



Swindon & District Tennis League

League Rules

www.SwindonTennisLeague.org.uk



Swindon District Tennis League



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Swindon & District Tennis League Rules

1. League Organisation
 - a). There will be separate sections for Men's, Ladies', Mixed and Winter Mixed teams if there are sufficient entries to form a league or leagues for each section. Each league shall be divided into divisions. The number of teams in each division shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
 - b). The League will consider entries from all LTA affiliated Tennis clubs and non-LTA affiliated clubs provided they supply evidence to the League of valid public liability insurance covering accidents at their courts; for example, a copy of the insurance certificate, or the insurance company name & policy number.
 - c). Promotion and relegation will be at the discretion of the Committee prior to the new season, but will normally be two up and two down.
 - d). In the event of a team withdrawing from the league, matches already played by this team shall be declared null and void.
 - e). Any team withdrawing after the start of the league season shall forfeit its Club Deposit.
 - f). The League Committee will endeavour to, wherever possible, place new teams in the most appropriate division and will not automatically be defaulted into the lowest division.
 - g). The number of teams in a division from the same club should, wherever possible, be limited to a maximum of two.
 - h). To maintain the integrity of the divisional structure of the League by ability levels, clubs shall select their teams appropriately from players that are eligible. The use of 'occasional' players to influence the results of a specific fixture shall be actively discouraged and the Committee shall have the power to decide player eligibility in such circumstances, where the occasional player does not play in the top team, either in advance or retrospectively, and to take whatever action is deemed necessary.

2. Match Rules
 - a). A match sheet should be completed with the names of all players prior to the commencement of the match and the scores added as and when rubbers are completed.
 - b). A team shall normally consist of two pairs; if only one pair is available the opponents must be informed at the earliest available opportunity.
 - c). Summer League matches shall consist of two sets (a rubber) against each opposing couple (a total of eight sets).
 - d). Winter League matches shall consist of 2 mixed doubles in round 1 (pair 1 v pair 1; pair 2 v pair 2) and in round 2 a Men's Doubles and Ladies Doubles; all to be rubbers of 2 sets (a total of eight sets).
 - e). The number of sets won shall determine the result. In the case of games in any set becoming 6-6, the LTA tiebreak system shall operate. Each team shall play each of the other teams in their division at home and away.
 - f). Eight new balls of the same manufacture and type are to be provided by the home team.
 - g). All courts should have LTA approved centre bands.
 - h). The league positions shall be decided by awarding two points for a win and one point for a draw. In the case of two or more teams having the same

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points, the positions shall be decided on total sets won, then matches won, then results between the tied teams, and then on the highest ratio of 'games for' to 'games against' in the matches between the tied teams.

3. Match Day and Start Time

- a). Summer League matches shall take place during the course of one week, Monday to Friday. Men's matches should be played on Monday nights. Ladies' matches should be played on Tuesday nights. All Mixed matches must be played on Thursday nights. No Men's or Ladies' matches may be played on Thursday nights.
- b). Winter League matches shall take place during the course of one week Monday to Sunday. Winter League teams may nominate their home day and start time when entering the Winter League. Floodlit matches are permitted but may start no later than 6.45 p.m.
- c). All Summer League matches are to commence by 6.30 p.m. Teams who have floodlights available until at least 9.30 pm may choose to start matches after 6.30pm but no later than 6.45pm, provided they have informed the league at the time of entry.
- d). In the event of a couple not being on court by 15 minutes after the due start time, the offending team **must** concede the first set, and then concede a further set for each half-hour of lateness thereafter. There is to be no knocking-up after the published start time.
- e). Teams in the Winter Leagues who have a match scheduled for the morning of Remembrance Sunday are permitted to delay the start time of the match to the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, provided the home team has courts available at the new start time. The opposing captain must be informed of this change in start time at least 28 days in advance of the match.

4. Eligibility of players

- a). Any player participating in the League must be a full member of the club he or she is representing. Full membership is defined as a player that has one of the following membership categories or similarly defined by the club: Life, Family, Senior, Student, Junior, Honorary, Senior Citizen, Country (resident over 50 miles from Swindon town centre) members, or a Coach at the club.
- b). No player may play for more than one club in any section of the League in any one season. The sections are Men's, Ladies', Mixed and Winter Mixed.
- c). A player may not play for more than one team in any one section (Ladies, Men's, Mixed or Winter Mixed) in any one week as per published fixtures, penalty as per rule 8.a).
- d). Any player, having played three times for a higher team, shall be ineligible to play for a team of a lower standing.
- e). For re-arranged matches, players are ineligible if they had played for a higher-ranking team more than twice at the date when the match should have taken place, or more than four times when the match is actually played.
- f). For re-arranged matches, Rule 4.c) still applies in general - players can only play in one match in each section in any week, as per published fixtures. However, for re-arranged matches played in July or August (Summer League) or February or March (Winter League), a team can include players who played for a lower-ranking team in a match originally scheduled for the same week,

