

NORTH SOMERSET TENNIS LEAGUE RULES – from 5 September 2024

1. The League shall be known as the **North Somerset Tennis League**.

2. Management Committee

- 2.1. The management of the League shall be vested in the Management Committee consisting of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and three elected members.
- 2.2. The Management Committee shall have the power to fine, deduct points, suspend, or expel any Club or player for a breach of these Rules or Code of Conduct or for conduct prejudicial to the League. It also retains the right to insist that a match be played when a walkover may be prejudicial to overall League winners or the promotion or relegation prospects of other teams. If a team refuses to play, they will be penalised points at the Committee's discretion.
- 2.3. Any dispute between Clubs must be notified by the Club Chairman to the NSTL Chairman within 7 days. The Management Committee can take any action to resolve the dispute including, but not limited to, awarding the match to one or other of the teams, directing that the match be replayed or making an order as to the allocation of points for the match. Their decision, once made, is final.
- 2.4. Any safeguarding issue that arises during a match is to be reported to the NSTL Chairman who will pass it on to the Safeguarding Officer of the appropriate Club,

3. Subscriptions and team entries

- 3.1. Subscriptions are per team in both Winter and Summer Leagues and set by the Management Committee. Clubs will be notified of the amount in the team entry form in advance of the AGM. Payment must be made online only and in full on submission of the form before the deadline. If payment is made by this date, a reduction of 50% will apply (as stated on the form). Late payments and/or submission of the form may result the withdrawal of a team from the League.
- 3.2. Team entries will be made by the Team Entry form. The deadline for entries is 31st July (for the Winter League) and 31st January (for the Summer League). Where a Club wishes to enter more than one team in each category, each team shall be given a suffix. The higher team shall be given the higher suffix. If a Club wishes to reduce the number of their teams, they can withdraw whichever suffix they desire. In those circumstances the composition of the divisions may be adjusted at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 3.3. All Clubs competing in the League must be LTA registered venues. All players must be members of the LTA, have British Tennis Membership (BTM) numbers and their membership must be linked to their current club in the league.

4. Balls and composition of teams

- 4.1. The Home team will stage the match and provide eight new balls of the current year's manufacture.
- 4.2. Each team shall consist of two pairs. Matches in the Summer League and Summer Veterans Leagues will consist of 4 rubbers, each pair to play both pairs of the opposing team. Matches in the Winter will consist of a Women's doubles, Men's doubles and two Mixed doubles.
- 4.3. Players in the Winter Mixed Veterans league must be 50 years of age or older at the time of playing.
- 4.4. Players in the Summer Veterans Leagues must be 60 years or older.

5. Eligibility of players

- 5.1. Only bona fide members of affiliated clubs shall be allowed to play for that club
- 5.2. Players who have represented their clubs 3 times in a higher team may not subsequently play in a lower team that season.
- 5.3. A player may represent more than one Club in different categories, for example winter mixed or vets, provided they are fully paid-up members of each Club and not visitors nor temporary members. Subject to the above, a player can only play for one club in a season.
- 5.4. Ineligible players will forfeit their rubbers 0-6, 0-6.

6 Composition of matches

- 6.1 The rubbers shall be the best of three sets. A standard LTA tie-break will be in operation in the first 2 sets at 6-6. A Championship Tie Break ("CTB"), where the winner is the first pair to reach 10 points with a margin of 2 points, will be played instead of a third deciding set on all occasions unless it is agreed by both captains to play a full set.
- 6.2 The CTB is to be scored as 1-0 and will count as one set and one game to the winning pair.

7 Scoring

- 7.1 One point per set and 2 points per match. If a match is level on sets, the winners will be the side with more games. If still level, the match points will be split one to each team.
- 7.2 Where teams in a division are level on points their final position will be decided by, first, head-to-head, then relative match points, then relative set difference, then relative game difference, then team matches won, then set percentage, then game percentage. If teams are still level, they will play off.
- 7.3 At the end of each season the bottom 2 teams in each division shall be relegated and the top 2 promoted subject to any other teams being withdrawn or entered before the beginning of the next season.

8 Match days and recording of results

- 8.1 Summer Men's matches shall be played on Mondays and Women's on Tuesdays. Summer Veteran's League and Winter League Home teams' days and times are to be given on the team entry forms. Summer and Winter matches are to be played in accordance with the published list.
- 8.2 If either the home or away team wishes to rearrange a Winter League fixture, they can do so provided all rearranged fixtures are agreed and the date changed on the online system by 30th September. Any matches rearranged before 30th September must still follow the principle of having half the fixtures played before the end of the year and half in the new year. Winter League matches (after 30th September) can also be rearranged providing both captains agree. Either captain has the right to refuse the change.
- 8.3 The Home team is responsible for submitting the result of a completed match within 48 hours online using the LTA League Planner System.

