

## CHIPPENHAM AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE RULES

1. The League shall be called the Chippenham and District Tennis League preceded by the name of the sponsor(s) if applicable.
2. The object of the League is to encourage and promote the game of tennis through the organisation of Matches between Member Clubs.
3. The rules laid out below shall not be altered or amended in any way except at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), and only by a majority of two-thirds of the persons present and entitled to vote. The Honorary General Secretary must receive the proposed alteration or amendment in writing at least 21 days prior to the meeting.
4. Membership of the League is open to Tennis Clubs, subject to approval of the Committee, and the provision of a minimum of two tennis courts and associated equipment maintained to an acceptable standard. All Clubs must also prove that adequate Public Liability cover is held either by affiliation to the LTA or by other means.
5. The League shall be administered by a Committee; the Committee Members shall comprise:
  - Officers as elected at the AGM being the Chairman, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Match Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Minutes Secretary.
  - One League Representative from each Member Club.
6. A quorum at a Committee meeting shall be ten Committee Members.
7. Each Committee Member shall be entitled to one vote. The Chairman shall have a casting vote if required.
8. The Committee shall meet at least three times per year as follows:
  - i) Annual General Meeting to be held in January,
  - ii) Pre-Season Meeting to be held in March,
  - iii) End of Season Meeting to be held in September.
9. There shall be posts of President, President Elect, Life Members and Vice Presidents.
  - The President's term shall commence at the start of the AGM and run for a season until the next AGM. The President shall be the previous seasons President Elect or in the appropriate circumstances an acceptable substitute from the same Club.
  - The President Elect's term shall commence at the start of the AGM and run for a season until the next AGM. The President Elect shall be nominated by a Member Club, Member Clubs taking it in turns to nominate the President Elect in order of their entry to the League as determined by the Officers.
  - Life Members shall comprise Past Officers of the League and shall stand for life.
  - Vice Presidents shall comprise players of the League of longstanding, nominated by Member Clubs and elected by a simple majority of the

- Committee at an AGM, and shall stand for life.
10. League Colours shall be awarded to a player who has represented the League in inter-league competitive Matches for 5 or more seasons.
  11. An EGM of the League shall be called at any time on 21-days' notice by written representation from two Committee Members.
  12. In the event of a Member Club not complying with the rules of the League and following a written warning to this effect, the Officers of the Committee shall have power to withdraw the membership of the offending Member Club.
  13. The competition entry fees shall be determined at the AGM. All fees shall be forwarded with the annual League entry form.
  14. The Officers shall have delegated powers to authorise expenditure on behalf of the League. No person shall receive payment either direct or indirect for services in connection with the League, other than for legitimate expenses incurred.
  15. The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping an account of the League funds, and shall be required to prepare and present a Statement of Accounts for approval by the Committee at the AGM.
  16. In the event of the dissolution of the League, any such funds remaining after payment of all the League's debts and expenses, shall be divided amongst the Member Clubs in proportion to the number of Teams entered in the League at that time.

### **GENERAL COMPETITION RULES**

17. All Matches shall be played according to the current rules of lawn tennis as laid down by the Lawn Tennis Association.
18. All players shall familiarise themselves with the League's adopted Code of Etiquette and Practice.
19. Any dispute regarding a Match shall be forwarded in writing by the Secretary of the Member Club to the Honorary Match Secretary, whose decision shall be final.
20. The home Team will provide new balls (ITF approved), with a minimum of four balls per court.
21. The home Team Captain shall ensure the scorecard appropriate to the competition is completed and then send it within 24 hours of the Match.
22. All matches must be played on the scheduled date unless the weather is unsuitable or, exceptionally, for other reasons agreed by both Team Captains and the Honorary Match Secretary. Failure to adhere to this rule will lead to the match becoming void with a 0-0 set and game score being recorded.
23. All scheduled Championship Matches shall start by 6.30pm and all Cup matches shall start at the time set by the home team, unless mutually agreed by both Captains.

