH FIXTURE LISTS:

Each club with teams entered in the competition shall present a complete list of their arranged match fixtures to the League Organiser at the AGM / FIXTURES MEETING, USING THE MATCH DATE FIXTURES DOCUMENT. The fixtures will be placed online via the competition software “League Planner”, to which all competing clubs will have access. Should any match date have to be re-arranged, Match Secretaries or Team Captains MUST advise the League Organiser who will make the change.

5.1. Any club wishing to change a previously agreed fixture date should give a clear 14 days notice to their opponents otherwise their opponents are entitled, in the last resort, to claim a walkover if no alternative date can be agreed.

5.2. On the day of a match if the weather is inclement or doubtful the HOME team CAPTAIN should go to the venue, and considering the weather, inspect the condition of the Courts, 60-90 mins before play is due to start. Make immediate contact with opposing Captain, and decide if any play would be possible within 1 hour of the appointed start time. If Play is NOT possible – the match can be postponed - - and the Captains should try to decide alternative dates if possible, and advise THE ORGANISER as soon as possible.

5.3. Where the 14 day notice to postpone is given Rule 9 will be acceptable for the rearrangement of the fixture. Except where the postponement occurs in March or April, in which case the home club must offer 2 dates if the original fixture was in March, or ONE date if the original fixture was in April. TO AVOID POTENTIAL DISPUTES ANY NOTICE TO POSTPONE MUST BE IN WRITING OR EMAIL TO THE OPPOSING TEAM AND COPIED TO THE LEAGUE ORGANISER.

6. IF two or more teams score an equal number of points, the order of precedence in the group shall be determined by the percentage of sets won to sets played and should the percentage of sets be equal, the percentage of games won to games played shall decide.

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- 7 In the event of the match not being completed due to bad weather, dangerous courts, etc, If one complete round has been played that score will stand unless both captains agree to replay the match, in which case the previous result is cancelled' Where a match is abandoned after the first round and the teams agree to not re-arrange. The Results of the first Round should be submitted and will stand as the accepted result.
- 8 Matches can be played evening and/or weekends. It is important that team captains make contact with their opposite numbers in October and advisable that at least two matches are completed before 31st December. It is essential that all- matches- are completed by 30th April .
- 9 Home teams are responsible for arranging matches and should offer THREE possible dates for the fixture within the set period. The Away team should accept one of these. The Home team must provide the balls. Refreshments only by mutual agreement:

10. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

- 10.1.Championship Groups.
In the Championship groups the bottom TWO clubs will be relegated.
- 10.2.All other Divisions (Groups)
In all other divisions winners will promoted and runners up will move across to the parallel division (ie 1A to 1B)
The clubs that occupy the bottom position in each division will be relegated and the club that finishes in the second from bottom position will move across to the parallel division (ie 2B to 2A)
Except in the bottom league, where the last clubs will move across to the parallel division..

WALKOVERS

11. The team awarded a walkover will receive 5 points, but the match will scored as 8 sets to 0 (6-0) in all cases. Teams conceding by walkover will also be penalised with a 1 point penalty.

11.1 NEW RULE

Teams who concede 2 WALKOVERS in a season will be disqualified for the season

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

12 Where a club has two or more teams in an age group the following rules apply

- 12.1 A player may play a maximum of 8 games in any one season in each age group.
- 12.2 A player can only play for one team in the same division.
- 12.3 The Qualification to play for a club shall be bona-fide playing membership of that club prior to a match.

13 A club which has 2 or more teams in the same Group MUST play the match between its two teams or more before playing any other team in the same group, and in any case not later than Dec 31st

14. Individuals may play for more than ONE club in a season provided

- * They are playing in a different age group

Rule Definition

which means if you e.g play for Over 55 at DL Northwood you can Play Over 45 for Northwood LTC (who do not have an Over 55 team) but if you Play for Townsend 45's you CANNOT play 55's for any other team – as Townsend has teams in BOTH age groups.

- * They are a paid up tennis member of both clubs

Only players who reach the age of- 45 years or 55 or 65 years respectively by **30th April 2024** are eligible.
HONOURARY club members are eligible to play in the Competitions – provided satisfactory proof of Mmembershhip is provided to the ORGANISER before played for his club team

**Members of a 55 team may play for a 45 team.
Over 65 Teams – may play one Over 60 Player (as above)
but under 65 Registered nominated player .**

**OVER 70'S TEAMS MAY SELECT ONE FROM 3
NOMINATED - OVER 65 PLAYER**

15.The Winter League rules are written (and are to be read) in conjunction with the current edition of The Herts League - Competition rules as published on the Herts LTA website from time to time. Those rules shall govern any issue which is not expressly addressed in any of the foregoing Winter League rules