

A: General rules applicable to all inter-club competitions 2021

- 1 The management of all inter-club Competitions shall be in the hands of the Committee of the Association who may delegate their powers to a Sub-Committee, or in the case of League Competitions, to the *Honorary League Secretary of the Association* (hereinafter called 'the League and Cup Secretary'). The Committee may alter any of the Regulations for Inter-Club Competitions from time to time as they shall think proper.
- 2 The Competition shall be open to all affiliated Clubs. The Secretary shall send entry forms for the various competitions to the Secretaries of all affiliated Clubs at least seven days prior to the date by which the entries for the Competitions, together with the necessary entry fees, must be returned to the Secretary.
- 3 A player shall be qualified to represent an affiliated Club if he or she is a bona-fide member of such Club. No player shall be entitled to play in these Competitions for more than one affiliated Club during the same year without the special permission of the Committee, but a player shall not be disqualified from playing for a Club in a League Competition on the ground of having already played for another Club in a Cup Competition in that year or vice versa.
- 4 Entrance fees for the Competitions shall be fixed by the Committee, except for the Scottish Cup where the fees shall be fixed by Tennis Scotland.
- 5 The Club on whose ground each match is played shall provide, at its own expense, at least three new tennis balls per court. In all league matches and the Gillespie Cup, balls of the make selected by the Committee shall be used. For 2020/21 seasons this is Dunlop. If any match is played on neutral ground the cost of the balls used shall be divided between the competing Clubs.
- 6 All Cup and League games must be played on the exact dates and at the locations fixed by the Committee unless previously played by mutual agreement of the Clubs concerned. No postponements will be allowed except on account of weather or unplayable conditions of the courts. In the event of any Club failing to fulfil its obligation to play a match on the date fixed by the

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Committee, without being able to furnish a reasonable and just explanation, the offending Club shall be adjudged to have forfeited the match. In the case of a league match, the points shall also be forfeited. Unfavourable weather and unplayable condition of the courts shall be accepted as satisfactory reasons for non-fulfilment and postponement provided always that the contesting Clubs shall satisfy the Committee that every effort has been made by both Clubs to have the match played. In case of doubt the Secretary of the Home Team shall at the earliest possible moment communicate with the opponents as to conditions and likelihood of play. Nevertheless visiting teams must be prepared to travel if there appears to be even a reasonable chance of weather conditions permitting play to proceed.

- 7 All matches must commence not later than the time stated in the handbook unless otherwise decided by the Committee.
- 8 In any match, any couple which does not appear on the ground complete and ready to play within 15 minutes of the time fixed for the start of play, shall

be deemed to have scratched from the first round. If the delay is one hour, they shall be deemed to have scratched from the second round and if the delay amounts to two hours they will be deemed to have scratched from the whole match.

- 9 No matches shall be played during the Annual Tournament organised by Tennis Central Scotland.
- 10 A time limit for the termination of each match shall be fixed by the captains and entered on the official Score Sheet before play commences. Unless the captains agree that play shall cease earlier, owing to rain or other unavoidable circumstance which have arisen subsequent to the time when the time limit was originally fixed, play shall cease in each rubber at the conclusion of the game in progress when the fixed time limit has been reached. The captains may mutually agree to extend this time limit. Failure by the respective captains to fix such a time limit or to enter the same on the official Score Sheet, may result in the disqualification of both participating teams in the event of any protest, appeal or dispute arising out of any match.

