

Changes from 2019 Handbook

Captains please read and be aware of these

Rule Changes or clarifications:

Please note that the following Rules have been reviewed:

5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23

Alterations and other updates or clarifications are in CAPITALS.

A full review of the rules wording has been carried out so re-reading the rules from beginning to end is recommended.

Team captains should make sure that they are aware of rule changes over the last few years and clarifications and that their team members also have a working knowledge of the rules.

Reminder:

Please ensure you discuss at the **start** of the evening any curfew times you may need to adhere to with regard to floodlights or other venue restrictions.

If time is getting short and both teams agree, any remaining sets can be played out as a championship tiebreak (first to 10), a short set to 4 games, or a fast four set to enable the match to be completed.

After a year of social league play, previous rules for promotion, relegation and concessions are to resume in 2022. These are laid out in following pages.

Tennis Teas

There have been a number of queries regarding provision of teas. The boards view is that the previous situation regarding teas should return, with the default being teas are provided either at the end of the match or on a rolling basis. Should the visiting team decide that they would prefer to forgo tea to get home earlier, this should be communicated to the home team in plenty of time.

It is envisaged that League Planner will be used for the Junior and possibly Singles/Doubles Leagues.

Government rules and guidelines on travel and social distancing are being relaxed, but any that are in place should be followed.

Senior League Rules 2022

Following recent reviews some of the Rules have had to be altered since 2019 these newer rules are in CAPITALS.

The 6 and 4 Player Doubles Leagues, and the Singles/Doubles League, are separate and distinct competitions from each other but do share a large number of common Rules. Differences are highlighted in *italics*.

ENTERING THE LEAGUES

1. The Leagues are open to all Clubs who are members of Tennis Tayside.
2. Players eligible to represent a Club in the League Competitions must be a fully paid up member of such Club as defined in their rules. Players may only play for one Club in a season in one competition. However, players may play for different Clubs in different competitions, provided that they are fully paid up members of these Clubs. It is permissible for players to play in both their club's 6 Player and 4 Player teams in the same season.

LEAGUE COMPOSITION, PROMOTIONS AND DEMOTIONS

3. The Clubs competing in each division will be determined annually by Tennis Tayside, under predetermined conditions. League Secretaries will at the same time decide on all details of the competition, ie start date, size and number of divisions, Rule changes, etc...
4. For the purposes of determining the Leagues to be held and their participants, the Clubs entering will be put, as far as possible, into equal divisions. On the completion of the season's Leagues generally the top two teams in the division will be promoted and the bottom two teams relegated, (this may be varied depending on the numbers in each division as in the Henderson Vase where the three top teams are promoted, and the three bottom ones relegated).
5. All matches will be played under the 'ITF Rules of Tennis' and relevant 'LTA Competition Regulations'.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

6. Each competing team will have a nominated Captain who will be responsible for the regulations of play during a match. Any disputes

arising will be settled in the first place by the team Captains. In the event of an unresolved dispute, the League Secretary should be consulted, whose decision will be final.

7. Each competing team will usually consist of six, *or four*, players who will be arranged into pairs, *or singles order*.

Doubles: each ranked pair will play a two sets rubber against their opposite number and a one set rubber against each of the other pairs.

Singles/Doubles: order firstly based on LTA rating or World Tennis Number, but the order can be based on ability (by respective captains) if the ratings do not accurately represent the playing order. The order may change from match to match. In the Singles/Doubles League a team consists of 4 to 6 players, 4 players play one singles rubber each, and a 5th and/or 6th player may be selected for one doubles rubber only. The doubles pairing will be 1+2 at Doubles 1, 3+4 at Doubles 2. Substitutes should follow that pattern; i.e. the better ranked substitute replaces the higher ranked singles player.

TEAM SELECTION:

8. CLUBS MUST PLAY THEIR BEST AVAILABLE COUPLES, OR *BEST INDIVIDUALS FOR THE SINGLES/DOUBLES LEAGUE*, IN THEIR FIRST TEAM, THEIR NEXT BEST IN THEIR SECOND TEAM AND SO ON.

