

LEEDS TENNIS LEAGUE GENERAL RULES

1. **In the Men's, Ladies and Mixed Divisions**, a team shall comprise 2 pairs who shall play a rubber against each of the 2 pairs of the opposing team. Each rubber shall comprise two sets to 6 games (or 7-5), with a tie-break at six-all.

In the Medley Division, a team shall comprise 4 men and 2 women, who shall each play 3 rubbers against the opposing team: 4 Men's Doubles, 4 Mixed Doubles and 1 Ladies Doubles.

Each rubber shall comprise one set, to be the best of 12 games (for clubs with two courts) or the best of 16 games (for clubs with 3 courts). The rubber is completed if one pair has reached 7 games (2 courts) or 9 games (3 courts).

2. League positions shall be decided by awarding points as follows:

Match won	-	2 points
Match drawn	-	1 point
Match lost or unplayed	-	0 points

(see Rule 7)

If a match is forfeited by a team, then that team shall automatically have one point deducted from its record.

If a team forfeits more than half of its matches during a season, it will be removed from the league. All of its other matches (if any) will be declared null and void, with no points awarded for their results, for either the removed team or their opponents.

A match is decided by rubbers. In the event of equality on rubbers, the match shall be considered a draw.

- 3(i) Matches shall be played to a conclusion unless the captains both agree to postpone, abandon or temporarily interrupt the match. If agreement cannot be reached, then the match shall commence, or continue, under existing conditions, except that either side may opt to terminate a match after 9.00 p.m. (April & August), after 9.30 p.m. (May & July) or after 10.00 p.m. (June). In addition, if a match commenced earlier than 6.30 p.m. or if floodlights or indoor facilities are being used, either side shall have the option to terminate the match when four hours or more have elapsed after the designated starting time.
- (ii) In addition, the home club shall have the absolute right to suspend play if to play would be liable to cause damage to the surface of the court. If a match is abandoned on account of bad light or adverse weather conditions and every player has completed at least two rubbers, (6 sets for Men's / Ladies / Mixed Divisions) or one team has won at least five rubbers (2.5 for Men's / Ladies / Mixed Divisions), then the score at the time of abandonment shall stand. If not, then the match shall be rearranged.

- (iii) If floodlights or indoor facilities are available, it is expected that these will be made available not later than the times indicated in section 3(i), unless the home team had expressly advised otherwise, prior to the start of the match.
- 4. In the case of unavailability, late arrival, injury or indisposition, a team may forfeit sets or rubbers to their opponents, but under no circumstances may a team forfeit more than the equivalent of a total of 3 rubbers in a match, otherwise they shall be deemed to have lost the entire match by forfeit (which shall than be deemed to have been won 9-0). Teams should always try to field a complete team, and it should be noted that repeated failure to play matches with 2 couples is against the spirit of the league.

It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure the eligibility of all members of the team. At the end of the match both captains shall sign the scoresheet to confirm the result and to verify the eligibility of all team members. If it is subsequently found that a team member was ineligible, the captain may be held to be personally responsible.

If, subsequent to the completion of a match (but not later than 15th September), it becomes clear to the League committee that a club has fielded an ineligible player in a match, then any rubbers scored by that player in the match shall be forfeited to the opponents, and the match score shall be amended accordingly. If the committee are of the view that this action was unintentional then no further action shall be taken. In the case of deliberate breach of the regulation the committee may take further action, including deduction of league points or suspension of the player concerned, irrespective of when the breach is identified.

For the Men's/Ladies/Mixed Divisions, a team may not forfeit more than the equivalent of 2 rubbers in a match, otherwise they shall be deemed to have lost the entire match by forfeit (which shall be deemed to have been won 8-0).

- 5. In the event of a tie in League points, the difference in rubbers won and lost shall decide the placings.
- 6a. Matches shall be played on the date designated by the League except in the following cases:
 - i. If the two clubs reach agreement by 30th April of a mutually acceptable alternative date, in which case both clubs should notify their Section Coordinator of the revised date by 3rd May.
 - ii. If the home club wishes to rearrange the match, in which case, by 30th April, they should advise the visiting club and offer at least 3 suitable dates. The visiting club is required to select one of these dates, within 7 days of receiving the notification, and advise the home club and their Section Coordinator accordingly. If the visiting team fails to respond within 7 days, the home club should notify their Section Coordinator and the League will designate the revised date from those offered.