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- 11 Each competing team shall be arranged in order of playing strength. **See Rule B4 for details.** The names shall be entered on official Score Sheets before the match begins. Unless the ground where the match is played has only two Courts suitable for match play, three courts must be available and used. When there are only two Courts, couple three should arrive at a time agreed between captains prior to the match taking place. *Rule A8* applies to both start times.
- 12 A Club is not bound to play the same team throughout a Competition, but the couple rankings should be maintained. *See Rule B4.* However, no change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in a match after the start of play except as hereinafter provided and if a match is postponed, the composition of the team playing in the original match should not be changed. Where Clubs are unable by reason of illness, holidays or other causes, to turn out the same team, they may substitute a player or players in place of those absent, but no other re-arrangement of players or couples will be permissible.
- 13 Any Club intending to scratch shall notify this to the League and Cup Secretary and Captain of the opposing team as early as possible, but not later than two days previous to the match. Any Club failing to give this notification in time shall be reported to the Committee who shall have power to take such action as it may deem expedient.
- 14 The results of all matches should be recorded on the Official Score Sheets by the Home Club and signed by the Captains of both teams. The Captain of the **winning team** should enter the results on the website **competitions.lta.org.uk** (if the match is drawn the Home Captain should do this).
- 15 Play in all matches shall, so far as practicable, be continuous. No undue time shall be spent knocking up. No spectating is allowed and there will be no hospitality after the match.

B: Regulations applicable to Summer League Competitions 2021

- 1 The Clubs in each Division (if more than one Division is deemed advisable) shall be selected annually by the Committee. The Committee shall also decide the other details of the League Competition including promotion and regulation.
- 2 If the same Covid restrictions apply in 2022, the winning and runner-up teams in each division will be promoted (apart from Division 2 to 1). The two teams at the foot of each Division will be relegated (apart from Division 1 to 2). If all restrictions are lifted the team positions will revert to the 2019 completed Divisions.
- 3 A Club can have no more than two teams in any one Division.
- 4 Any player having played **three or more** league matches for one team is not permitted to play subsequently, during that season, for a lower team from the same Club. If this occurs, the team would forfeit all rubbers played by the offending player. **Once an order of pairs in a team has been established in any one season, this order should not be reversed.**

For example a first couple pairing moving to third couple position in a subsequent match would be deemed unfair practice. It is outwith the spirit of the competition to place your couples tactically.

Any two players, playing up from a lower team and paired together, must be placed in order below any other pair containing a player who has already played for the higher team.

- 5 For Ladies and Mens League fixtures **1 point** shall be awarded to each club for fulfilling the fixture. To qualify for this point a Club must, as a minimum requirement, provide either three couples to play or two couples and forfeiting the third rubber 6-0, 6-0, 6-0. **However a team cannot provide only two couples if they have a lower team fielding three couples on the same date.** If this happens the lower team will forfeit their match and the points will be awarded to opposing team.

B: Regulations applicable to Summer League Competitions 2021

- 6 Each pair shall play one rubber against the corresponding couple in the opposing team.
1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 3.
- 7 The format of each rubber will be three sets to six with a tie-break at six all.
- 8 Each **set** will count as one, so the maximum a team can score is 9. The team that shall win the majority of the **sets** shall be declared the winner of the match. All rubbers must be completed. Completed sets and the games in such completed sets in unfinished rubbers shall also be counted but not the games in unfinished sets. Scoring system: **1 point** shall be awarded to each club for fulfilling the fixture, therefore the team winning the majority of sets will be awarded **3 points**. If for any reason there is an equal number of sets each team will get **2 points**. If teams finish the league equal on points then sets difference (or if this is equal, sets won) will determine positions.
- 9 If, by reason of special causes such as bad weather or unplayable courts, it be found impossible to play a match on the date fixed, or if, for similar reasons,

any match is discontinued before either side has completed their rubber, the home Club shall, within **48 hours** of that date, give the opposing Club the choice of **four dates** within the subsequent **21 days**. One of these dates must be accepted within **48 hours**. Provided two rounds have been completed, the dates fixed for the third round can be on different dates to suit the convenience of the couples concerned. In addition, notification of such a date for a postponed, replayed or continued match must be sent immediately by the Home Club to the League Secretary.

- 10 All Mens and Ladies Summer Doubles League matches must be completed and **the result entered online by 31 August**.
- 11 The captains of the home teams concerned **must** contact the opposing team to confirm the match.

Clubs are reminded that they have a duty to maintain their courts in a state which is fit for safe play when used for inter-club competitions.

