

BRUCE GARNER PRO SPORTS

FYLDE TENNIS LEAGUE

MATCH REGULATIONS

1. Composition of Sections:

- a) Clubs shall be grouped in Divisions formed on the basis of twelve matches to be played per team, except when an alternative number of matches are necessary to accommodate all teams.
- b) For all purposes, including promotion and relegation, Men's, Ladies, Mixed, Junior Boys and Girls teams shall be treated as separate sections. In each division the number of teams to be promoted shall be two. No club shall have more than two teams in any Division.
- c) Junior divisions may be sub-divided into age groups.
- d) All Junior teams must be accompanied by at least one responsible adult from their club who must remain for the duration of the match.

2. Players eligible for Matches:

- a) All match players must be bonafide Club members (i.e. Membership of that Club of at least 14 days standing prior to a match) and no team player shall be allowed to play for more than one Club within the League during the current Season except by the permission of the Committee. No player who has played in five or more matches may apply to the committee for a transfer to another Club.
- b) In the event of a Club entering two teams in one League, four players must be nominated before the first matches are played and these players must not play for a lower team. Similarly, if three teams are entered, eight players must be nominated and so on. Changes, which must be subject to the approval of the committee, should be notified on the form issued for that purpose or by e-mail to the appropriate league secretary.
- c) A nominated player must play at least five matches for his or her nominated team in the course of the Season, otherwise the team for which he or she is nominated could be relegated at the discretion of the committee.
- d) No player shall play in more than fourteen matches during the Season in any one section, excepting in the lowest Divisions when the limit shall be two more than the number of matches scheduled for each team in these Divisions, or fourteen, whichever is the greater.
- e) Where a team includes a player not eligible for a match for any of the above reasons, the rubber(s) in which he/she plays shall be awarded to the opposing team by two sets to nil.

3. **Composition of Teams:**

Senior Teams:

Senior Teams:

Each team shall consist of four players and doubles only shall be played. Each pair shall play a rubber against each pair of the opposing team.

In the Men's and Ladies' Divisions a rubber comprises two sets with the tie-break rule applying at 6 games all in both sets, if the score reaches 1 set all the rubber shall be decided by the playing of a Match Tie-Break (10 points).

Junior Divisions:

Each team shall consist of four players who shall be ranked 1 to 4, in accordance with LTA Rankings if available.

Boys' Division teams may include up to two girls provided that the club does not have a team in the equivalent age group Girls' Division.

Each player shall play a singles rubber against his or her correspondingly ranked opponent. Players 1 and 2 shall play a doubles rubber against their correspondingly ranked opponents, as shall players 3 and 4. a total of six rubbers in all.

Rubbers shall be the best of three sets. Sets 1 and 2 shall be to 4 games (rather than 6) or 5-3, The "Tie Break Rule" shall apply if the score reaches four games all.

If the score reaches 1 set all the rubber shall be decided by the playing of a Match Tie-Break (10 points).

In the event of a match being abandoned the provisions of Match Regulation 7 will apply except that the match will be replayed if less than three rubbers have been completed.

4. **Match Results:**

Team Captains are responsible for ensuring that match results are entered / verified on the League website PROMPTLY after the completion of each match, Results not submitted WITHIN FOUR DAYS can be deemed null and void.

5. **Fixture List :**

a) the fixture list will be sent to each Club before the commencement of the Season. Each Club shall select a "home night" from Monday to Friday inclusive for each team. Clubs will choose Saturday or Sunday and a start time for each Junior Team. If a club has more than one team in a Division the teams shall play each other in the first week of the Season, and also the first match in the second half of the Season or as near as possible.

b) No match can be postponed or re-arranged without the express permission of the Committee prior to the start of the Season, except as provided in Regulation 6.

