

TENNIS AYRSHIRE

RULES OF INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

Last updated at TA EGM on 20 November 2008

Qualification

1. The leagues and competitions shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Tennis Ayrshire for the current season.
2. A club wishing to compete shall give notice in writing to the Hon. League Secretary on or before the entry date notified to clubs.
3. The qualification to play for a Club shall be full paying membership of such Club. No individual Member shall be allowed to play for more than one competing club in the Tennis Ayrshire leagues (senior, junior or masters) during the same season, but the composition of each representative team may be changed from time to time. This rule does not apply to the National Club League.

Arbitration

4. All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision shall be final.
5. Any Club, which in playing any match in these Competitions, infringes Rules number 3 or 23 shall forfeit to their opponents all points, rubbers, sets and games in respect of that match.
6. Any Club whose team fails to appear on the courts at the time previously arranged, provided that the match has not been previously cancelled, shall be reported to the Committee who shall have power to take such action as they may deem expedient.
7. Any dispute arising in these Competitions must be referred within 4 days of the match to the Competition Secretary for arbitration by the Emergency Committee. The decision of the Emergency Committee shall be final and binding and may range from a warning with a forfeiture to a ban, subject to the right of appeal to Tennis Scotland. Should a Club involved in any such dispute have a member on the Emergency Committee, this member shall not be eligible to consider the dispute.
8. The Committee shall have power to alter or add to these rules, as they may from time to time deem expedient.

Arrangement of Fixtures

Postponements and Cancellations

9. The Club whose home match it is shall provide three approved balls per court and hospitality, but if the match is played on neutral ground such expenses shall be borne by the club whose home match it should be unless otherwise arranged.
10. All matches must be played on the date fixed unless the weather renders play impossible. In exceptional cases, however, application may be made to Tennis Ayrshire to have the date altered. Such application must be in writing and addressed to the Hon. League Secretary and must state the grounds for the desired change. The Hon. League Secretary, before coming to a decision, shall consult the Emergency Committee appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
11. In the case of inclement weather, the Match Secretary of the home team shall contact the Match Secretary of the visiting team at least one hour (consideration must be given to visitors travel time) before the match is due to start and arrange either to postpone or play the match. Failing such arrangement, the teams must appear on the courts.
12. In the case of matches postponed on account of weather, such matches shall be played as soon as possible thereafter. In the event of the Clubs concerned not mutually agreeing upon another date, the Match Secretary of the home Club must send notification of this fact to the Hon. League Secretary, when a date will be fixed by the Emergency Committee. The final fixture of the season must be played no later than 1st September.
13. Should the match not be completed due to bad light or inclement weather, the match shall be continued from the point at which it was stopped, on the same courts and by the same players as soon thereafter as possible. If it is impossible for all the same players to play on the continuation, up to two substitutes shall be allowed in the same position as the players for whom they are substituting so that the team plays in the same order as the original selection. This rule only operates in the absence of mutual agreement between the clubs, i.e. they may agree to replay the whole match in which case different teams may be selected.
14. Any Club intending to scratch shall give notice of their intention to do so to the Match Secretary of the opposing Club at least 3 hours before the match is due to start and to the Hon. League Secretary of Tennis Ayrshire before the time agreed upon for playing – the Club scratching to forfeit to their opponents all points, rubbers, sets and games in respect of that match.

15. Where a Club withdraws a team from a League, it shall be the duty of that Club to inform all other teams in the same Division of such withdrawal and also to inform the Hon League Secretary.

Rules of Play

16. All ties shall be played under the Tournament Rules of the LTA and Code of Conduct, so far as these are applicable and not inconsistent with these rules.
17. Teams and pairs within teams shall be played in order of playing strength and captains shall provide written copies of their teams in order of pairing prior to going on court – the Match Result Card may be used for this purpose.
18. If a player is 20 minutes late, the partnership shall concede the first set of their rubber, if 40 minutes late, the first two sets shall be conceded; if one hour late, the entire rubber shall be conceded.
19. The Match Secretaries of both Clubs shall send notice of the result in writing together with the names of players in both teams, to the Hon League Secretary within 7 days of the match being played.

