

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 Divisions a rubber comprises best of three sets with the tie-break rule applying at six games all in all three sets.

In the 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 "Championship" tie-break, i.e. up to 10(ten) points with a two point advantage, in lieu of a third set.

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 "Championship" tie-break, i.e. up to 10(ten) points with a two point advantage, in lieu of a third set.

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.