Online submission of results

The captains of the home teams concerned **must call the opposing team to confirm time and place.**

Match results for the Summer Leagues will again be entered online, it is the responsibility of the Home Captain to enter the results at:

competitions.lta.org.uk

In order for players to be recognised by the system when results are entered, it is necessary for all team players who wish to play in all TCS leagues to join LTA Advantage Play+ (formerly known as British Tennis Member) before the start of the season.

Advantage Play+ is free for members of clubs that are registered to Tennis Scotland and affiliated to Tennis Central Scotland. Please encourage your team players to join the LTA Advantage Play+ as soon as possible.

You can find out more about membership and join online at the LTA website:

www.lta.org.uk/advantage

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Tennis Scotland and the LTA liaise with sportscotland to produce guidelines which detail what tennis activity is permitted in Scotland at each of the levels of restriction.

These guidelines are updated regularly and can be found **here** on the LTA website.

Physical distancing must be maintained before and after play at all times across all levels.

F: Regulations applicable to Junior League Competitions

1 Matches must be played on the exact dates fixed by the Committee and must commence at the times stated unless previously agreed by both clubs. If a Home Club chooses an alternative date or time they must do so for all home matches. The Secretary of any Club that adopts such a change must notify the Secretary of all Clubs in the Junior League and the League and Cup Secretary at least one week before commencement of leagues each year.

If, by reason of special causes such as bad weather, unplayable courts, it is found impossible to play a match on the date fixed aforesaid or if for similar reasons a match is discontinued before either side has won a majority of rubbers, the Home Club shall, within **48 hours** of that date, give the opposing Club a choice of **two** dates within the next **21 days**, one of which must be accepted within **48 hours**.

- 2 The home team will supply tennis balls. Match balls that have been used once will be acceptable.
- 3 The results of all matches should be recorded on the Official Score Sheets by the Home Club and signed by the Captains of both teams. The Captain

of the **winning team** should enter the results on the website **competitions.lta.org.uk** (if match drawn the Home Captain should do this).

Score Sheets should show the scheduled date in addition to the date played if altered. In the event of conceded matches, both clubs should notify the Secretary immediately. All Score Sheets must be returned after each match. Scoring system:

1 point shall be awarded to each club for fulfilling the fixture, therefore the team winning the majority of rubbers will be awarded **3 points** and in a drawn fixture each team will get **2 points**. If teams finish the league equal on points then firstly rubbers difference and, if that is equal, rubbers won will determine positions. Score sheets should include each player's British Tennis Membership number and current rating, if applicable.

- 4 Clubs must ensure that at least one responsible adult is in attendance at all Home Matches.
- 5 Each team shall consist of four players. These players should be ranked in order of LTA rating (if they have one).

F: Regulations applicable to Junior League Competitions

- 6 The first round shall consist of four singles matches each of two short sets to four, (first to four games with a margin of two) a tie-break (first to 7 points with a margin of 2) should be played at four games all. If a match is tied at one set each a championship tie-break (first to 10 points with a margin of 2) should be played to decide the winner. The order of play is as follows: **1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 3, 4 v 4**. The second round shall consist of two doubles matches each of one tie-break set of duration as follows: **1 and 2 v 1 and 2, 3 and 4 v 3 and 4**. Sudden death deuce should be played in all matches ie only one point to be played at deuce – the receivers choosing side.

Specific regulations for 12 and under Leagues

- 8 Players must be 12 years of age or under on **31 December 2021**.
- 9 All matches must be played on Saturday evenings commencing at 4.30pm unless previously played by mutual agreement of clubs concerned as outlined in *Paragraph F1*.

Specific regulations for 16 and under Leagues

- 12 Players must be 16 years of age or under on **31 December 2021**.
- 13 All matches must be played on Sunday evenings commencing at 4.00pm unless previously played by mutual agreement of clubs concerned as outlined in *Paragraph F1*.
- 14 Players may play in matches for more than one Club in the same season as long as they are fully paid up members of each Club. Any player representing more than one Club must play in a different age group for each Club.

Please note that players born after 2010 are permitted to play in these leagues.