

# Regulations For The Inter-Club Lawn Tennis Competitions



1. The Competition shall be: Men's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles.
2. The Competition shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to the Association, or to an adjacent Association, subject to that Association's approval, and shall be played annually during the Summer Season, on any LTA approved surface, in accordance with the following Regulations and within the Laws and Regulations of Lawn Tennis for the time being sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, so far as they are applicable. The President and Honorary Treasurer of the Oxfordshire Lawn Tennis Association shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owners of any cups or trophies attached to the Competition, in trust for the Association.

## MANAGEMENT

3. The Management of the Competition shall be entrusted to the General Committee of the Association who may delegate this responsibility to a sub-Committee appointed for that purpose. All questions of eligibility, qualification of players and Clubs, interpretations of the Regulations and otherwise, in relation to the Competition, shall be decided by the sub-Committee, or in the event of dispute referred to the Committee whose decision shall be final. No changes to the regulations shall be made without the consent of the Committee.

## NOTICE OF ENTRY

4. A Club desirous of competing in any Competition shall give notice of its desire, in writing, to the Honorary Competitions Secretary of the Association not later than November 1st. Such notice shall be accompanied by an entrance fee to be decided by the Committee annually, per team, per Competition for which entries are rendered.

## LEAGUE GROUPS

5. (a) Each League Competition shall be divided by the Committee into Groups and the Committee shall determine the Group into which each Club shall be placed.  
(b) For the Competitions in the following year, the Committee will where possible, re-arrange the Clubs, in each Group in such a manner that Clubs which were respectively first and second in the previous year shall be placed in the Group immediately above the one in which they last competed, and the Clubs which were respectively last and last but one shall be placed in the Group immediately below the one in which they last competed.  
(c) The Promotion and Relegation procedure shall apply only so long as the Committee is satisfied that correct interpretations of the Regulations hereafter have been applied to all matters.  
(d) The Committee may re-arrange each year the number of Clubs in all Groups in such manner as it may deem necessary.  
(e) If any Club, which was not previously entered for any Competition or which having previously entered has dropped out of such Competition shall give notice of its desire to compete, it shall be placed in the lowest Group, unless the Committee shall decide otherwise.

## QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

6. A Player shall be qualified to represent a Club if he/she shall be a full playing member of the Club and if his/her subscription for the current year has been fully paid. No Player may represent more than one Club in any Competition in the same season unless their membership has ceased with the previous club, then an appeal to the Committee may be made. See Rule 28.  
Any Player whose subscription to a previous Club is unpaid shall render him/herself ineligible to play in any competition under the jurisdiction of the Oxfordshire Lawn Tennis Association.
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## CONCERNING THE FIXTURES

7. The Committee shall, immediately after the date fixed for receiving entries:
  - (a) Determine the Group into which each Club shall be placed in accordance with Regulation 5.
  - (b) Make the arrangements for and fix the dates on which the matches in all Competitions are to be played.
8. The Competition Secretary for the Association shall give notice to the Match Secretaries of the Clubs from whom entries have been received by him/her, of the Group into which each Club has been placed; and furnish a list of the relevant fixtures; and the dates on which all matches must be played. Dates of matches may be altered at the Fixtures meeting, organised by the Competition Secretary and all revised dates must be notified to the Competitions Secretary within **seven days** of the meeting.  
All Clubs **must** be represented at all Fixture meetings and if a Match Secretary is unable to attend it is the responsibility of the Match Secretary to arrange a replacement representative.
9. **Home Clubs must confirm the fixtures with the Visiting Clubs at least 3 days prior to the match.**
10. The League fixtures shall take precedence over Club activities, but are second only to National, County or National Club League (Regional only), and **only when such fixture dates are unknown by 31st March, or officially re-arranged by the organising body.**  
The absence of one player does not constitute a valid reason for changing a League fixture. Any change of fixture other than for the unfit state of the courts, or the weather, must first be authorised by the League Committee (see Regulation 16).

