

# **LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE TENNIS LEAGUE: RULES**

## **1. Sections and Divisions**

The league shall consist of four sections: Mixed, Ladies, Veterans and Cup Competition. Each section shall consist of one or more divisions depending on the number of teams participating at the direction of the Committee.

## **2. Rules of Play**

Play shall be governed by the Rules of the ITF

## **3. Mixed, Ladies' and Veterans Sections**

Each team in all four sections of the league and cup shall comprise 2 pairs.

Each pair shall play both of the opposing pairs. Each rubber shall consist of two sets. One point shall be awarded for each set won. In the case of a 6-6 draw then each team will get half a point. There will be no tie-breaks.

**In the Vets league the following handicaps shall apply:** If 2 ladies play 2 men, then the men will start on -15 and the ladies on +15 every game.

If 2 ladies play v a mixed pair, then they get +15 every even game.

If a mixed pair play v 2 men, then they get +15 every game.

## **4. Incomplete teams**

Where a club fails to provide the requisite number of players for any match the rubbers not played shall count to their opponents.

## **5. Cup**

Each mixed division will have its own cup competition and teams will be handicapped according to their previous year's results. Teams will play the best of 72 games in total. Each couple plays 18 games against each of the two couples.

## **6. Balls**

The home club shall provide new tennis balls (any make approved by the LTA). If used balls are provided, both captains must approve their condition.

## **7. Eligibility of Players**

Any player participating in any match must be a bona-fide paid up member of the club for which he/she plays and may play for only one club in one Section of the league i.e. a player may play for one club in the Mixed Section and another club in the Ladies or Vets Section.

Any player who has represented one club and wishes to transfer to another club in the same section must give the League Secretary seven days' notice in writing during which he/she shall be ineligible to play for either club.

**In the Veterans Section only players who are 50 and over are eligible to play**

## **8. Starting Times**

All midweek matches shall commence at 6.30pm. If any rubber has not started by 6.45pm the offending team shall be liable to forfeit the first set. If the rubber has not started by 7.0pm the offending team shall forfeit that rubber. **Please see exceptions.**

## **Vets Starting Times**

These shall commence at 1.0pm. If any rubber has not started by 1.15pm the offending team shall be liable to forfeit the first set. If the rubber has not started by 1.30pm the offending team shall forfeit that rubber.

## **9. Postponements**

All matches shall be played on the dates laid down by the Committee at the start of the season.

There is an identified window between the publication of the fixtures and their finalisation. In the event of a clash or other problems match secretaries are obliged to agree to the request from opponents to move such fixture to a mutually acceptable date.

If a match is postponed due to inclement weather the Home Captain or Match Secretary shall within one week offer the visiting Captain or Match Secretary 3 alternative dates which do not clash with any of the visiting team's other League fixtures. The visiting team must agree to 1 of these offered dates within one week of receiving the proposed alternatives.

If the rearrangement has not been agreed the team failing to comply will forfeit the match.

If a rearranged fixture is again postponed it shall be regarded as a draw unless both teams agree to a further rearrangement.

## **10. Exceptional Circumstances**

If a team is unable to reach or is late to a venue due to verifiable circumstances

Beyond its control e.g. road traffic accident in the surrounding area, then the match should be rearranged for a future date. If the clubs cannot agree then the matter should be brought to the attention of the Chairman who will make the decision as to whether it should be replayed or the match forfeited.

## **11. Abandoned Matches**

If a match has started but is abandoned due to bad weather or poor light then if at least half of the match has been completed the result shall stand, the points for the unplayed or incomplete sets being divided equally between the teams.

In all sections with the exception of the cup half the match refers to two completed rubbers. If this half way stage has not been reached, the match must be replayed.

Once a match has started and a player finds themselves unable to continue due to injury then those sets will be forfeited even if the rubbers have not been completed.

## **12.Cancelled Matches**

If a fixture is called off by a club for any reason other than weather conditions then their opponents shall be entitled to claim the points.

If a team asks to rearrange a fixture at any time after the fixtures have been finalised because they are unable to raise a team, they must offer to concede the match. The opposing Captain may agree to a re-arrangement, but is under no obligation to do so.

If any team withdraws from the league during the season then all results involving that team shall be null and void – thus resulting in relegation of the team from their respective division.

## **13.Notification of Results**

Both Captains must agree the match result and set scores at the end of the match.

The Home Captain (or designated deputy or club Match sec.) must record the result on the league website. The Away Captain must then verify the result on the website. The Away Captain can also enter the result by agreement with the Home Captain; the result will then be verified by the Home Captain or deputy.

## **14.Protests**

Any club wishing to make a protest to the Committee about the result of a match must do so in writing to the Chairman within three days of the match. The decision of the Committee on any question or dispute or interpretation of the Rules shall be final.

## **15.Starred Players**

There is no starring system in place for Sections 1,2 and 3. With regards to the Vets League it was decided at the 2023 AGM that 4 players in each team should be starred and that higher team players can only play a maximum of 2 matches per season for a lower ranked team within their club. If they play more than twice then their sets will be counted as lost. Players from a lower team can play up to a higher team. If a club has more than 2 teams then 4 players in the second team need to be starred (This rule is presently under review)

## **16.Promotion and Relegation**

In any section of the League with more than one division a promotion and relegation system shall operate with the lowest-placed team in the higher division being relegated and the highest placed team in the lower division being promoted.

## **17.Spirit of Tennis**

These rules are written with the 'spirit of tennis' in mind. Anything not covered by these rules shall be referred to the Committee via the Chairman. The decision of the Committee shall be final.

**PLEASE FORWARD ALL ISSUES TO THE CHAIRMAN (NOT STEVE VOSE)  
WHOM IS MALCOLM DOW VIA HIS EMAIL WHICH IS  
dowmalcolm@msn.com**