24. Matches may only be halted due to weather conditions, poor light or other good reason agreed by both Captains. If less than four sets in a Championship Match are completed, the Match is declared void and shall be rescheduled according to Rule 39. If a clear result has not been reached in a Cup match it shall be rescheduled within 14 days on a date agreed by both Captains. It is not necessary to field the original Team in the rescheduled Match.
25. In the event of a pair not being on court within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time, the other Team may claim the first set 6-0, and within 30 minutes the second set also 6-0, unless otherwise agreed by the two captains (see Rule 23).
26. Any dispute over bad, violent or abusive behavior should be dealt with by Team Captains on the date of occurrence. If this cannot be resolved, a formal complaint must be made in writing to the Honorary Match Secretary for the Officers of the Committee to be able to investigate along LTA guidelines with the power to take action, such as suspension or banning of the offending party.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

27. There shall be a separate Championship for Men's, Women's, and Mixed Teams. Each Championship shall comprise Divisions of no more than eight Teams and no less than five Teams.
28. A Club with more than 1 team in a Championship League will use the nomenclature Club Name A, B, C etc. to reflect playing ability from the highest division to the lowest division.
29. The number of Divisions and Teams per Division shall be determined by the Committee at the Pre-Season meeting according to entries received. Normally from the preceding season, the top 2 Teams of each Division shall be promoted to the next highest Division and the bottom 2 Teams of each Division shall be relegated to the next lower Division.
30. This Rule is temporarily suspended to allow the new divisional structure to bed in.
31. Each Team shall play each of the other Teams in the Division on a home and away basis.
32. A Team shall consist of two pairs. Each Match shall be of eight sets, two sets by each pair against each of the opposing pairs, with a tiebreak at 6-6. A point shall be awarded to the winner of each set.

33. If a Team knowingly can only field one pair the fixture should be played on the scheduled date and the non-defaulting team will be awarded half of their running average of points and games together with the points and games won from the four sets played. The defaulting team must not field an illegible player/pair in order to play out a full match. The defaulting team will be awarded the points won from the four sets. If a Team is unable to field even one pair the non-defaulting team will be awarded their running average of points and games and the defaulting team shall have four points deducted. In each case the home Team Captain should submit the scorecard in the normal way annotating it accordingly and the Match Secretary will apply the adjustment but not until the non-defaulting team has played three matches.
34. If a set is unfinished under Rule 24 then a half point shall be awarded to each Team for each unfinished set and actual game score recorded on the scorecard.
35. League positions shall be decided by overall points gained. In the event of equal points, positions shall be determined by Matches won, draws attained and finally overall games difference.
36. Mixed Championship Matches shall be played on Monday evenings and Men's/Women's Championship Matches played on Wednesday evenings on the scheduled dates, except as covered by Rule 22, or on other evenings to be advised at the time of entry and agreed by the Committee at the pre-season meeting.
37. In any week, no player shall play more than one scheduled Match in a Championship.
38. The home Team shall put their pairs on court first, and the away Team shall have the choice of opposition pairs.
39. The weeks after the end of the scheduled matches and up until 31 August shall be designated rescheduling weeks. When a match is postponed due to Rule 22 or halted due to Rule 24 it will automatically be rescheduled on the first available rescheduling week and on the corresponding match day. A postponed match may be rescheduled on an earlier date with agreement of both Captains and the Honorary Match Secretary must be informed.
40. All fixtures shall be played by the 31st August or in exceptional circumstances by a date approved by Honorary Match Secretary.
41. No player shall play for more than one Club in a Championship but a player may play for a different Club in the Men's/Women's and Mixed Championships.
42. A player having played three times for higher Teams in a Championship shall not play subsequently for any lower Team during the season. All points gained by an illegal player under this Rule or Rules 37 or 41 shall be awarded to the opposing Team.

