

Coventry and District Lawn Tennis League

Name

1

The league shall be named the Coventry & District Lawn Tennis League

Membership

2

Membership of the League is open to all Tennis Clubs in Coventry and District, who are affiliated to the W.L.T.A., subject to the approval of the Committee.

Subscription Fee

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The Annual Subscription is £7.50 for each team entered in the League plus an annual fee to the results service MyDivision. The league subscription may be reviewed at any AGM, and the secretary shall advise clubs in advance of any change to the MyDivision fee.

Changes

4

The Annual Subscription must accompany the entry of teams for the next season and is not returnable if teams are withdrawn. Any clubs withdrawing a registered team or altering their match night after 1st January following the A.G.M. will be fined. The amount of the fine will be fixed by the committee and notified to the club not less than 14 days before the A.G.M.

AGM representation

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All Clubs not represented at the A.G.M. will be fined. The amount of the fine will be fixed by the Committee and notified to all Clubs not less than fourteen days before the A.G.M

Presidential Election

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The League shall elect a President at the Annual General Meeting.

Governance

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The League shall be governed by a Committee comprising a Chairman, General Secretary, Honary Treasurer and not more than eight ordinary members of the Committee, who shall be elected annually.

Committee Membership Nominations

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Election to the Committee shall be by Nomination Form and Ballot. Each Club may submit nominations for the Presidential and ex-officio positions and for one Committee vacancy.

Notification of Nominations

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The General Secretary shall send approved Nomination Forms to all Clubs not less than six weeks before the Annual General Meeting, which must be returned to the General Secretary within fourteen days of receipt. The General Secretary shall send a full list of nominations to all Clubs not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

Attendance and voting rights

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Any member of the League Clubs may attend the Annual General Meeting and contribute to discussion, but each Club shall have one vote only for each team entered in the League in the previous season, with the exception that in voting on any matter which, based on the Committee's decision, relates solely to the Men's Divisions, each Club shall have one vote for each Men's Team entered in the League in the previous season, or relates solely to the Ladies Divisions, each Club shall have one vote for each Ladies Team entered in the League in the previous season.

League Structure

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The League shall consist of one or more divisions playing men's doubles and one or more divisions playing ladies doubles. The divisions will consist of not more than eight teams. Each team will play all the other teams in the same division twice during the season. At the conclusion of each season, the top two teams in each division will be promoted to the next higher division and the bottom two teams in each division will be relegated to the next lower division. Notwithstanding the foregoing, promotion shall not take place if it would result in more than two teams from any one club playing in the top division of the ladies or men's leagues. In that situation, the third placed team will be promoted to the top division. In the event of the withdrawal of a team after the commencement of the season, a Club which has more than one team in the League must withdraw the lowest placed team, with the fixtures of any higher placed team being completed by the available and registered players of that Club.

Fixtures

12

The Committee shall arrange all fixtures, the Secretary shall send a fixture list to each Club not later than 1st April.

Fixture Play Rules and Substitutions

** 13 Amended for 2015 Season.*

All matches must be played at the Ground Location shown in the League Fixture Book (unless mutually agreed otherwise), on the date fixed, the only reason acceptable for postponement being the unfit condition of the courts. Both teams must turn up unless they have been advised that conditions will not allow play. The Home Captain shall decide upon the fitness for play, and if the match is abandoned or postponed, the Home Club must notify the Results Secretary within 3 days, giving reasons. In the case of abandoned matches, close of play scores must be submitted at the same time. Unfinished matches shall be continued from the point of interruption. Postponed or abandoned matches must be played or continued on the original ground within fourteen days of the original date. It is the responsibility of the home team Captain to offer two dates for the match to be completed within the 14 day period. The dates offered must not clash with scheduled Coventry & District league fixtures of the away team and not include the break week for rearrangement. Within THREE days of the original match date, the results secretary must be advised of the postponement of the match and the likely options for a new date. In exceptional circumstances, by agreement between the two Captains and with the consent of the Results Secretary, one substitute player can be fielded by either or both teams in order to permit completion of unfinished matches within the fourteen day rule. Any rubber in which the substitute players take part must be commenced from scratch. A substitute player shall not be allowed in the event of illness or injury preventing a player completing a match on the fixed date and the rubber or rubbers involved shall be forfeited. Any team which fails to fulfil a fixture shown in the Handbook for any reason other than provided for in Rule 13, shall be liable at the discretion of the Committee to have its record expunged and to be expelled from the League. The Committee's ruling shall be final.

Teams, Format & Scoring

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Each team shall consist of two pairs and both pairs will play each opposing pair. Each match is worth four points, one point is awarded for each rubber won. The Wimbledon tie-break system shall be used at six games all in the first two sets. The tie-break is started by the player whose turn it is to serve and he or she serves the first point only. Thereafter each player serves two points in sequence. The tie-break is won by the first pair to score seven points with a 2 point advantage i.e. 7-5, 8-6, 9-7, etc. The third set shall comprise a Championship tie-break which will be won by the first pair to score ten points with a 2 point advantage, i.e. 10-8, 11-9, 12-10, etc. When Clubs have an equal number of points, the positions in the League Table shall be determined by the percentage of sets won, and if still level, by the percentage of games won. The Championship tie-break shall count as one set, and also as one game.

