
ALDERSHOT & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

- G1 The management of the League shall be by Committee.
- G2 All clubs affiliated to the Association shall be eligible to enter teams in any competition organised by the Association. An entry fee shall be payable for each team entered and the amount of the fee shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting. In addition, a club must be affiliated to the LTA and be an LTA registered venue. All members who play in our league must be LTA Advantage members and that membership must be affiliated to the club(s) for which they are playing league matches.
- G3 All matches played in any competition shall be subject to The Constitution and within the general rules and Code of Conduct of the Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain.
- G4 **GROUPS**
- a) Leagues shall be organised in four groups as follows:
 - Group 'A' - Men's Doubles
 - Group 'B' - Ladies' Doubles
 - Group 'C' - Mixed Doubles
 - Juniors (separate rules apply)
 - b) The Committee shall decide the formation in each group.
 - c) Each group shall have a Results Secretary appointed from within the Committee.
- G5 **CLUB QUALIFICATION**
- Qualifications to play in any club team in the League shall be bona-fide membership of that club.
- G6 **LEAGUE STRUCTURE**
- The number of teams in a league division will be limited to 6 unless the number of teams entering makes this impractical.
- SUMMER:** The League shall consist of Premier Division, Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 etc.
- WINTER:** A pyramid system is operated and the League shall consist of a Premier Division, Division 1, Divisions 2a and 2b, Divisions 3a and 3b, Divisions 4a and 4b, etc.
- G7 **START OF SEASON**
- SUMMER:** The Summer League season shall open on Monday of the week before 24th April falls and shall close on 31st August, unless the Committee decides otherwise. Matches to be played evenings primarily.
- WINTER:** The winter league season shall open on Saturday of the week in which 1st October falls and shall close on 31st March, unless the Committee decides otherwise. Matches to be played weekends primarily, and mixed matches in evenings.
- Start time to be the home team's choice, but no earlier than 10:00 weekends or 18:30 weekdays (Match Secretaries should allow enough time to complete evening matches,

earlier starts allowable if both sides agree). Match Secretaries should make the starting time quite clear when arranging their fixtures. Actual match play (excluding the knock-up) shall commence within 15 minutes of the time laid down for starting.

G8 FIXTURE DATES

The Committee shall issue the fixture list framework and all arranged dates must be strictly adhered to. Teams must fulfil fixtures or forfeit points. Any appeal for postponement must be made to League Secretaries and shall only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Fixture dates and times as entered online will be deemed to be the official dates and times of matches.

Matches shall not be postponed except for the following:

- a) Bad weather G15.
- b) Unavailability of courts - clubs should make every attempt to hire alternative to fulfil fixtures if their own are unavailable.

G9 PLAYERS IN TEAMS

- a) Where a club enters more than one team in any group it shall be recognised that team 'A' shall be the club's strongest side and team 'B' the next strongest side and so on, where there are more than two teams.
- b) In the event of a player in any team being unavailable, then a player from a lower team may be promoted with the proviso that should such a player be used more than twice in any combination of higher teams, he/she shall not be allowed to return to the lower team for the remainder of the season.
- c) Players nominated for higher teams shall not be allowed to play in lower teams unless the Committee gives approval.
- d) The Committee may sanction permanent changes in any team.

G10 NOMINATIONS

- a) Clubs are required to nominate players for all their respective teams (except the lowest) to the group Results Secretary.
- b) If nominations for a team have not been received prior to the commencement of that team's first match then the first 4 players entered against the result of that team's first fixture online will be deemed to be the nominated players. Should the players from the first fixture be insufficient then the nominations will be completed by reference to the next players used in subsequent fixtures in the order displayed online.
- c) If a nominated player does not play any fixtures for their nominated league team (i.e. men's or ladies or mixed) for the entire season then that player cannot be nominated for any team in that league for the following season. Additionally, if two or more nominated players in the same team do not play any matches for that team for the entire season then that team will be deducted 5 penalty points for every un-played nominated player at the end of the season.

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- d) If a nominated player is unable to play for the entire season for legitimate reasons, i.e. illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances, then the league secretary should be informed who can then exempt that person from rule G10c if appropriate an.

G11 HOME & AWAY

Matches shall be played on a home and away basis in each group. In all cases, the home team shall be responsible for the provision of three new Lawn Tennis Association approved balls per court.

G12 MATCH FORMAT

SUMMER LEAGUES : A match shall consist of four rubbers with teams of two pairs. Each pair shall play two sets against both pairs of the opposing team.

WINTER LEAGUES : A match shall consist of four rubbers with teams of two pairs. Each pair shall play both pairs of the opposing team over the best of three sets. A tie-break (to 7 points) shall come into effect at 6-6 in the first two sets with the third set being a Championship tie-break (to 10 points).

WINTER MIXED LEAGUE: This is the same format as the summer leagues.

G13 PLAYERS MOVING CLUBS

No player may play for more than one club in any one group during the season unless 21 days notice of the player's intention to transfer is emailed to the ADLTA league secretary and approved. The 21 days will begin from the date that the notice is received. An email notification must be from an email address directly associated with that player.