## BALLS

11. New balls, manufactured in the year of the Competition, shall be used for each match, the cost of same to be defrayed by the home club. Not less than four new balls shall be provided for each match court.

## DRESS

12. Players' dress must be **REGULATION TENNIS ATTIRE.**

## NOTICE OF RESULTS

13. The Match Secretary of both Clubs taking part in a match shall be **ULTIMATELY** responsible for notice, **preferably on-line**, of the result of such match, with **full names** of players in **capital letters**, with the full score of all rubbers and games won or lost, **within 24 hours** of the conclusion of such match. A copy should be retained by both captains.
14. **The Committee shall be under NO obligation to take official cognisance of the result of any match, notice of which has not been submitted to the Competitions Secretary of the Association in accordance with Regulation 13.**

## MATCHES NOT STARTED OR FINISHED

15. If a match, in any Competition, arranged to be played on any date fixed by the Committee, cannot take place or be finished on account of the state of the courts or the weather, such match shall be replayed on a date to be mutually agreed, but prior to 30th September, or if no date can be mutually agreed and notified to the Competitions Secretary within **7 days**, the matter shall be referred to the Committee who shall fix the date for the replay; **unless** in such an unfinished match one team has won sufficient rubbers to win the match, in which case the Committee shall be authorised to accept that result. If a match be postponed owing to the weather the **HOME** Club is responsible for notifying the Competition Secretary of the Association by **email** or **on the reverse of the match card provided** of the postponement **within 24 hours.** **BOTH** clubs to notify the
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21. The time of commencement of play in all Competitions shall be Saturday/Sunday with **players on court and ready to play** at 1.30 p.m. If an alternative time is mutually agreed, **players must be on court and ready to play** at that time.
- 22a. Divisions 1 - 4 ALL competitions. Teams competing in Divisions 1-4 MUST play the best of 3 sets in both rubbers. The tie-break will operate at 6 games all in every set.
- 22b. Division 5+ ALL competitions. The first rubber will consist of 2 tie-break sets. In all matches the last round of rubbers shall be the best of three sets with the tie-break at 6 games all. Provided that both captains agree, a tie-break may be played instead of a 3rd set.
23. If any player(s) be absent when called upon to play, the opponents shall be entitled to **one love set for every half hour, or part thereof, of lateness** in each event in which such player(s) should have competed, unless the League Competition Committee in its absolute discretion shall decide otherwise.
24. Should a Club concede a walkover to another Club in any match, the latter Club shall receive 2 points, 4 rubbers to 0, 8 sets to 0 and 48 games to 0.
25. In any match the team which wins the majority of rubbers shall be declared the winner of the match. Should the rubber score be equal the match shall be declared a draw.
26. Each Club shall play one match against each Club in the same Group or each Club shall play two matches against the other Clubs in the Division where there is a 'home and away' format specified. Two points shall be scored for each match won and one point for each match drawn. In the event of a tie on points the percentage of rubbers won will decide the winners of the Group. If still equal, the percentage of sets won then games won shall decide. If two teams are still equal then a play-off will decide. No player who has not represented the Club during the season in a league match may represent the Club in a play-off without special permission from the League Competition Committee.

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SCRATCH

27. Any Club intending to scratch shall give information of its intention to do so to the Secretary or Match Secretary of the opposing team not later than 3 clear days before the date agreed upon for playing, and in default of so doing shall be reported to the League Competition Committee, who shall have power to take such actions as they may deem expedient.

## APPEALS

28. Any dispute between Clubs in any competition organised by the County Association, which cannot be resolved by the Organising Committee, shall be referred to the General Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all Clubs concerned. A member of the General Committee who is also a member of any Club concerned in an appeal shall not be present during the consideration of such an appeal. An Appeal must be lodged **within 28 days** on receipt of any decisions taken by the Organising Committee.

## BEHAVIOUR

29. The Committee shall consider all formal complaints of behaviour received in writing and will penalise any misdemeanour on its merits.

*(Revised Feb 2009)*

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