- iii. If, after 30th April, the home club has cause to request a re-arrangement, they shall make application to the League for authorisation to re-arrange, and if this is granted then they shall follow procedure (ii) as above.
 - iv. If a match is postponed or abandoned by virtue of inclement weather the home club shall notify their Section Coordinator and within 3 days of the intended date for the match should follow procedure (ii) as above. Within 21 days of the original date for the match the home club should notify their Section Coordinator of the agreed new date. If no revised date has been agreed and notified within 21 days then the League may stipulate a new date for the match, which may only be varied with the agreement of both clubs.
 - v. **Team captains have no authority to waive this rule.**
- b. The designated team representatives, as listed by the League shall be the persons to be contacted related to this Rule.
 - c. The following are not regarded as suitable dates for the purposes of (ii) above, except with the approval of the visiting team:-

May Day Bank Holiday	-	Sunday or Monday
Spring Bank Holiday	-	Saturday, Sunday, Monday
Late Summer Bank Holiday	-	Saturday, Sunday, Monday

Any two consecutive days
 Any date on which the visiting club already has a fixture for that team in that division.
 Any date within 7 days of the visiting team receiving the notification.
 Any other date that the League deems to be unreasonable.
- 7. All matches shall be played by 31st August of the current year, and all results must be received by the Section Coordinators by 5th September. Otherwise they shall be deemed to have been unplayed.
 - 8. The result of each match shall be notified to the Section Coordinator within 3 days of the date of the match. It is the responsibility of the WINNING TEAM (Home team in the case of a draw) to send the scoresheet, duly completed and signed.
 - 9. Matches shall commence at 6.30p.m. on weekdays. For matches on Saturdays and Sundays, see starting time listed with court and match-day information.
 - (i) **For Mixed, Men's Ladies and Junior Divisions:**
 If a pair is not available, on court, to play a rubber within 10 minutes of the stipulated starting time, the FIRST SET shall be deemed to have been conceded. Each subsequent set shall be deemed to be due to commence not more than 30 minutes later and shall be deemed to have been conceded if the pair or player in question is not then ready to start the set.

(ii) **For Medley Division matches:**

If a pair is not available, on court, to play a rubber within 10 minutes of the stipulated starting time, the FIRST FOUR GAMES shall be deemed to have been conceded. If that pair is still not on court ready to play within 30 minutes of the stipulated starting time then the rubber shall be deemed to have been conceded. Each subsequent rubber shall be deemed to be due to commence not more than 45 minutes after the previous rubber was due to start.

If neither team has eligible players on court ready to play at the designated starting time then that rubber shall be null and void. Whenever a rubber is conceded due to late arrival, each subsequent rubber on that court shall be deemed to be due to commence not later than one hour after the designated starting time of the previous rubber.

Team Captains have NO AUTHORITY TO WAIVE any part of this rule.

10. A player must be a bona-fide member of a club to be eligible to represent that club in a match. No player may represent more than one club in the course of a season within each competition. However, a junior player may represent another club in the senior competition, and any player may represent different clubs in different competitions. Any player may also play for the same club in a different competition. However, junior players may only represent one junior team in the League.

11. If a club has more than one team participating in a competition, the following shall apply:-

a. A player may not represent a lower ranked team once they have played in three or more completed matches (any combination of League or Cup) for a higher ranked team or teams in a season.

b. When a club has two or more teams in the same division, a player may not play against the same opposing team on more than two occasions (double round-robin) or on more than one occasion (single round-robin).

c. No player may play more matches in a season than the maximum number possible for a team to play in any one of the divisions in which the player participates. This regulation also applies to players who are playing in both the senior and junior divisions, but does not apply to cup competitions, or to those playing solely at junior level.

d. For the purposes of this regulation it is assumed that teams are ranked in order of the divisions in which they participate. Teams from a club in the same division shall be ranked in order by the club prior to the start of the season.

12. **Play Format**

Team captains must decide the names of all their players, and the pairings prior to the first rubber.

For the **Medley Division** the standard format is shown on the scoresheet.

- a. The court numbers shall be determined by the home team.
 - b. The Medley team winning the toss shall decide which of the two possible formulae shall apply.
 - c. For the Men's, Ladies' and Mixed divisions, in the first round the 1st pairs shall play against the opposing 2nd pairs. In the second round the 1st pairs shall play against each other, and the 2nd pairs against each other
13. The home team shall provide at least 3 new tennis balls for each court for each match.
 14. In all competitions, normally the top placed team in the second and any subsequent division shall be promoted. The team finishing in second place in the second and any subsequent division shall be entitled to be promoted, but shall have the option of accepting or declining promotion. An appropriate number of teams shall be relegated at the end of the season to maintain an equitable balance to the league structure.
 15. Refreshments after a match are expected to consist of tea and biscuits.