If approved, the league secretary must forward the transfer request to the player's current match secretary or team captain.

Having notified the league secretary of their intention to cease playing for their current club the player may continue to play for them until the notice period is up. The player may then play for any league club, becoming tied to the first they play** for, after the notice period. This includes their original club.

** 'Play' is defined as, 'named on a submitted result, in a match in which they completed at least one game, partnering a player eligible to play for that team and club'.

G14 POSTING AND KEEPING RESULTS

- a) Match details must be kept by both the home and the away team
- b) Results are the responsibility of the Home team. They must be entered into the LTA Online Results website within 8 days of the logged match date. If for any reason the match is not played then ADLTA support must be informed within 8 days either by email or by entering a relevant comment (announcement) against the match in the online system.

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- c) If a result (or comment/email notification - see G14b above) isn't entered by the deadline date then a minimum one point penalty will be applied to the home team in the first instance. Any subsequent failure will incur increasing penalties.
 - d) When a result is entered into the LTA Online Results website it should include all the names of the players involved. If necessary a name will be accepted within the announcement box.
 - e) If a name is still missing 8 days after the result was posted then a minimum of a one point penalty will be applied to the home team in the first instance. Any subsequent name failure will incur increasing penalties, as will the continued absence of any names in question.

G15 BAD WEATHER

Should bad weather at the home venue prevent the match from starting, then this should be commented as described in G14b. A new date for the match should be arranged and entered on the LTA website.

Both teams should turn up to play unless advised by the home team and acknowledged by the visiting team.

G16 CONCEDED MATCHES

In the event of a team conceding three walkovers during the season all matches for that team will be made void.

G17 All four players of each team must be present and ready to play within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time.

- a) A team not having its full side present when play is due to commence must arrange pairings from the available players. Such pairings shall remain operative for the entire match.
- b) If only one pair is present within this stipulated time, the 2nd pair shall forfeit the first set.
- c) If only one pair is present within 30 minutes of the stipulated agreed starting time the second pair shall forfeit the rubber (2 sets).
- d) If a 2nd pair is not present on completion of the 1st rubber they shall then forfeit both rubbers.
- e) If no pairs of a team have arrived within 30 minutes of the agreed starting time, the match shall be awarded to the non-defaulting team as a walkover.

G18 Match points shall be awarded on the basis of 2 points for each set won. In the event of a team giving a walkover, the opposition is awarded 16 points and the offending team is penalised 4 points. If count back is required at the end of the season, then Rule G20 will apply for games.

G19 If any rubber is not played because of default by both teams, that rubber shall be void.

G20 Where a team fields an incomplete team in a match, any rubbers not played shall be conceded to the opposing team, each rubber to score 0-6, 0-6 against the offending team.

G21 Any rubber claimed shall be regarded as played for the purposes of Rule G22.

G22 ABANDONMENT

SUMMER: If a match has to be abandoned after play has commenced, then the match shall be deemed to have been completed if 2 rubbers and at least one set of the 3rd and 4th rubber has been completed.

The points for the incomplete rubber(s) shall be shared as follows:

The winners of the completed set will receive 2 points and the second set will be shared 1 point each.

Any games played in that rubber shall be counted if a count-back is required at the end of the season.

WINTER: If a match has to be abandoned after play has commenced, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if three rubbers have been completed.

The points for the incomplete rubber shall be shared as follows:

- a) If no sets are completed then each pair will receive 2 points each.
- b) If only one set is completed then the winners of that set will receive 2 points and the second set will be shared 1 point each.
- c) If the first two sets are completed one set apiece but the championship tie-break is not completed (not applicable for the Winter mixed league) the first set winners will receive 2 points, the second set winners will receive 2 points and the third set will be shared 1 point each.

Any games played in that rubber shall be counted if a count-back is required at the end of the season.

G23 Where the requisite number of rubbers/sets have not been played, the match shall be rearranged and completed by the end of the season. In such rearranged matches both teams shall start at scratch.

Postponed matches must also be completed by the end of the season.

G24 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

SUMMER: At the end of the season the two top teams in each division, except the highest, shall be eligible for promotion to the next highest division, and the two bottom teams in each division, except the lowest, shall be liable to relegation to the next lowest division in their respective groups.

WINTER: At the end of the season the two top teams in each division, except the highest, shall be eligible for promotion to the next highest division, apart from Divisions 2a and 2b where one team shall be eligible for promotion. The bottom two teams in all divisions, except the lowest, shall be liable to relegation to the next lowest division. Teams promoted/relegated from (a) divisions shall be liable to promotion/relegation to the next highest/lowest (b) division and teams promoted/relegated from (b) divisions shall be liable to promotion/relegation to the next highest/lowest (a) division. The remaining teams may also be crossed over, and, where possible, teams from the same club, in the same division, may be separated, at the discretion of the Committee.

In both the summer and winter leagues the number of teams within a division will be limited to 6 unless the number of teams makes this impractical.

G25 In the event of a tie on points in any division, promotion and relegation issues shall be settled on sets percentage then games percentage.

G26 In the event of a dispute, the matter shall be referred to the Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.