43. A penalty of one point will be deducted from the Home Team in the following circumstances;
- i) The scorecard is not received by the Honorary Match Secretary within 3 days of a completed match,
  - ii) Failure to inform the Honorary Match Secretary within 3 days of the fixture date for matches not played (under Rule 22) or not completed (under Rule 24)
44. All Match results involving a Team shall be declared null and void if that Team:
- i) Withdraws from the League, or
  - ii) Fails to field any pairs of players for more than two fixtures other than covered in Rule 33, or
  - iii) Fails to field the full complement of players for more than three fixtures as covered in Rule 33, or
  - iv) Deliberately completes a scorecard incorrectly.
- A Team contravening Rule 44 shall be relegated by one division when entering the next season but the Team may choose to enter the lowest Division.
45. Scheduled League Matches shall take precedence over Handicap Knock-out and Over 50s Knock-out Matches.
46. All players must be bona-fide members of the Member Club represented. All points gained by a non bona-fide person shall be awarded to the opposition.

#### **OVER 50S KNOCKOUT CUP COMPETITION RULES**

47. Players must be aged 50 and over on the date of the Match.
48. The competition shall be played to the Championship Rules (two pairs each playing each opposing pair over 2 tie-break sets at six-games all).
49. No player shall play for more than 1 Team.
50. The matches will be played at weekends except by agreement of both Captains and by the scheduled dates. The home Team shall set the date and time of the match.
51. The result shall be decided firstly on sets won and then if equal on games won, in the event of a tie the away Team shall win, except in the Final when a tie-break will be played.
52. The winning Teams will be notified of their opponents in the next round by the Honorary Match Secretary.
53. The Final will normally be played on a neutral ground.

#### **HANDICAP KNOCKOUT COMPETITION RULES**

54. The handicaps shall be determined by the Handicap Committee who shall normally meet before the Pre-Season meeting.

55. The matches will be played at weekends except by agreement of both Captains and by the scheduled dates. The home Team shall set the date and time of the match.
56. A Team will consist of two men and two women.
57. A Match will comprise two sets of Men's doubles with two sets of Women's doubles followed by four sets of Mixed doubles being one set against each of the opposing pairs. The order of play of which shall be the A and B pairs playing their respective opposition pairs first.
58. Each set shall be a tiebreak set, the tie-break being played at five games all.
  
59. The winning Team is that with the greatest number of games including the handicap award; if this is equal the winners are the Team who has won the most sets and if this is also equal the winners are the Team with the lowest Handicap.
60. Players can only play for one Team. In the interest of fair play, it will be expected that when Clubs enter two Teams, the 'A' Team will be the stronger Team and will be substantiated by the Team in which the players play in Championship Matches.
61. The winning Teams will be notified of their opponents in the next round by the Honorary Match Secretary.
62. The final will normally be played on a neutral ground.

### **WINTER LEAGUE RULES**

63. The Winter League will be a Mixed League comprising Divisions of no more than seven teams and no less than five teams.
64. Each team must decide the day and time of their home games. These can be at the weekend or during midweek evenings under floodlights.
65. A Match will comprise eight sets - two sets of Men's doubles and two sets of Women's doubles followed by four sets of Mixed doubles, each mixed pair playing one set against each of the opposing team's pairs - with a tiebreak at six games all. A point shall be awarded to the winner of each set.
66. No player may play for more than one Club in the Winter League. A player having played twice for a higher team may subsequently not play for any lower team during the Winter League season. In any week's fixtures, no player shall play more than one scheduled match.
67. Matches should be played on the scheduled date unless the weather is unsuitable. A match postponed, or unconcluded, due to weather will be rescheduled on the first available rescheduling date which are the two weeks following the pre-Christmas break and the two weeks following the end of the scheduled fixtures.
68. Conceding of matches should be avoided and if a team is unable to put out the full complement the match may be postponed for one week on agreement of both Captains.

69. All fixtures shall be played by 20 March.
70. League positions will be decided in the same way as the Summer League under Rule 35.

*Updated at the AGM on 10 January 2022*