6. **Postponement of Matches :**

a) A match can only be postponed because of bad weather or unfit courts due to weather conditions. The home team shall immediately inform the League Secretary of a postponed match and of the re-arranged date.

b) If the Team Captains or Match Secretaries of both Clubs are able personally to communicate with each other on the day of play and shall mutually agree that play is impossible, the match shall be postponed.

c) If the Team Captains or Match Secretaries are unable so to communicate, both teams shall present themselves on the ground at which the Match should be played

d) In the event of a match being postponed. The Home Club must, within 48 hours of the original date, offer two alternative dates within four weeks of the original date, subject to the provisions of the next sub-clause, to the Visiting Club.

e) No postponed match shall be played after the expiration of two weeks of the end of the fixture list for that Division without the consent of the League Secretary. The Match Secretary for the Home Club shall apply for such consent.

f) Conceded rubbers : if, during the season a team concedes 6 rubbers (*9 rubbers for the Junior Teams*) by failing to field a full team then that team's matches will be declared null and void.

g) "If a team is withdrawn after the fixtures are published, or has its record declared null and void in accordance with Regulation 6f, and it is not that club's lowest team in the relevant section, then:

i. That club's lower teams in the section may be excluded from promotion at the end of the season.

ii The committee may cancel the eligibility of the team's players/expected players for the duration of the current and following season."

Reason: To discourage clubs from making late withdrawals of higher teams.

7. **Uncompleted Matches :**

In the event of a match being abandoned with less than two rubbers completed, then it must be replayed as prescribed in Match Regulation 6d.

If two or more rubbers have been completed when play is abandoned then the outstanding rubber(s) will :-

a) be completed within 28 days of the original match, by the same players with play resuming at the score which applied when play was abandoned

unless

b) by agreement between the Team Captains, on the original night of the match, be replayed in full within 28days of the original match, by the same players

or

b) by agreement between the Team Captains, on the original night of the match, be halved. Where two rubbers are outstanding the above clauses may be applied separately to each.

Captains may forfeit games and sets in order to achieve a result.

Towards the end of the season the committee may require rubbers to be played to completion where the result may impact on championship/promotion or relegation.

In the event of rubbers being resumed or replayed the League Secretary must be informed of the new date(s) within 48 hours of the original match or the outstanding rubber(s) can be deemed null and void.

8. **Order of Play and whether Play is Possible :**

a) The final decision about the order of play and whether play is possible at the beginning of a Match or during the process of a Match shall rest with the Home Captain. All players must await the Captains decisions about the possibility of play before leaving the ground.

b) All evening Matches shall be scheduled to commence at 6.30pm At least one pair from each team must be present and ready to play by 6.45 pm and the other pair by 7.00 pm, otherwise that pair's or pairs first rubber or rubbers will be forfeited. In the event of a pair not being present and ready to play by 7.30 pm that pair will

forfeit both its rubbers. In the event of neither pairs from a team being present and able to play by 7.00 pm save as provided by Regulation 6b, the match shall be awarded to the team present and the score read :- four rubbers to nil and eight sets to nil. When the rubber is forfeited it shall be awarded to the opposing team by two sets to nil.

- c) The choice of courts shall be the Home Club's prerogative. Two courts must be available for use throughout the duration of each match.
- d) Play shall terminate at an hour to be agreed by the two Captains.

9. Allocation of Points :

a) One point shall be awarded for each rubber won.

b) In the event of two or more teams finishing the Season with equal points, then the position shall be decided by the ratio of sets won to sets played.

10. Approved Tennis Balls :

In all matches, only makes of balls approved by the L.T.A. shall be used. No less than three balls for each court shall be provided by the Home club.

11. Injury to a player :

Should an injury occur resulting in a rubber not being completed, the rubber is forfeited, the opponents being awarded the rubber. The retiring couple shall be awarded the any completed sets won by them. In the event of injury in the first rubber, resulting in a couple having to retire, a reserve may be played in the second rubber.

12. Challenge Trophies :

The Champions of each Division shall hold the appropriate trophy for the ensuing twelve months. The trophy shall be the property of the League and cannot be won outright.

13. Dress :

Tennis clothing shall be worn.

14. Footwear :

No footwear liable to cause damage to the courts shall be worn (i.e. unless the courts are all of a hard non-upkeep type) it should be required that shoes must be rubber soled, without raised heels, spikes, studs, cleats, bars or deep ribbing.

BRUCE GARNER PRO SPORTS

FYLDE TENNIS LEAGUE

RULES 2022

1. **NAME** – the name shall be “The Fylde Tennis League”

2. **OBJECTS** –the objects of the League will be: -
 - a) to promote the game of Lawn Tennis
 - b) to encourage a higher standard of competitive play in the Fylde Region.

