



SHROPSHIRE TENNIS LEAGUE REGULATIONS MARCH 2018

1. ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

1.1 The objectives of the Shropshire Tennis League are as follows:

- (a) to provide a structure for regular tennis matches between member clubs;
- (b) to operate within the rules and spirit of the Shropshire Lawn Tennis Association and the LTA;
- (c) to be, as far as possible, self-financing within the Association.

LEAGUE CONTACTS

Honorary League Secretary

Carlton Adams
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1.2 Club Contacts

Teams shall be responsible for providing up to date contact details including phone numbers and e-mail addresses via the Results Manager software, and for notifying relevant other teams of any changes to these, including temporary alternatives, in good time before match dates. The onus shall be on teams to demonstrate that they have done this.

1.3 Entry Fees

The entry fee per team will be such sum as agreed at the A.G.M. preceding the relevant season. Entry fees must be paid in full by BACS, cash or cheque. Collection of fees will take place at the fixtures meeting for each league and any team that has not paid before the start of the season may be liable to disqualification from the league in question.

2. CLUB ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Summer and Autumn League competitions shall be open to all Shropshire clubs with a minimum of 2 courts available for play. All clubs must be registered as a Shropshire LTA Place to Play Venue.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY- NOMINATIONS

3.1 All players playing in League competitions must have a valid British Tennis Membership number. Only Bona-fide members shall be allowed to play for a club provided they have not played for another club in the Shropshire League that season. Any team fielding a player who is not a member of that club will forfeit any points won to the opposing team. Any player who plays for a second club in the same season will forfeit any points won to the opposing team whilst playing for that second club.

3.2 Clubs having more than one team in the competition are to adhere to the following:

(a) Before the club's first match, four players must be nominated to the League Secretary for each team except the lowest ranked team, e.g. a club with three teams must nominate four players for the highest ranked team and four other players for the second ranked team. Clubs failing to comply with this requirement will automatically be regarded as fielding their nominated players in the first match played by each team.

(b) To maintain the integrity of the divisional structure of the league by ability levels, clubs shall select their teams appropriately from players that are eligible. Wherever possible the best players must be nominated to play for the higher or highest ranked team, i.e. the team playing in the higher or highest division.

(c) If a nominated player plays for a lower ranked team then any rubbers that involve the nominated player will be automatically awarded to the opposing team 6-0.6-0.

(d) Any player who is not nominated will automatically become nominated for a team if he or she plays 2 matches for that team. Having played these 2 matches the player can then no longer play for a lower ranked team and if they do play again for a lower team then any rubbers played in will be awarded to the opposing team 6-0, 6-0. **In summary a player is only allowed to play up once before being lost to a lower ranked team. Please note playing twice for different higher ranked teams also rules out the player from returning to the lowest rank team.**

(e) If nominated players have played for a team and that team is subsequently withdrawn, then none of those nominated for that team, or so qualified will be eligible to play for a lower ranked team.

(f) In exceptional circumstances a nomination may be changed providing a player has only played one game and a written request is sent to the league secretary at least 4 days prior to a match being played. A replacement nomination must be sent in Lieu

3. ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES

3.1 The Leagues will be divided into Groups of between 5 and 10 teams ; Groups shall be numbered Premier, 1,2,3 and from 4 divided regionally North and South group 4N,4S,5N,5S, etc. Each team will play one match against each other team in their group. Groups with 5 teams or less will play on a home and away basis. The Summer League will have a Premier League above Group 1.

3.2 Clubs may enter any number of teams in the men's and ladies' summer competitions and the autumn mixed doubles competition. Clubs must submit an entry form to the League secretary detailing the number of teams they would like to enter, via email as follows:

- (a) Summer League – by 15th February
- (b) Autumn League – by 1st July

3.3 **Summer League** matches shall be played between 1st April and 31st August inclusive. Matches or rubbers played before or after these dates will be inadmissible for League results purposes. The Hon. League Secretary Tennis Shropshire shall call a meeting of the league club representatives on or before 14th March in each year, to arrange fixtures for the ensuing season. Clubs will be allowed to change the date of a fixture up to 14 days after the league fixture meeting. Thereafter postponement of a fixture can only take place as defined in rule 5. Clubs failing to send a representative for each team to the fixtures meeting will be disqualified from the league and relegated to the lowest league on their return to the league.

3.2 **Autumn League** matches shall be played between 1st September and the 30th November inclusive. . Matches or rubbers played before or after these dates will be inadmissible for League results purposes. The Hon. League Secretary Tennis Shropshire shall call a meeting of the league club representatives on or before 14th July in each year, to arrange fixtures for the ensuing season. Clubs will be allowed to change the date of a fixture up to 14 days after the league fixture meeting. Thereafter postponement of a fixture can only take place as defined in rule 5. Clubs failing to send a representative for each team to the fixtures meeting will be disqualified from the league and relegated to the lowest league on their return to the league.

