

## SUMMER LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES

1. **MANAGEMENT** The management of the league shall be in the hands of the Committee of the Association
2. **LTA RULES** All matches shall be played according to the current rules of the Lawn Tennis Association
3. **ELIGIBILITY** The league shall be open to all clubs affiliated to the Portsmouth and District LTA. Subject to approval of the committee. Clubs desiring to take part should forward their application on the approved entry form.
4. **ENTRIES** A club may enter more than one team in each division at a fee of £2.00 per team
5. **TEAM** A team shall consist of six players (3 pairs) in mixed and four players (2 pairs) in mens and ladies.
6. **MATCH**
  - (a) A mixed match will consist of nine rubbers, three pairs to play each opposing pair. Mens and ladies matches will consist of four rubbers, two pairs to play each opposing pair.
  - (b) The team winning the majority of rubbers shall be declared the winner of the match. In mens and ladies matches if rubbers are equal the team winning the majority of sets shall be declared the winner, if sets are equal the team winning the majority of games shall be declared the winner, if games are equal the result will be draw.
  - (c) Mens and ladies matches will be played the best of three tie-break sets
  - (d) Mixed matches will be played the best of 2 tie-break sets. If the score is one set all, the winner of the rubber will then be determined by the playing of a separate and final tie-break as opposed to a 3rd set. (This tie-break shall not be included as a set or game when adding up the results.)
  - (e) All matches are due to start at 1400 hours unless otherwise agreed by the two clubs concerned
  - (f) If any player be absent when called upon to play, at the expiration of 15 minutes from the agreed time for the commencement of the tie, the opposing team shall be awarded one set, and a set thereafter for each consecutive 15 minutes delay.
  - (g) The order of play for mixed matches is to be as follows:

Round 1	2nd pair play 2nd pair	1st pair play 3rd pair
Round 2	1st pair play 1st pair	2nd pair play 3rd pair
Round 3	3rd pair play 3rd pair	1st pair play 2nd pair

The order of play for mens and ladies matches is to be as follows:

Round 1	1st pair play 1st pair	Round 2	1st pair play 2nd pair
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  - (h) Twelve new LTA approved balls must be provided for each mixed fixture and eight for each mens and ladies fixtures.
7. **LEAGUE DIVISIONS** A division shall consist of not more than ten teams, each team to play one match against each of the other teams in the division. The committee shall arrange clubs in divisions at their discretion. Two teams to be promoted and relegated in the mens divisions and one team to be promoted and relegated in the ladies and mixed divisions at the discretion of the committee. If a division consists of fewer than five teams, each team will play each other twice, once home and once away.
8. **FIXTURES**

To be arranged annually at a meeting of club match secretaries  
Clubs with two teams in the same division must play their fixture before the 31st May.
9. **REARRANGEMENT OF FIXTURES**
  - (a) Fixtures may be rearranged only by mutual agreement between the two clubs and with the consent of the league secretary. No fixture may be rearranged after 1st May except in the event of bad weather.
  - (b) If a fixture is not played due to bad weather the home team must contact the away team

within two weeks in order to rearrange the match. If the two teams cannot at that time agree on a new date, then the home team must offer three different weekend dates to the away team. Should the away team not accept one of these, then the home team will be awarded a walkover as in rule 9d. Both teams must then advise the league secretary of the revised date, or of their failure to agree.

- (c) If at the cessation of play neither team shall have won sufficient rubbers to arrive at a definite results, then in the event of the first two rounds having been completed in mixed matches and the first round in mens and ladies matches, all rubbers, sets and games played in the third round of mixed and the second round of mens and ladies shall be ignored and the match shall be decided on the completed round(s). If at this stage events shall be level the sets shall decide, if sets are level then games shall decide. In the event of the second round not being completed in mixed and the first round in mens and ladies, when for any reason play has to cease, the match shall be replayed.
- (d) If a fixture is not played when arranged, the team not appearing at the venue must award a walkover to their opponents and may be relegated to a lower division at the end of the season. The team conceding the walkover will have one point deducted for the first walkover, two points for the second and three points for each subsequent walkover.
- (e) All fixtures must be completed by the end of August unless agreed otherwise by the league secretary.

**10.** Clubs with only one court will play all their home matches away and pay the expenses of the match.

#### **11. PLAYERS**

- (a) Players must be members of a club affiliated to the Portsmouth and District LTA
- (b) A player who has played more than once in a first team of a club will not be eligible to play in a lower team in the same event (similarly with second and other teams).
- (c) No player may play for more than one club except that a player who has represented a club in mens or ladies doubles may represent another club at mixed doubles.

#### **12. SCORING**

A win will count two points and a draw will count one point. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points they shall be placed in the table:

According to the percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played, according to the percentage of sets won to sets played, according to the percentage of games won to games played. A club receiving a walkover shall be allowed to count 9 rubbers to love, 18 sets to love and 108 games to love in mixed and 4 rubbers to love, 8 sets to love and 48 games to love in mens and ladies.

#### **13. MATCH RESULTS**

The full score of each match, signed by the captains of both teams, shall be forwarded to the league secretary by **both** clubs within 48 hours of the match being played. If a match is conceded the league secretary must be informed by both clubs.

#### **14. DISPUTES**

**The management committee reserve the right to decide any question of dispute and its decision is final.**

March 2007