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- provided that they have played at least four matches for lower ranking teams.
- g). If two teams agree to complete an unfinished match at the return fixture, then any player who plays (legally) in the return fixture will be deemed eligible to play in the extra sets played that day.
 - h). A club involved in a player membership eligibility dispute shall provide a letter from their chairman or membership secretary to the League Administrators to certify the player's membership category and status, thereby confirming their eligibility to play.
5. Postponing and Rearranging Matches
- a). In the event of the postponement of a fixture due to inclement weather, it is the home team's duty to inform their opponents' representative as soon as the decision to cancel is made, otherwise it will be assumed that the match is still to be played.
 - b). Matches shall be re-arranged only in the case of bad weather, public holiday or where a team has players selected for County Week. If this occurs, the League Committee must be informed as soon as possible. In any other exceptional circumstances an appeal may be made to the League Committee.
 - c). Except for bad weather, at least 6 days notice (preferably more) must be given to the opposing captain if a team wishes to cancel.
 - d). For public holidays, cancelled matches will be automatically re-scheduled (in sequence) to the first two Mondays after the end of the season, as shown on the fixture list for the season. Matches may be played before this date if both teams agree, in which case the League Committee must be notified. Matches between teams from the same club are governed by 5.e) below.
 - e). If a scheduled match between two teams from the same club is cancelled, it **must** be played no later than two weeks after that date. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the match being declared void, with no points awarded to either team, except at the discretion of the League Committee.
 - f). A match may be left unfinished due to bad weather conditions, bad light or dangerous court surface conditions, only on the agreement of both captains. In the event of a late start to a match, the option of ceasing play at the onset of bad light and/or bad weather will be at the sole discretion of the captain of the non-offending team.
 - g). In the event of a postponement or unfinished match due to weather conditions, the match shall be played and entered on the LTA System, if possible, during the following two weeks on a mutually convenient date, but in all cases before August 31st for the Summer League and 21st March for the Winter League.
 - h). It is incumbent on both team captains to cooperate to rearrange the match, but final responsibility for rescheduling the match resides with the home team who must offer a minimum of three reasonable dates. A date must be agreed and the league notified of the new date by 31st July (Summer League) or 28th February (Winter League). If the away team is unable to accept one of these dates the un-played sets will be awarded to the home team.
 - i). If the home team fails to provide three dates by the above deadlines, the un-played sets will be awarded to the away team. In the case of incomplete matches, only completed sets will be counted in the re-arranged fixture. Substitutes will be allowed, but players from the original fixture, if available,

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must continue in their original pair number.

6. Recording Results

- a). Match score sheets must be provided by the home captain on which all match details must be entered clearly and fully, before being signed by both captains. The home team must retain the signed copy until the final tables are published at the end of the season.
- b). The home team must enter the result on the online system within 72 hours of the end of the match and the away team must confirm the result no later than 7 days after the entry of the result. Postponements with a valid reason must be indicated in the comment field within 72 hours of the original scheduled match.
- c). If the home team has not entered the score within 72 hours of entry of the results, the away team may enter the score. The home team must then confirm the result.

7. Claiming Matches

- a). In the event of any club claiming a match against another club, unless there is complete agreement between the clubs, a letter must be forwarded to the League Committee stating the reasons for claiming the match and the score claimed.
- b). A copy of this letter must be forwarded at the same time to the Match Secretary of the club against which the match is being claimed. Should this club wish to appeal, a letter should be forwarded to the League Committee within fourteen days stating reasons for any disagreement.
- c). The Committee's decision will be forwarded to both clubs within twenty-one days of receipt of the first letter.

8. Fines & Penalties

- a). Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit the events in which the ineligible player has taken part.
- b). Failure by the home team to record a result or a postponement comment within 72 hours of the scheduled match will result in the offending club being fined £2.00 initially and a further £2.00 for every week that the result or postponement remains unrecorded.
- c). Failure by the away team to confirm the result will not be subject to any penalty but any dispute over the match details as entered can only be considered within 7 days of the entry of the result. If the away team enters the result then the home team will be fined £2.00 per week for every week that the match remains unconfirmed.
- d). If a club fails to notify another club of a match cancellation by speaking to a representative of that club (email or text is insufficient unless there is a response) will be fined £20.00, suspended in the first instance. In the second instance the fine for both offences will be paid - £40.00. The fine is payable to the wronged club(s) directly. This fine count is at club, not team level.
- e). Failure by the home team to enter the dates of any rearranged fixtures on to the system by the dates specified in rule 5.h) will result in a fine of £2 and a further £2 for each week that the new date remains un-entered.
- f). Penalties for conceding matches are as follows:

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- i) On conceding one match the offending team will forfeit one point.
 - ii) On conceding a second match the offending team will forfeit a further two points.
 - iii) On conceding a third match the offending team will have all its results expunged and will automatically be relegated.
- g). A fine of £5.00 will be levied on any club not represented at the Annual General Meeting.
- h). A fine of £50.00 will be levied on any club that won a trophy and failed to attend the league presentation evening.