3.3 If a club has more than one team in the same Division, their matches against each other shall be completed prior to any other matches being played. If this match is to be rescheduled due to weather or for whatever reason then the league secretary is to be informed immediately and a new date set for as soon as possible. If the match is rescheduled without notifying the league secretary or not played as the first match then a 1 point penalty per team will be enforced.

3.4 Any necessary (and permissible) change of match date must, once agreed between teams, be recorded by the home captain on the online tournament planner.

4. MATCH PLAY

4.1 For each match the Home team is to provide four new ITF-approved balls for each court.

4.2 All matches should start at no later than 6.30pm. Any team running late for legitimate reasons must inform the opposing team and when possible agree a revised start time. If a team or pair is not ready to start within 30 minutes of 6.30pm, or the revised time agreed between clubs, the team or the pair shall concede the first rubber/s to their opponents by a score of 0-6, 0-6. If the team or pair is not ready to start within 60 minutes of 6.30pm, or the time agreed between clubs, the second rubber/s will be conceded to their opponents by a score of 0-6, 0-6. If the delay is for a legitimate reason and both captains agree to a reschedule then the league secretary is to be informed as per rule 5.

4.3 In the summer leagues each team is to consist of two pairs, each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team i.e. four rubbers in total. In the Autumn League, each team shall consist of two ladies and two men playing in two mixed pairs against each of the opposing pairs. The visiting team will play both rubbers on the same court/surface.

4.4 If a team is unable to field four players for a match, it is permissible for two players to constitute that team. The team shall concede two rubbers to their opponents by a score of 0-6, 0-6.

4.5 In the Summer and Autumn Leagues, all rubbers shall be decided by the best of three sets consisting of two tie-break sets and, if necessary, a Deciding 10 point Tie-Break.

4.7 If floodlights are available they must be used to complete matches should normal daylight not be acceptable to either team. Where floodlights have to be switched off before a certain time, then the home team must inform the opposition before commencement of the match. In this case a time that is five minutes before lights out should be established as the match finish time.

4.8 If, due to illness or injury, a player is unable to continue after a maximum of 15 minutes has elapsed, uncompleted games in the rubber being played shall be forfeited. Should the player not recover in time to play the second rubber, it shall be forfeited 0-6, 0-6.

4.9 Cancellation of matches and the conceding of points to the opposition is NOT allowed except where specifically set out elsewhere in the rules.

Scoring

4.10 In the Summer League the winner of each rubber shall score one point, and each completed match will produce a points score of 4-0, 3-1, 2-2, 1-3 or 0-4.

4.11 In the Autumn League the winner of each rubber shall score one point, and each completed match will produce a points score of 4-0, 3-1, 2-2, 1-3 or 0-4.

Disputes

4.12 Where there is a dispute regarding the safety of the court, bad light or weather conditions, then common sense must prevail and the captains must both agree on a decision about the match being cancelled or rescheduled.

4.13 Full details of any dispute not settled to the satisfaction of both teams must be submitted in writing by the teams concerned to the Honorary League Secretary who will adjudicate.

5. POSTPONED/UNFINISHED MATCHES

Postponement

5.1 Postponement for any reason must be notified to and acknowledged by a member of, or nominated contact person for, the opposing team. If contact is not acknowledged within reasonable time of doing this the League Secretary shall be notified. It shall be sufficient for a team to demonstrate that they have made every effort to make timely communication with the opposing team.

5.2 All postponements other than for weather or unfit courts are to be notified to the League Secretary by email.

5.3 Postponed matches must be re-arranged as soon as possible, the home team offering at least three dates in

three separate weeks, unless too near 31st August for the Summer League and 30th November for the Autumn League. If no date can be agreed then the League Secretary will impose one.

5.4 Any team that postpones a fixture (including re-arranged matches) for any reason other than bad weather, unfit courts, or other circumstances outside the control of the team and not reasonably foreseeable or remediable, will have four points deducted and will also lose the match 0-2. The opposing team will be awarded 2pts for a victory, and the recorded score will be 8 sets to love and 48 games to love.

Unfinished Matches

5.6 where matches are unfinished due to weather or bad light, but not injury, they must be re-arranged for completion as soon as possible. If 2 rubbers have been played then the score can be calculated from the finished rubbers but will only total a maximum of 2 points instead of 4 for a completed match. Any unfinished rubber scores are to be entered and will count towards a team's annual total of rubbers, sets and games won.

