

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

- 1.** The League shall be named "The Lancaster and Morecambe District Tennis League".
- 2.** A Committee consisting of five members including a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall administer the League. The Committee shall be elected by member clubs at an Annual General Meeting, which shall be held at the end of January. There shall be a quorum of three at any meetings of the Committee.
- 3.** The Committee shall have the right to co-opt other members as it thinks fit.
- 4.** At the Annual General Meeting each club which paid an entry fee for the preceding season or has been elected to participate in the league for the following season shall have one vote regardless of the number of teams. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- 5.** Any proposals for changes to the Rules and Constitution must be made in writing to the League Match Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.** An entry fee for each team entered in the league shall be payable. The amount of the entry fee shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting for the following season.
- 7.** Books of account shall be kept by the Treasurer who will present annual accounts to the AGM made up to date not more than one month prior to the date of the meeting.
- 8.** A bank account shall be maintained in the League's name with the relevant bank as deemed appropriate by the Committee. The Treasurer shall have a mandate to sign cheques drawn on the account for the League's business with the necessity for a counter signature.

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE: RULES

1. SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS

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

2. RULES OF PLAY

Play shall be governed by the Rules of the ITF.

3. LADIES' SECTION

Each team in the Ladies' Section of the League shall consist of 2 pairs.

Each pair shall play both of the opposing pairs. Each rubber shall consist of two sets (with no tie-breaks).

One point will be awarded for each set won and a ½ point will be awarded for a drawn set

i.e. 6-6

4. MIXED SECTION

Each team in the Mixed Section of the League shall consist of two pairs.

Each pair shall play both of the opposing pairs. Each rubber shall consist of two sets with no tie-breaks at 6-6.

One point shall be awarded for each set won and a ½ point will be awarded for a drawn set

i.e. 6-6

5. VETERANS' SECTION

Each team in the Veterans section shall consist of two pairs made up of any combination of male or female players.

Each pair shall play both of the opposing pairs. Each rubber shall consist of two sets

(with no tie-breaks). If 2 ladies play against 2 men they will receive a 15-0 advantage in each game played whilst if 2 ladies play against a mixed pair they will receive a 15-0 advantage in every other game beginning after the second game in each set.

One point shall be awarded for each set won and a ½ point will be awarded for a drawn set

i.e. 6-6

6. CUP COMPETITION – STARTED IN 2020

Each couple will play three rubbers, each rubber being one set of 12 games.

Match result being the total of games won by each team plus application of handicap. Example (Team 'A' v Team 'B'), Team 'A' (handicap + 4) games won 60 + 4 = 64, Team 'B' (handicap +22) games won 48 + 22 = 70. Team 'B' match winners.

In the event of both teams being tied, after handicap applied, team having the higher handicap figure shall be awarded the match i.e. team 'B' in example.

Uncompleted rubbers shall be scored 6 – 6 and included in the total game score.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 Men's or Ladies' Sections and another club in the Mixed Section.

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

10 STARTING TIMES

All midweek matches shall commence at 6-30pm (except for Lancaster's home matches in 2020 which will start at 7-00pm – agreed at AGM). 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 7-00pm the offending team shall forfeit that rubber.

Afternoon matches shall commence at 1-00pm unless the home team has notified the league of a different start time before the season's fixtures are finalised or another time is agreed by both teams in advance.

11. 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 draft summer 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 2 days offer the visiting Captain or Match Secretary 2 alternative dates which do not clash with any of the visiting team's other Lancaster & Morecambe League fixtures. The visiting team must agree to 1 of these offered dates within 2 days of receiving the proposed alternatives.

Reference should be made to the Lancaster & Morecambe League Website 'Rearrange Fixture Date Finder'.

If the rearrangement has not been **agreed and posted on the website** within **15 days**, the match will be automatically declared void with neither team getting any points.

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

All League fixtures are to be completed by August 31.

Exceptional circumstances:

If a team is unable to reach a venue due to verifiable circumstances beyond its control e.g. 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.

12. ABANDONED MATCHES

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

In the Ladies' matches half the match refers to two rubbers. In Mixed matches, six complete sets mark the half way point. If this half way stage has not been reached, the match must be replayed.

13. 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 rearrangement, 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 that team from their respective division.

14. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

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

The Home Captain is responsible for compiling a match card on completion of the match, to be signed by both captains.

The Home Captain (or designated deputy or club Match Sec.) must record the result on the league website within 2 days. The Away Captain must then verify the result on the website within a further 5 Days. 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.

The signed match card should be retained by the Home Team Captain until the following AGM when the final results will be presented.

15. PROTESTS

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

16. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

In the Mixed section of the League a promotion and relegation system shall operate with the bottom team in the higher division being relegated and the top team in the lower division being promoted. The Veterans leagues will promote and relegate 2 teams each year.

If teams finish with equal points (sets), number of sets conceded shall decide placement. Where this still results in a draw, the results between the teams involved will be used, using the number of games won if necessary.

Any additional balancing of the divisions shall be made by extra promotion from the lower division or relegation from the higher division, to be agreed at the AGM.

16. OTHER EVENTS

The Committee shall have the discretion to promote other events and competitions that it may feel appropriate.

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 League Secretary or Chairman. The decision of the Committee shall be final.