Courts

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The Home Club shall provide two outdoor courts for each match. The choice of courts shall be made by the Home Captain. The Committee stipulates that a change of surface during a match must be made by mutual consent of both captains. The match must continue under floodlights if they are available.

Balls

16

The Home Club shall provide eight new balls, authorised by the LTA, and from a manufacturer nominated by the League Committee, for each match.

Player registrations

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No player may play for more than one club in any one season. Only the following players shall be qualified to represent that club in matches: a) Members elected in accordance with the rules of the club at an annual subscription entitling them to the usual playing privileges; b) Full time coaches at the club; c) Life members of the club. Each player must be registered on-line on MyDivision by his or her club not less than 14 days before playing in a league match. No registrations may be made after 30th June in any one season. The committee shall have the power to refuse to accept any registration.

Play Eligibility

18

Any player having played in more than three matches in higher divisions shall not be permitted to play in a lower division during the same season. When a Club has more than one team in the same division, no player may play more than three times for a higher ranking team and then a lower ranking team, but a member of a lower ranking team may play for a higher ranking team, irrespective of the number of times he has played for the lower ranking team. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any player having played in more than two matches in a higher division shall not be permitted to play in a division consisting of fewer than seven teams in the same season.

Ineligible Players

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Clubs playing ineligible players shall forfeit the rubbers (this includes sets and games) in which ineligible players play, but their opponents shall only be entitled to the rubbers they have won plus any rubbers lost against an ineligible player. Explanation: Ineligible players need to understand that their results will be entered as 0-6, 0-6 and 0-6, 0-6. The aim is to make teams fully aware of the impact on their own clubs and the unfair distortion of the league

should they field someone who is not allowed to play.

Timing & Timeliness

** 20 Amended for 2013 season*

All matches shall commence not later than 18.30 (unless mutually agreed otherwise). Opponents may claim 1 set against a pair not ready to play at 18.30 and a whole rubber where that pair is not ready by 19.00. Any set not played shall be recorded 6-0. Where any part of the rubber is contested on court the actual score shall be recorded. Penalties will be imposed on any team which fails to field four players. These are as follows: IN ADDITION to the rubbers conceded, ONE POINT will be deducted for EACH PAIR which fails to turn up.

Retirement

21

Any rubber not completed because of retirement shall be forfeited.

Scorecards

** 22 Amended for 2015 season*

Results may be entered by either the home or away team. The other team must confirm the result. This entire process must be completed within three days of the fixture. Scorecards must be provided by the home team and retained by the home captain until the final table is drawn up in case of dispute. Failure to submit/confirm a result within the prescribed time will result in forfeiture of the rubbers, sets and points by the offending team. The match card must be retained by the home captain until the final table is drawn up in case there should be a dispute. The Results Secretary must also be advised within THREE days of the date of the match of any uncompleted rubbers and the arrangements made for completion of the match. The uncompleted match as it stands must be entered on the MyDivision by the home captain.

Season End

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All League fixtures shall be completed by 31st August each year.

Disputes

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All disputes shall, (not later than fourteen days after the match in which the problem arises) be referred to the General Secretary or the appropriate Results Secretary, in writing, who shall bring them before the Committee for discussion. Officials and players of Clubs may be called to appear before the Committee in cases of dispute.

Change of Secretary

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Any Club changing its Secretary shall inform the General Secretary immediately.

Court Inspection

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All Match courts are subject to inspection by the League Committee and all grounds are to be open to League Officials while matches are in progress. All Match courts must be clearly marked and free from any dangerous objects. The nets must be undamaged and a net band must be provided on each court. The League Committee has the right to inspect the courts of any Club which applies to join the League before admitting that Club to membership.

Miscellaneous fines

27

The Committee shall have the power to impose a fine on any Club violating these rules, and/or to award the points for any match involved against the offending Club, and/or to declare such a match void. In addition, the Committee shall impose a fine of £5 (Five Pounds) on any Club failing to return any of the League trophies by the date shown in the Rules and Fixtures Handbook.

Rule Changes

28

Any proposed alteration to the Rules must reach the General Secretary in writing not less than twenty-one days before the Annual General Meeting. The General Secretary will then advise Club Secretaries of the proposals not less than fourteen days before the A.G.M. Following the circulation of the proposals, any amendments to the proposals should reach the General Secretary no later than seven days before the A.G.M. who will circulate them to all Clubs immediately. Any proposed alteration or addition to the Rules shall be passed at the A.G.M. if the proposal is approved by more than fifty percent of the total number of votes cast on the proposal.

Authority

29

Any matter arising not provided for in the Rules shall be dealt with by the Committee.