6. MATCH RESULTS AND LEAGUE TABLES

6.1 The Home team shall complete a Match Sheet which must be signed by both captains and kept until the final League tables have been published at the end of the season. The Home team shall enter the results on the LTA website within one week of the match being played. The Away team shall check the match score entered and, in the event of any disagreement, shall contact the Home team captain in the first instance. Any dispute that cannot be resolved shall be referred to the League Secretary. Clubs must follow the procedure at Appendix 1 for entering/checking results online.

6.3 The latest date for entering and checking results, including resolving disagreements, is 7th September for the Summer League and 7th December for the Autumn League. Any result entered after 10p.m. on these dates will be invalid.

6.4 At the conclusion of each annual competition, the team scoring the highest number of points in each division will be the winner. If two or more teams in any one division score an equal number of points, the order of precedence shall be determined on the basis of

- a) The number of matches won
- b) Percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played
- c) Percentage of sets won.
- d) Percentage of games won.
- e) Head to head score between teams

Promotion and Relegation.

6.5 Men's Summer League,

Premier League no promotion 1 team relegated. Group 1, 1 team promoted 2 teams relegated. Group 2, 2 teams promoted 3 teams relegated. Group 3, 3 teams promoted 4 teams Relegated. Group 4N/S 2 teams promoted 3 relegated. Groups 5N/S and below 3 teams promoted 3 relegated.

6.6 Ladies Summer League,

Premier League no promotion 1 team relegated. Group 1, 1 team promoted 2 teams relegated. Group 2, 2 teams promoted 3 teams relegated. Group 3, 3 teams promoted 4 teams Relegated. Group 4N/S 2 teams promoted 3 relegated. Groups 5N/S and below 3 teams promoted 3 relegated.

6.7 Autumn League, Group 1 no promotion 2 teams relegated. Group 2 teams promoted 2 teams relegated. Group 3 2 teams promoted 4 teams relegated. Group 4N/S and below 2 teams promoted and 2 teams relegated.

6.8 In the event of a club or team withdrawing, the vacancy created shall be filled the following season by teams in the lower Divisions each advancing one position.

APPENDIX - ONLINE REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

Each club will be issued with one login name and one password. Do not try to change the password. Clubs should nominate one or more individuals to be responsible for inputting/checking results as follows:

The HOME TEAM is to provide a results sheet, retain the signed original until the end of the season, and submit the scores online.

The AWAY TEAM is to confirm the online results, resolve any anomalies and report difficulties in doing so.

To find the League Planner start here:

www.lta.org.uk/In-Your-Area/Shropshire/competitions/leagues/

ACTIONS FOR HOME TEAM

A. On the match day complete and sign the result sheet. Retain the sheet as per the Rules.

Blank sheets are at: <http://www.tennisshropshire.co.uk/results-and-leagues/>

B. Submit the result online within one week as follows:

1. Go to the League Planner online; enter your club's Login name and Password and click 'Login'.
2. Click in turn on the 'Clubs' tab, on your club name, on the match (on either team name), then on 'Modify'.
3. a. For COMPLETED matches click 'Enter rubber results'.
b. For entering the interim score of an incomplete match use 'Not Played Match Abandoned'.
4. Enter the results of the rubbers by selecting the correct players for each team from the drop down boxes, picking the winner of the rubber and entering the score. The 'Check form' screen allows you to check your entry; any mistakes will show in red. If you have made an error, click 'Modify' to go back. Finally click 'save'

Tips: Home team scores are entered first (e.g. 2-6, 4-6 is an away win).

If there is a set tie-break, simply record the games scores (e.g. 7-6, 6-4).

Deciding rubber tie-breaks are scored: 0-1 or 1-0 sets, 0-1 or 1-0 games.

The 'clear fields' option allows you to remove all rubber entries and start again.

For help with entering results online please contact the **League Secretary Carlton Adams at tennisshropshireresults@gmail.com Mobile 07974 406887**

ACTIONS FOR THE AWAY TEAM

A. On the match day sign the result sheet and make a copy of the scores.

B. Check that the result has been entered correctly, within 2 weeks of the match date, as follows:

1. Go to the League Planner online; click in turn on the 'Clubs' tab, on your club name, and on the match to be checked (click on either team name).
2. a. For INCOMPLETE matches simply check the details.
b. For COMPLETED matches log in, check the details, and if correct click 'Confirm results'.
3. If you disagree with the score attempt to resolve this with the home team. If this is not possible, e-mail details to the Results Manager without delay, copying your message to the home team; in the 'subject' box state the league division, match date and the 2 teams concerned.

N.B. 1. When logged in, clubs may record brief comments against any match. As there is only one log-in code per club, the author should add his/her name. If an answer is required e-mail the **League Secretary Carlton Adams at tennisshropshireresults@gmail.com 07974 406887**