

# *Aldershot & District Lawn Tennis Association*

*Affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association and the Hants & Isle Of Wight LTA*

## **JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES**

1. The management of the League shall be by the Committee.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. a) Leagues shall be organised in 2 age groups as follows:

Boys' Doubles Under 16	Boys' Doubles Under 13
Girls' Doubles Under 16	Girls' Doubles Under 13
Mixed Under 16	Mixed Under 13
- b) Age qualification for all Leagues shall be 1 January
- c) The Committee shall decide the formation in each group.
- d) A Results Secretary shall be appointed from within the Committee.
- e) At every match the home team shall ensure that a responsible adult be present to supervise the duration of the match.
- f) Girls may only play in boys' matches if prior agreement has been granted by the opposition and if the club has no mixed or girls' teams.
5. Qualifications to play in any club team in the League shall be bona-fide membership of that club.
6. 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. 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 the higher team, he/she shall not be allowed to return to the lower team for the remainder of the season. Players nominated for higher teams shall not be allowed to play in lower teams unless the Committee gives approval. The Committee may sanction permanent changes in any team.
7. a) Clubs are required to nominate players for all their respective teams (except the lowest)
- b) All such nominations shall be made to the Junior Results Secretary not later than three days prior to the opening of the Summer and Winter League seasons.
8. No player may play for more than one club in any one league during the season.

9. The Committee will decide whether matches should be home and away or only one fixture against each club in each league. In all cases, the home team shall be responsible for the provision of at least three new Lawn Tennis Association approved balls per court.
  10. Matches shall not be postponed except for the following:
    - a) Bad weather prevailing at the home venue at the actual time laid down for starting.
    - b) Unavailability of courts - clubs should make every attempt to hire alternative courts in order to fulfil fixtures if their own are unavailable.
    - c) Teams must fulfil fixtures or forfeit points. Any appeal for postponement must be made to Junior Results' Secretary and shall only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
  11. Match score-cards must be completed, checked and signed by both team captains. The home team shall be responsible for forwarding the card to the Junior Results' Secretary to reach him/her not more than five days after the match has taken place.
  12. In the event of a team conceding two or more walkovers during the season, the Committee shall give serious consideration to making all the matches of that team void.
- 13 SUMMER LEAGUE**
- a) The Summer League season shall open on Saturday of the week in which 1 May falls and shall close at the end of the week in which the last Saturday of July falls, unless the Committee decides otherwise.
  - b) The format shall consist of 2 pairs playing 2 sets against each of the opposing pairs. A tie-break (see 15) shall come into effect at 6 games all.
  - c) All matches are played at weekends and start times are by mutual agreement. 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 for starting.
  - d) 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.
  - e) All 4 players of each team must be present and ready to play within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time. If only 1 pair is present within this stipulated time, the 2nd pair shall forfeit the 1<sup>st</sup> rubber. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> pair is not present on completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> rubber, they shall forfeit both rubbers.
  - f) 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.
  - g) 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.

- h) In the event of a tie on points in any division, promotion and relegation issues shall be settled on games won.
- i) Match points shall be awarded on the basis of 1/2 point for each set won. In the event of a team giving a walkover, the opposition is awarded 4 points and the offending team is penalised 2 points. If count back is required at the end of the season, then Rule 13(h) will apply for games.
- j) If any rubber is not played because of default by both teams, that rubber shall be void.
- k) In the case of a match having to be abandoned after play has commenced, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if three or more rubbers have been played. The points for the unplayed rubber shall be shared. For example, if a match is abandoned at 3-0, the winning team shall be awarded 3.5 points and the losing team shall be awarded 0.5 points. If a rubber is unplayed or curtailed due to bad weather or lack of light, any games or sets played in that rubber shall be counted if a count-back is required at the end of the season.
- l) Any rubber claimed shall be regarded as played for the purposes of Rule 13 k).
- m) Where three or more rubbers 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.
- n) Where a team field 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.

- o) In the event of a dispute, the matter shall be referred to the Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.
- p) In bad weather, away teams must turn up to play, unless advised otherwise by the home team.

#### 14 WINTER LEAGUE

- a) The Winter League season shall open on Saturday of the week in which 1 October falls and shall close at the end of the week in which the last Saturday of February falls, unless the Committee decides otherwise.
- b) For boys' & girls' matches the format shall consist of 2 pairs playing 2 sets against each of the opposing pairs. A tie-break (see 15) shall come into effect at 6 games all.
- c) In the mixed league the match will consist of a boys' doubles, a girls' doubles and 2 mixed doubles, each playing 2 sets. A tie-break (see 15) shall come into effect at 6 games all.
- d) All matches are played at weekends and start times are by mutual agreement. 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.
- e) 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.

- f) All 4 players of each team must be present and ready to play within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time. If only 1 pair is present within this stipulated time, the 2nd pair shall forfeit the 1st rubber. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> pair is not present on completion of the 1st rubber, they shall forfeit both rubbers.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) In the event of a tie on points in any division, promotion and relegation issues shall be settled on games won.
- j) Match points shall be awarded on the basis of 1/2 point for each set won. In the event of a team giving a walkover, the opposition is awarded 4 points and the offending team is penalised 2 points. If count back is required at the end of the season, then Rule 14(i) will apply for sets and games.
- k) If any rubber is not played because of default by both teams, that rubber shall be void.
- l) In the case of a match having to be abandoned after play has commenced, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if three or more rubbers have been

played. The points for the unplayed rubber shall be shared. For example, if a match is abandoned at 3-0, the winning team shall be awarded 3.5 points and the losing team shall be awarded 0.5 points. If a rubber is unplayed or curtailed due to bad weather or lack of light, any games or sets played in that rubber shall be counted if a count-back is required at the end of the season.

- m) Any rubber claimed shall be regarded as played for the purposes of Rule 14 l).
- n) Where three or more rubbers 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.
- o) 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.
- p) In the event of a dispute, the matter shall be referred to the Committee whose decision shall be final and binding.
- q) In bad weather, away teams must turn up to play, unless advised otherwise by the home team.

## 15. TIE-BREAKS

In a tie-break, the next player to serve shall have one service only (from the right hand court). Thereafter, service shall continue in the original order, each player having two services, one from the left-hand court followed

by one from the right hand court. After every six points scored, players shall change ends, the service order remaining unchanged. The first pair to score seven points, with a lead of at least two clear points, shall be the winner of the set. If this requirement is not fulfilled, play shall continue until one pair is two clear points ahead, when that pair shall be the winner. The opening game of the set following a tie-break set shall be served by the side, which received the first point in the tie-break game.