

2024 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES OF THE OLDHAM & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS LEAGUE

1. General introduction

- a) The League shall consist of one or more divisions of an approximately equal number of teams, the composition of which shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Always provided that, should it prove necessary to revise the construction of the divisions, due to changes in the number of teams entered, an alteration so necessary can be carried out at the AGM.
- b) Each club shall select for each team it enters in the League a day in the week on which it is prepared to play home matches. **The League Match Day may be only Monday or Tuesday.**
- c) A club with three or more teams shall choose its match days such that only two teams have the same match day.
- d) **For the 2024 season, timed events (as set out in rule 6) will again be played.**

2. Fixture list and rearranging fixtures

- a) The season shall start on the date decided at the AGM.
- b) The League Match Secretary shall prepare a League fixture list before the season commences. Matches shall be played on a home and away basis. Double fixture weeks may be used, if required. The last week of scheduled fixtures shall be the first week in August.
- c) Teams not wishing to play a match on a Bank Holiday shall give at least 10 days' notice to their opponents and the League Match Secretary. Rules 2(f) and 2(h) shall apply to the rearranged fixture.
- d) In addition to rule 2(c), a team may, for any reason, change one league fixture date in the season, providing that at least **10** days' notice is given to their opponents and to the League Match Secretary. Rules 2(f) and 2(h) shall apply to the rearranged fixture.

- e) **All League fixtures shall be completed by 31st August.**
Any outstanding matches that remain at that date should be declared void.
- f) When a match is postponed, because of adverse weather or double fixture, or is not completed, because of adverse weather or bad light, the match shall continue on the same courts on a rearranged date, decided by the two teams as follows:
- i. **Within 10 days** of the original fixture date the home team should contact the opposing team, offering three dates **within 28 days** of the original fixture. These three dates must not all be in the same week, or on the same day of the week, but may be on any day of the week.
 - ii. At the same time the League Match Secretary must be informed of the delayed fixture and of the three dates offered. If this is not done, the points will be awarded to the away team.
 - iii. The away team must accept one of these dates **within 5 days** of being given the dates.
- g) Other than as provided by rules 2(c) and 2(d), a match may only be rearranged in the event of adverse weather or bad light, always accepting that, in extenuating circumstances, prior application for rearrangement may be made to the Management Committee for their consideration. These extenuating circumstances at no time may include the inability to field a team.
- h) **If a match is scheduled in the League fixture list after 11th June, it may only be rearranged once. If no result is obtained on the rearranged date, the match is deemed to be a draw and rules 6(f) and 7(a) shall not require further rearrangement of the incomplete match.**

3. Player registration and eligibility

For the 2024 season there will be no requirement to register players.

4. Fielding a team

In order to field a team in a league match, the lowest team of any club may borrow players from another club with the approval of the loaning club. Loaned players must not have played in a higher division for their own club that season. A loaned player must be declared as such on the match card.

5. Pre match arrangements

- a) Each court shall be rolled and marked before play and a tape shall be fixed at the centre of each net. The opposing captains shall be the sole judges of whether conditions are fit to play. **If courts are unfit for play and/or forecast rain makes play unlikely, the home captain should aim to contact the away captain before 5.45pm, to prevent unnecessary travel.** Unless both clubs can communicate, both teams shall present themselves at the venue where the match should be played.
- b) The home team shall ensure that the courts and equipment thereof, ie the net and its supports, marking lines or tapes and stop netting are in playable or serviceable condition throughout the duration of a match. The home team shall provide three new balls, approved by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), for each court at the start of a match, and shall replace any ball lost or damaged, so as to be unfit for play during a match. Any such replacement should conform as nearly as possible to the condition of the other balls in use. The match balls shall be provided from pressurised containers.
- c) **After knocking up, matches shall commence at 6.30pm.** Club rooms should open at 6.15pm.
- d) All clubs must provide adequate changing facilities. Failure to comply will render clubs liable to forfeiture of League membership.
- e) Umpires may be appointed at the discretion of the captains.

6. The match

- a) A team shall be four gents and two ladies for the following events: four mixed doubles, one ladies' doubles and four gents' doubles. If necessary, each captain shall hand to the opposing captain a list of named players, numbered and in order.
- b) Each event will be played to a time-limited duration, with five minutes allowed for changeover between events. The durations will be as follows:
 - i. 3 court clubs - 45 minutes per event
 - ii. 2 court clubs - until 31st May, 30 minutes per event
- from 1st June, 35 minutes per event
- c) The order of play is set out on the scorecard. If a player has not arrived on court to play the first point by 6.45pm, the first event will be forfeited in favour of their opponents. If the missing player delays the start of subsequent events, each delayed event shall be forfeited in favour of their opponents.
- d) The score at the end of the time-limited duration shall decide the result of the event. If a game **that can influence the result of the event** is still in progress at the end of the time limit, that game shall be played to a finish.
- e) If an event is interrupted by bad weather, the score shall stand, so long as 5 games have been completed. Otherwise, the event is null and void.
- f) If **at least 6 events** have been played in an incomplete match, the result stands. **If 6 events have not been played, then the match is declared null and void and must be rearranged, unless a team has won five events.** Home captains are responsible for informing the League Match Secretary and for rearranging the fixture, in line with rules 2(f) and 2(h).
- g) Where matches are played on floodlit courts, the match should continue under floodlights until completed.

7. After the match

- a) The winning team shall be that which has won more events. If the events won are equal, the result shall be a draw. The result of the match shall be sent to the League Match Secretary by the captain of the **winning** team **not later than five days** after the date of the match. In the event of a draw, the **home** team must inform the League Match Secretary **not later than five days** following the date of the match. If a match is postponed or not completed, due to adverse weather conditions, the home captain shall agree a rearranged date with the away captain, in line with rules 2(f) and 2(h), and shall inform the League Match Secretary of such date.
- b) Refreshments shall be provided by the home club.
Minimum requirements shall be tea, coffee or squash and biscuits.

8. League tables

- a) **Three** points shall be awarded to the winning team and **two points** to each team in a draw. **The losing team shall be awarded one point, if it wins three events.**
- b) The top team of each division shall be eligible for promotion to the next higher division in the following season, and the lowest team in each division shall be liable to be relegated to the next lowest division. In the event of two or more teams finishing with an equal number of points then the order shall be decided by rule 8(c).
- c) If two or more teams finish the season with the same number of points, then the order shall be decided by the percentage of events won. If still tied, the order shall be decided by the percentage of games won. If still tied, a play-off shall be arranged by the Sub-Committee, appointed under rule 10.
- d) No player shall take part in a play-off for any team unless that player has played for that team more times than for any other team in the League, excepting that a player may play for a team in a higher division.

e) In the event of an alteration to number of teams in a League, then any team gaining promotion shall be guaranteed a place in a higher division, at the expense of a lower team from that higher division.

9. Financial matters

Club subscriptions (first team £20, subsequent teams £15 each) must be paid by 31st May.

10. Disputes and appeals

Unless provided herein to the contrary, the Rules of Tennis, laid down by the ITF shall apply, and a dispute as to the interpretation of these rules, or as to anything not provided herein, shall be referred to the Management Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding. At the AGM a Sub-Committee of three persons shall be appointed for the coming year, to have authority to act for the Management Committee in all matters requiring immediate decision. Any such decision taken shall be placed before the Management Committee at the next meeting.

LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

League Management Committee meetings will be held at
Alkrington Tennis Club, Uplands, Alkrington, Middleton M24 1EA

at **7.30pm** on the following dates

MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2022

MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2022 (**deadline for return of trophies**)

A.G.M. MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2023