IF TEAMS DO NOT COMPLY, IT **WILL** RESULT IN THE OFFENDING TEAM LOSING THE SETS CONTESTED BY THE ‘OFFENDING’ PLAYER(S) SELECTED **AND** ANY PAIRINGS BELOW THAT PLAYER/COUPLE IN THE TEAM. THE SETS BEING AWARDED TO THE OPPOSITION 6-0. FOR EXAMPLE; IF A PLAYER PLAYS OUT OF POSITION IN THE 1ST COUPLE THEN THE 2ND AND 3RD COUPLES’ SETS WOULD ALSO BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSITION. **TEAMS ARE MONITORED** TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE. (see Rule 9)

A (NON-EXHAUSTIVE) LIST OF SITUATIONS THAT THIS RULE COVERS INCLUDES:

- 8a PLAYERS FROM A HIGHER TEAM MAY NOT, IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TURN OUT FOR A TEAM IN A LOWER

DIVISION IF THEIR USUAL TEAM HAS A MATCH CANCELLED OR POSTPONED.

- 8b PLAYERS MAY ORDINARILY ONLY COMPETE IN ONE SCHEDULED MATCH EACH WEEK PER LEAGUE. HOWEVER, PLAYERS WHO HAVE COMPETED FOR A LOWER TEAM MAY PLAY UP IN A RESCHEDULED MATCH IF REQUIRED TO ALLOW FOR A FULL TEAM TO BE FIELDDED.
- 8c A PLAYER WHO IS AVAILABLE BUT UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO AN AWAY MATCH WITH THEIR USUAL TEAM **MUST NOT** PLAY AT HOME FOR A TEAM IN A LOWER DIVISION.
9. **Team composition will be monitored;** to ensure that fair team selection is maintained. Complaints regarding the composition of teams must be made in writing via email to the League Secretary within 72 hours of the event.

MATCH AND SET FORMAT

- 10a **In the 6 Player Leagues** two sets are played against the opposite number and one set against each of the other two, according to the FIXED draw. (12 sets in total)
Each set will be a tie-break set with the tie-break operating if the score reaches six all.
- 10b **In the 4 Player League** each pair will play two sets against each pair of the opposing team. (8 sets in total)
Each set will be a tie-break set with the tie-break operating if the score reaches six all.
- 10c ***In the Singles/Doubles League 6 rubbers are played in total – 4 singles and 2 doubles.***
Scoring is a tie break at 6-6 for first two sets and a Match tie break (to 10-points) deciding the third set. Where playing a two-court fixture, singles rubbers will be short sets up to 4 games with a tie break at 4-4 in first two sets and a match tiebreak deciding third set.

Shortened formats such as short sets, sudden death deuce or even fast four rules may be used in any rubber if both captains agree (e.g.

expecting inclement weather or early bad light) in order to try and get the match completed. (See Rule 11)

ALTERNATIVE SCORING FORMATS

11a Championship Tie-breaks, Short Sets or Fast Four

IF TIME IS GETTING SHORT AND BOTH TEAMS AGREE, ANY REMAINING SETS CAN BE PLAYED OUT AS A CHAMPIONSHIP TIEBREAK (FIRST TO 10), A SHORT SET TO 4 GAMES, OR A FAST FOUR SET TO ENABLE THE MATCH TO BE COMPLETED.

11b Single Point Deuce

All teams can continue to use the single point deuce option as the normal way of finishing a game that goes to deuce if they wish. However, normal deuce shall be played out if one or both teams are not happy with utilising this option. Single point deuce can operate throughout the match for all couples, for one or two couples only, and for all, one or two of the rounds. In the case of single point deuce, the receivers indicate who will receive.

ORDER OF PLAY

12a 6 Player Order of Play:

For the 6 player doubles a fixed sequence of play will operate. The sequence is as follows:

	3 Court Club			2 Court Club					
	A*	B*	C**	A		B		C	
Court 1	3v2	2v3	1v1	3v2	2v3	1v3	3v1	2v1	1v2
Court 2	1v3	3v1	2v2	1v1	1v1	2v2	2v2	3v3	3v3
Court 3	2v1	1v2	3v3						

* 1 set ** 2 sets

12a.i However, when a team can only take two couples to a 6 player match the following applies, (home team first): -

A (one set): 3 v 2, 1 off, 2 v 1

B (one set): 2 off, 3 v 1, 1 v 2

C (two sets): 1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 off

What this shows is that with an absent 3rd couple the draw remains the same as usual, however, there is always one couple sitting off. A total of eight sets would be played with the 3-couple team getting all the set points they won, plus the four that the 2-couple team could not contest. The 2-couple team would only get the set points that they won.

12a.ii If for any reason **both** teams cannot field the full three couples and therefore have two couples each, they should play two sets against each couple and score one set point for each set won.

	A: 2 sets	B: 2 sets
Court 1	1 v 2	1 v 1
Court 2	2 v 1	2 v 2

Neither team will be awarded any set points for the unplayed sets. The total number of points available is therefore 8.