9 Start times and penalties for late arrival

- 9.1 Summer league matches shall start at 6.30pm prompt. Winter league matches start in accordance with the Home team's start time. If a pair is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the start time, they will forfeit the first set 0-6. If that pair is not ready within 60 minutes, they will forfeit the first rubber 0-6, 0-6. If neither pair are ready to play within 90 minutes, the match will be treated as conceded.
- 9.2 The captain should declare before the beginning of the relevant set that there has been a forfeiture of sets/rubbers.
- 9.3 Consideration should be given to a late arrival who has previously notified the opposing captain and offered an adequate reason.

10 Walkovers and concessions

- 10.1 For the purpose of this rule a walkover is when the match is conceded or a side fails to attend for a match. A partial walkover is when only 1 pair attends or, in the Winter League 1 pair or 3 players
- 10.2 If a Club cannot field any pairs for a team on a fixed or agreed date, the match will be forfeited 0-10
- 10.3 Any team giving a total of 2 walkovers or partial walkovers in a season will be immediately relegated to the division below and have their results declared null and void. Their opponents will also forfeit the points for those matches.
- 10.4 For Summer Leagues only, if a higher ranked team within a Club without just reason gives
- (a) a walkover or a partial walkover or
 - (b) does not play
- whilst its lower ranked team(s) play, they will suffer the following penalties: the higher ranked team giving the walkover will have 10 points deducted (4 points for a partial walkover) and the lower ranked team(s) will lose any points gained in that round of matches. On a second infringement the sanction above in 10.3 will apply but no penalties will be suffered by the lower teams.
- 10.5 Rule 10.4 (b) will not apply if the teams are due to be playing at different venues and the higher team's match is postponed due to the weather.
- 10.6 In the event of any walkover the League Secretary must be informed within 48 hours so the match score can be recorded appropriately.

11 Postponements/interruptions due to bad weather or poor light

- 11.1 In the event of an appeal against bad weather, fading light or the state of the courts the Home captain shall be the sole judge as to whether the match can start or continue.
- 11.2 Subject to Rule 8.2 matches can only be postponed due to bad weather or the unfitness of the courts.
- 11.3 Postponed Summer matches must be played within 21 days of the original fixture, weather permitting, failing which the Home team will be deducted 5 points. The Home team is to offer 3 dates being 2 different days of the week. Home teams are encouraged to offer rearranged fixture dates to away teams within 72 hours of the original fixture date. In the event of difficulty for the home team, the option to play the home fixture at the away team's location is available by agreement with the away team captain. All fixtures are to be played by 31st July save in exceptional circumstances as decided by the Committee.

- 11.4 Postponed Winter matches are to be rearranged, although not necessarily played, within 14 days with the Home team to offer 2 dates. Clubs should aim to play 5 matches by 31st December. All winter league matches are to be completed by 31st March save in exceptional circumstances as decided by the Committee.
- 11.5 The Home captain must inform the League Secretary of any rearranged date, modify the online fixture to the rearranged date and add the result of any doubles rubbers online.

12 Abandoned matches

- 12.1 In the event of resuming an abandoned match on a different day, the match shall continue at the point of abandonment. The same pairs need not be used. No player may take part in more than two rubbers in any match nor play against the same opponent in more than one rubber in a Summer League match. In a resumed match any player who started the match may complete it and rule 5.1 will not apply in that instance.

13 Annual General Meeting

- 13.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in September, the date of which will be confirmed at the previous year's AGM. Minutes of the AGM shall be sent to the Clubs within 21 days. The Clubs have 14 days thereafter to submit comments on those minutes. The draft minutes are then to be posted on the League Website.
- 13.2 Each Club must send a representative to the AGM. If any Club is not represented, every team in that Club will have 5 points deducted from their total after the first matches of the subsequent Winter and Summer seasons.
- 13.3 Any proposals for rule changes must be submitted in writing at least 21 days prior to the AGM. At the meeting only one member of each Club shall be allowed to vote.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All players must comply with LTA Rules and Regulations and in particular

- A) Must use their best efforts to win each match and complete it unless they unable to do so for good reason
- B) Must not use an audible obscenity nor make any obscene gesture
- C) Must not verbally or physically abuse any opponent, spectator or anyone else
- D) Must not violently or in anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball, racket or any other object
- E) Must at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due respect to opponents, spectators and any other persons.