3. **MEMBERSHIP** –all Clubs having their grounds in the Fylde Region shall be eligible for membership of the League. All member clubs must have Public Liability insurance, either by registration with Lancashire Lawn Tennis Association thereby benefiting from the Lawn Tennis Association scheme, or by purchasing their own insurance with equivalent cover to the Lawn Tennis Association scheme. Clubs which are not so registered must have a satisfactory safeguarding policy, which meets the relevant criteria, and a named welfare officer.

4. **SUBSCRIPTIONS** – each club shall pay to the League an annual subscription as agreed at the League’s Annual General Meeting. Each club shall forward its subscription with its entry form.

Entries from existing member clubs must be received by the Hon. Secretary on or before the 31st March, acceptance of late entries shall be at the discretion of the committee. Late entries shall be subject to an additional fee of £20 and no such entry shall be considered by the committee until the fee has been paid.

5. **MANAGEMENT** –the management of the League shall be vested in a committee consisting of the following officers: - President, Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and not more than seven other persons, at least one of whom should be a lady. The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year and, subject to termination of this by resignation or otherwise, shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the A.G.M. next following their resignation. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur. The retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election. No club may have more than two members on the Committee.

Candidates for election to the Committee must be proposed by a Club or a Committee member. The nominations must be in writing and sent to the Hon. Secretary to reach him not later than 48 hours before the date of the convened meeting. If no names of candidates eligible for election are received by the Hon. Secretary as aforesaid, candidates may be

proposed at the meeting without notice.

6. POWERS OF COMMITTEE – the Committee shall have power to :-

- a) fix the date, time and place of all meetings
- b) decide the applications for membership
- c) determine the membership of any Club, subject to the right of appeal to a General Meeting against such decisions
- d) organise and control competitions, matches and tournaments
- e) appoint a sub-committee of their own number as required
- f) consider resignations and fill casual vacancies
- g) call special General meetings as required
- h) co-opt additional members to the committee if so required
- i) deal with any infringements of a rule or regulation or with any alleged misconduct on the part of affiliated clubs
- j) interpret the match regulations and make rulings thereon
- k) make rulings on any matters not provided for in the match regulations.

In cases of dispute brought before the Committee, any Committee member associated with any involved Club must withdraw from the meeting.

7. RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS – the Hon Secretary shall keep a record of the Proceedings of all meetings and generally carry out the instructions of the Committee. The Hon Treasurer shall keep proper Books of Accounts and prepare an Annual Statement of the Accounts and a Balance Sheet up to 31st August in each year, which shall be certified by the Hon Auditor. An account shall be opened at such Bank as the Committee shall approve, in the name of the League.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS – the Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held between 1st September and 31st October each year, upon a date and at a time to be fixed by the committee, for the following purposes:-

- a) to receive from the Committee a report, balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding financial year
- b) to elect the Committee for the ensuing year
- c) to elect an auditor
- d) to decide any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting as hereinafter provided
- e) to transact any other business on the Agenda.

All clubs must be represented at the Annual General Meeting. Any club failing to be represented will be liable to pay an additional fee of £25 payable with its annual subscription.

9. Any club desirous of moving any resolution at the A.G. M. shall give notice thereof in Writing to the Hon Secretary of the League not later than the 31st July preceding.

10. The committee may, at any time for special purposes, call a Special General Meeting and shall do so within 28 days upon a requisition in writing signed by at least 25% of all the

clubs in the League, stating the purposes for which the meeting is required.

11. Seven days at least before the A.G.M. or any Special General Meeting a notice of such meeting and the business to be transacted thereat shall be sent to every Club, and no business other than that of which notice has been given shall be brought forward at such meeting.
12. At all General Meetings of the League the Chairman, and in his absence the President and in the absence of both of them, a member selected by the Committee shall take the chair. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote upon every motion and, in addition each Committee Member shall also have one vote on every motion. *In the event of equality of votes, the Chairman of the Meeting shall have a second and casting vote.*
13. These Rules and the Match Regulations may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual General Meeting provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it is carried by at least two thirds of the maximum possible number of votes present. In the event of such a resolution failing to be passed no similar resolution shall be allowed for a period of two years.
14. **The Match Regulations shall be binding on all clubs.**