12b 4 Player Order of Play:

Each pair will play two sets against each pair of the opposing team, (8 sets in total).

	A: 2 sets	B: 2 sets
Court 1	1 v 2	1 v 1
Court 2	2 v 1	2 v 2

Round A: In the first-round pair one will play pair two and vice-versa.

Round B: In the second-round, pair one will play pair one and pair two play pair two.

12c Singles/Doubles Order of Play:

The match consists of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers. A fixed sequence of play will operate with the draw at the beginning merely deciding in which order the sequence will be played. The sequence is as follows;

2 courts	3 courts	4 courts
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Round A	<i>S 1</i>	<i>S 3</i>	<i>S 1</i>	<i>S 2</i>	<i>D 2</i>	<i>S 1</i>	<i>S 2</i>	<i>S 3</i>	<i>S 4</i>
Round B	<i>S 2</i>	<i>S 4</i>	<i>S 3</i>	<i>S 4</i>	<i>D 1</i>	<i>D 1</i>	<i>D 2</i>		
Round 3	<i>D 1</i>	<i>D 2</i>							

S = Singles D = Doubles

On 2 courts draw for the order of Round A and Round B with the doubles in Round 3.

On 3 courts draw for the order of Round A and Round B.

On 4 courts no draw is needed - play Round A followed by Round B.

Deviation from the above sequence is allowed by agreement of both captains but please be very aware of any time restrictions when making these decisions. Please note when playing a 4-court club the home team can elect to play it as a 3-court match if they wish.

MATCH FINISHING TIME

13. **Before** the match start **EITHER** Captain may request a finishing time for the match. This request must be granted.

The following rules apply;

13a The earliest **early** finish time that can be agreed is 9.30pm, light permitting. **All** rounds must be completed. (If this is not done within the time limit or curfew then both captains may agree to continue play, **either on the match night or on a continuation night**, until the rounds are completed, or teams may agree to void the remaining games). *At least 4 rubbers must be completed in the Singles/Doubles League.*

13b Since an agreed or curfew finish time is arbitrary in terms of the number of games won or lost it is only fair that at least the game that is being played is finished at the time limit, or the set, if both captains agree.

13c Whilst only completed sets will be counted towards the match score, all games played should be entered on the score sheet as they will be included in any countback should there be a draw in points and sets at the end of the season.

MATCH START TIME

14. Matches should normally start at 18.30pm prompt, this is the 'Start Time'. Teams should normally arrive 15 minutes prior to the start time

for a warm-up. Either team captain can request a delayed start of 15 minutes up to 24 hours before the match, **which may not be refused**, thus the 'Start Time' would become 18:45pm.

14a **Six player doubles leagues:** any couple/player not on court within 15 minutes of the Start Time and not ready to play (with or without a warm-up) **could** forfeit the first set. Any couple/player not on court and ready to play within ten minutes of the completion of round one **could** forfeit their remaining sets.

14b **Four player doubles leagues:** any couple/player not on court within 15 minutes of the Start Time and not ready to play (with or without a warm-up) **could** forfeit the first set. The second set **could** be forfeited if a couple/player is still not on court and ready to play (with or without a warm-up) within 30 minutes of the Start Time. Any couple/player not on court and ready to play within ten minutes of the completion of round one **could** forfeit their remaining sets.

14c *Singles / doubles league: the first round could be forfeited if a couple/player is not there within 15 minutes of the start time and ready to play (with or without a warm-up). Any couple/player not on court and ready to play within ten minutes of the completion of round one **could** forfeit their remaining sets.*

Captains have discretion as to whether or not they enforce the above penalties based on the communications exchanged between the two teams and the reason for lateness. However, please note that rule 15c **will** apply to any unfinished sets regardless of any discretion shown.

LATE ARRIVAL AT MATCH VENUE

15. A late arrival is defined as anyone arriving at the venue after the arranged Start Time. For requests for a later Start Time made with more than 24 hours' notice see rule 14. For requests Within 24 hours see below;

15a **Issues with less than 24 hours' notice:** If either of the captains know in advance (but within 24 hours of the match) that a member of their team is going to be late – provided they contact the opposing captain prior to the match – they can request up to a 15 minute delay in the normal Start Time of the match, i.e. up to 18.45pm, which

should normally be granted. A player would then not be deemed late unless they arrive after this agreed start time.