MENS AND LADIES INTER CLUB LEAGUES

20. Matches must start by 7pm unless clubs mutually agree otherwise.
21. Teams shall consist of 6 ladies or 6 men and each pair shall play 3 sets against the opposing corresponding pair. Teams unable to field 6 players may field 4 players, conceding the 3rd rubber 3 sets to nil to their opponents.
22. Four 1st team players should be nominated to the Hon League Secretary before any matches are played. These players will be eligible only to play for the first team during that season. Clubs failing to nominate 4 players will automatically be regarded as fielding their nominated players in the first two couples of the first match for each team.
23. A player having played 3 times for higher-ranking team/teams may not then represent a lower team. Players are able to play for a higher ranked team at any time.
24. Unless inclement weather intervenes, the club who fails to field a higher team shall render all the results of their lower teams on that night null and void and forfeit all points to the opposing teams.
25. The rubber shall be three tiebreak sets. If both captains agree, before the start of the match, when bad light/weather conditions might otherwise prevent the match being finished, the third set may be played as a match tiebreak, first to ten points (two clear points). This scores as 1 game and 1 set on the result scorecard.
26. Only two teams may represent one club in the same division. The league secretary may at his/her discretion invite a club/clubs to enter extra teams.
27. The scores for the Championship of each League shall be determined by wins or draws, to be computed as follows: two points for a win and one for a draw. In the event of a Club winning the majority of rubbers but the minority of sets, the result of such a match shall be a draw. In deciding the championship, should the points be equal, the majority of rubbers shall decide; should the points and rubbers be equal, the majority of sets shall decide. Should the points, rubbers and sets be equal, the games average shall decide. In the event of these being equal, the Clubs shall play off for the Championship.
28. At the end of the Competition, the Club scoring the highest number of points shall be declared The Champion Club of its League.

MIXED DOUBLES

The general league rules operate wherever applicable or where not superseded by the following:

29. The draw shall be made at the spring committee meeting of Tennis Ayrshire.
30. The competition shall be played throughout on the knock-out system.
31. Matches shall start at 6.30pm unless clubs mutually agreed otherwise.

32. Each team shall consist of four Mixed Couples who will play against the opposing corresponding pair.
33. Matches must be completed on the dates fixed by the committee. If bad weather causes postponement, matches must be played before the date of the next round.
34. Matches shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets. If both captains agree, before the start of the match, should a match be 1 set all, the third set may be played as a match tiebreak, first to ten points (two clear points).
35. A player whose team has been knocked out of the competition may play for a higher ranked team. At no time may a player who has played for a higher team play for a lower team.
36. The match shall be decided by a majority of rubbers, then sets, then games. In the event of a tie, the match shall be replayed on the visiting team's courts before the date of the next round.
37. A referee will be provided if requested.
38. The results together with the names of players in both teams shall be notified to the Tournament Secretary within three days of the match.

MASTERS LEAGUES

The general league rules operate wherever applicable or where not superseded by the following:

39. Matches shall start at 2pm unless clubs mutually agreed otherwise.
40. Participating ladies should reach the age of 40 by 31st December in the year of the competition; men should reach the age of 45 by that date.
41. A maximum number of 2 teams per club may enter the masters' leagues.
42. Teams shall consist of 2 mixed couples played in order of strength.
43. Each couple will play 3 short sets (first to 6 games) against the opposing corresponding pair.
44. Scoring is 1 point for each set won and 1 point for each tie won, giving a total of 8 points available for each match.

JUNIOR LEAGUES

The general league rules operate wherever applicable or where not superseded by the following

45. Matches shall start at 5.30pm unless clubs mutually agree otherwise. The under 12s will play on a Saturday and under 15s on a Sunday.
46. A club may enter a maximum number of 2 teams per age group per division in the junior leagues, except in the last league where a greater number of teams may be entered.
47. Players are eligible if they have not attained the age of 15 years by 31st December of the previous year for the under 15 leagues and 12 years by 31st December of the previous year for the under 12 leagues.
48. Boys' teams shall consist of 4 players. Girls' teams shall consist of 2 players.
49. Matches shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles (boys) and 2 singles and 1 doubles (girls).
50. Each match shall be the best of 3 sets. The first 2 sets will be decided by the first side to reach 4 games, except if the score becomes 3 games all, one side must be 2 games ahead to win the set. If the score becomes 4 games all, a tiebreak (1st to 7 points) shall be played to decide who wins the set.
51. If a 3rd set is played it shall be a match tiebreak set (1st to 10 points).
52. If a player is 20 minutes late, the player shall concede the first set of his/her rubber, if 30 minutes late, the entire rubber shall be conceded.
53. A player having played 2 times for a higher-ranking team may not then represent a lower team. A player may play in a higher ranked team at any time.
54. The scoring for the junior leagues is as rule number 27.