15b Last minute issues: Both home and away captains should ensure that they tell the opposing captain if any of their team are having difficulty in reaching the match venue in time, e.g. due to a team member having to work late or a traffic incident, etc...

15c IF ANY SETS ARE UNPLAYED OR UNFINISHED AND THERE WAS A LATE ARRIVAL BY ONE TEAM, THESE SETS SHALL BE AWARDED TO THE TEAM WHO WERE READY TO PLAY AT THE AGREED TIME.

E.G. IF A MATCH STARTS AFTER 18.45pm DUE TO THE LATE ARRIVAL OF PLAYERS FROM EITHER TEAM, ANY SETS WHICH ARE NOT COMPLETED AT THE TIME PLAY IS HALTED SHALL BE AWARDED TO THE TEAM WHO WAS READY TO PLAY AT THE ALLOCATED TIME, REGARDLESS OF ANY PRIOR AGREEMENTS.

LEAGUE POINTS & RESULTS:

16. Teams get two League points for winning and one League point for a draw for the overall 'Match'. The correct league scoresheet should be used to score the match.

All doubles leagues Are contested over a fixed number of tie-break sets. Each set scores 1 point towards the match score and the team who wins the most sets wins the match. If sets are equal the match is a draw.

The Singles League is contested over 6 rubbers. If a team wins more rubbers, they are the match winners. If an equal number of rubbers are won, the match is a draw.

17. **Final League Standings; LTA LEAGUE RULES WILL DETERMINE THE FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING LTA LEAGUE STANDINGS CALCULATION;**

i. **LEAGUE POINTS – TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS AWARDED TO EACH TEAM FOR WINNING/DRAWING MATCHES ACROSS THE SEASON.**

ii. **HEAD TO HEAD – LOOKS AT THE RESULTS BETWEEN TWO TEAMS TO SPLIT TEAMS WHO ARE TIED IN THE LEAGUE TABLE.**

- iii. SET PERCENTAGE – COMPARES THE PERCENTAGE OF SETS WON AND LOST.
- iv. GAME PERCENTAGE – COMPARES THE PERCENTAGE OF GAMES WON AND LOST.

IF THIS STILL RESULTS IN TWO TEAMS BEING EQUAL, THEN THE MATCHES BETWEEN THE TIED TEAMS WILL BECOME THE DECIDER - FIRSTLY BY SET PERCENTAGE AND FINALLY GAME PERCENTAGE.

MATCH CONCESSIONS

18 IN THE EVENT OF ANY CLUB FAILING TO FULFIL THEIR OBLIGATION TO PLAY A MATCH ON THE SET DATE OR ONE MUTUALLY ARRANGED OR ORDERED BY THE LEAGUE SECRETARY AND NO REASONABLE EXPLANATION IS FORTHCOMING THEN THAT CLUB WILL BE JUDGED TO HAVE FORFEITED THE MATCH AND THE POINTS. AS A PENALTY, THE FORFEITING CLUB WILL HAVE 1 POINT DEDUCTED FROM THEIR TOTAL POINTS FOR EACH MATCH NOT PLAYED.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO ISSUES ENCOUNTERED ON THE WAY TO A MATCH (E.G. CAR BREAKDOWNS OR UNEXPECTED TRAFFIC ISSUES ETC) IN THAT CASE RULE 15 WILL COME INTO EFFECT.

18a **Communication:** IF A TEAM CAPTAIN INTENDS TO CONCEDE A MATCH, THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE OPPOSITION AND LEAGUE SECRETARY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO INFORM THEM OF THEIR INTENTION TO CONCEDE. THEY MUST SEEK CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT FROM THE OPPOSITION TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE AWARE THAT THE MATCH IS NOT GOING AHEAD.

18b **Failure to make contact:** IF A TEAM CAPTAIN DOES NOT RECEIVE CONFIRMATION THAT THE OPPOSITION IS AWARE THAT THE MATCH IS TO BE CONCEDED, THEY SHOULD, AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, CONTACT THE LEAGUE SECRETARY. IF A TEAM DOES NOT MAKE REASONABLE ATTEMPTS TO INFORM THEIR OPPOSITION **AND/OR** FAILS TO INFORM THE LEAGUE SECRETARY OF

ANY COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS BEFORE THE MATCH IS DUE TO START, THEY WILL INCUR A FURTHER 1-POINT PENALTY, FOR A TOTAL OF 2 PENALTY POINTS.

19. In the case of conceded matches **both teams** must still process the scoresheet in the usual manner **and** email the notification to the League Secretary. Teams receiving a concession will be credited with the 2 league points for winning.

SUBMITTING RESULTS

20. **Scoresheets;** The match score sheet detailing the names of all the players, their BTM numbers, if they have one, and the scores must be signed by both captains and forwarded by the winning team to the League Secretary. A **clear and legible** photo or scan of the score sheet via email is preferable. Ideally score sheets should be sent for receipt within 48 hours but results still not **received within 72 hours may be declared void.**

*Singles/Doubles League score sheets **should always** be done electronically via the league secretaries' email.*

Missing score sheets will not be chased.

21. **LEAGUE PLANNER:** For 2022 we hope to use League planner for Junior Leagues and Singles / Doubles leagues

MATCH NIGHTS AND CONTINUATIONS

22. **Normal Match Nights and Continuation Nights:**

Ladies matches will be played on a **Monday** evening, continuation night **Wednesday**

Men's matches will be played on a **Thursday** evening, continuation night **Tuesday**.

Henderson vase matches will be played on a **Monday** evening, continuation night **Wednesday**.

*Singles/doubles league matches will be played on a **Thursday** evening, continuation night **Tuesday**.*

22a **Re-arrangements:** Matches should be played on their given nights. If matches are postponed or incomplete due to adverse weather or court conditions, matches are to be played or continued **within 3 weeks of the original fixture date and the League Secretary must be informed.**

As clubs are not necessarily going to have courts/players available for the continuation day teams may agree another day provided it is within **three weeks** of the originally scheduled date. If the league secretary has to intervene due to no agreement being reached a date will be fixed on a continuation day.

22b **Unfavourable weather and/or unplayable court conditions** are deemed as satisfactory reasons for not playing. The captain of the home team should contact their opponents as soon as is practicable with details of the conditions and likelihood of play. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, which the League Secretary would rule on, being unable to raise a team is **not** considered a satisfactory reason for re-arranging.

22c **Clubs without lights:** if there are clubs without lights who wish to change the night of a match to a weekend that would be acceptable. Such a re-arrangement should be **mutually** agreed between the two captains at a reasonable time before the match is to be played, not the night before the match. Such a re-arranged match can be played on the weekend before or after the date given in the handbook. These re-arranged matches **must be played within 3 weeks of the original fixture date.** Once a date has been agreed the League Secretary should be informed. If no agreement is reached the match should be played as per the published schedule or will be considered void.

22d A continued match should resume at the exact point of interruption.

23. Notice of Postponement or Continuation: NOTICE OF MATCH POSTPONEMENT OR CONTINUATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY EITHER TEAM CAPTAIN WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF THE SCHEDULED MATCH DATE.

23a **IF THE LEAGUE SECRETARY IS NOT INFORMED THAT THE MATCH HAS BEEN POSTPONED OR IS TO BE**

CONTINUED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE MATCH DATE THE MATCH WILL BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID EVEN IF THE MATCH IS THEN SUBSEQUENTLY PLAYED.

24. **As an alternative to a continuation;** provided that at least two rounds, *or in Singles/Doubles League 4 rubbers*, have been completed and that both the Captains agree, the match result can be decided by completed, divided or conceded sets. If no agreement is reached, a continuation should be arranged.
25. **Player Substitutions;** No change may be made to the composition of teams after start of play *other than singles/doubles league substitutes*. However, where a match is unfinished and has to be continued on another day, appropriate substitutes may replace unavailable players, i.e. players who normally play in higher teams should not be used.

COURTS, BALLS AND MATCH TEAS

26. Responsibility for the provision of courts, balls and match teas, etc. rests with the designated 'Home Team'. Even if the match is played at a third-party club or if the venue is reversed by mutual agreement the 'Home Team' will remain responsible.

26a **Balls:** For all leagues at the beginning of a tie **at least** 4 balls should be provided for each court in play. (only having 3 balls per court is not permitted)

26b **Teas:** The boards view is that the previous situation regarding teas should return, with the default being teas are provided either at the end of the match or on a rolling basis. Should the visiting team decide that they would prefer to forgo tea to get home earlier, this should be communicated to the home team in plenty of time.

TEAM WITHDRAWAL FROM A LEAGUE

27. Any team withdrawing from any League or conceding more than two matches for any reason will be relegated down two divisions the following season.

RULE AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION

28. The Tennis Tayside Board will have the power to alter or add to the above rules as they may deem appropriate. All questions of eligibility, qualifications or interpretation of the Rules will be referred initially to the League Secretaries and if necessary, to the Board, whose decision will be final.