

## **SUMMER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS (2018)**

**(minor change to rule 30, ladies age limit change in Winter Seniors, (c) and Late Summer Seniors (e))**

1.
  - a) The authority to manage Avon Lawn Tennis League (hereinafter referred to as 'the League') shall be vested in a sub-committee of the Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the 'League Committee') of Avon Lawn Tennis Association (hereinafter referred to as 'the Association') as provided for in paragraph 7 of the Rules & Regulations of the Association.
  - b) The League Committee shall consist of a minimum of 7 members of Registered Places to Play affiliated to the Association (hereinafter referred to as P2P) and such other persons as may be appointed by the Executive Committee.
  - c) P2P shall be invited annually to submit to the Executive Committee the names of persons willing to serve on the League Committee and, from this number, the Executive Committee shall appoint the members of the League Committee for the ensuing year provided that not more than one member of a P2P shall at any time be a club representative member of the League Committee.

Such submissions shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Association not later than 7 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Association. All names so submitted shall be made known at such a Meeting and recorded in the relevant minutes. The submissions shall contain a statement of willingness of the person or persons named to serve, if appointed

- i. as an ordinary member of the League Committee or
- ii. as an honorary officer.

If an insufficient number of names is submitted in this way by the P2P, the League Committee may either appoint further P2P representative members of the League Committee of its own choosing or determine that the number of submissions received is sufficient for the purposes of managing and operating the League for the ensuing year only. In this case the proviso of one representative per P2P may be waived.

- d) Unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee, the League Committee for the ensuing year shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at its next meeting following each Annual General Meeting of the Association and shall hold office with effect from the close of such Meeting of the Executive Committee.
2. At the first meeting of the League Committee after appointment, the members of the League Committee shall elect from among their number, by simple majority, the following honorary officers: Chairman, Secretary, Results Officer.

3. The Chairman, or a deputy appointed by the League Committee, shall act as the representative of the League Committee at the Executive Committee as provided in paragraph 6 of the Rules & Regulations of the Association.
4. All members of the League Committee shall be eligible for reappointment by the Executive Committee.
5. The League Committee may invite, for any special purpose, any person not a member of the League Committee to attend a meeting of the League Committee provided that any person so invited shall not be entitled to vote or propose or second a motion at such a meeting.
6. The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy on the League Committee. Such an appointment shall have effect until the next occasion on which the appointment of the whole League Committee by the Executive Committee falls due.
7. The quorum of the League Committee shall consist of 4 members, two of whom must be honorary officers.
8. The League Committee shall be empowered as follows:
  - a) to hold meetings as and when the business of the League may demand.
  - b) to manage and operate the League in accordance with the direction of the Executive Committee and, in particular, to arrange the allocation of teams to divisions and groups, to record and collate the results of League matches and to determine the final order of teams in each group and division at the end of each playing season.
  - c) to consider and approve or reject the written applications for League membership received from P2P wishing to take part in the League competitions, including those involving teams which have not yet taken part in the League or which are required to apply for re-election by virtue of Rule 16 below. The League Committee may reject any application without giving any reason thereof.
  - d) to ensure that P2P applying for membership, renewal of membership or re-election have access to an adequate number of courts of suitable standard or to decide on the suitability of the courts of any Places to Play.
  - e) to adjudicate, in the first place, upon any protest or dispute arising between member P2P in relation to the League competitions and to interpret these Rules & Regulations as modified or amended from time to time by the Executive Committee. If any Places to Play are unwilling to accept the decision of the League Committee, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.
  - f) to engage in any other activity incidental to the management and operation of the League or the promotion of the interests of the League or its member P2Ps.

9. The League Committee shall be empowered to make such use of the funds of the Association allocated to it as is required for the proper conduct of the League and the activities of the League Committee here laid down. Any income accruing from the operation of the League or other activities arranged by the League Committee shall be paid to the account of the Association. All income and expenditure for and on behalf of the League Committee shall be included in the annual audited accounts of the Association and shall be identified as such.
10. If any dispute arises between any Place to Play (P2P) and the League Committee, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
11. No alteration shall be made in the Rules & Regulations adopted for the management and operation of the League other than by resolution of the Executive Committee.
12.
  - a) The competitions of the League are open to Places to Play affiliated to a Lawn Tennis Association and having access to at least two courts and toilet facilities. Should any complaint be received concerning the conditions of the court(s), it will be referred to the League Committee as provided in Rule 8d above and the League Committee shall make such direction as it thinks fit, including direction that the relevant team or teams shall not take part in any competition of the League unless or until the home court or courts on which such team or teams play League matches are brought up to standard acceptable to the League Committee. Home courts or courts on which teams play League matches that do not have toilet facilities available to players will not be considered of an acceptable standard for League matches.
  - b) The competitions shall be held annually in accordance with these Rules & Regulations and with the Rules of Lawn Tennis and the Regulations, for the time being, of the Lawn Tennis Association. In the event of a conflict between any such rules, the latter Rules & Regulations shall prevail.
13. A P2P whose teams wish to take part in the competitions during the next ensuing year shall give notice, in writing, to the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee (or its nominee) of its intention, on or before 15th January in each year. An annual entrance fee of an amount to be settled by the Executive Committee shall be paid for each team to the Honorary Treasurer of the Association not later than 15th January of the year in which the competition is to take place.
14. The Men's and Ladies' competitions shall be organised in divisions of not more than six teams. Teams joining or rejoining the League shall be placed in the lowest division(s). If applications for League membership are

received on behalf of teams who are not League members in the season immediately preceding application, such applications shall be considered in date order.

15. The Men's and Ladies' competitions shall be conducted in leagues consisting of one First Division, fed by two divisions numbered 2A & 2B. The lower divisions will expand to four. All divisions with the same initial number shall be deemed to be of equal status. The A groups and B groups in the various divisions shall be selected by the League Committee before the start of each playing season.
16.
  - a) After completion of all League fixtures in any one season, the bottom 2 teams will be relegated from each sub-division. For promotion, where the number of sub-divisions is the same as in the division above, the top 2 teams will be promoted. Where the number of sub-divisions is greater than in the division above only the top team will be guaranteed promotion.
  - b) The last two teams in the lowest divisions at the end of each season must apply for re-election. Such applications will be considered by the League Committee together with those from any new team or teams rejoining the League
17.
  - a) Places to Play (P2P) may enter teams in either the Men's or Ladies' competitions or both provided they have access to such number of courts as the League Committee determines to be adequate. Where a P2P has more than one team competing in either competition, the higher team must always complete its matches, even if the regular players are unable to play. Teams must be ranked in order of strength, so that other players move up according to strength. A player who has taken part in 4 matches in any one season for higher-ranking teams may not subsequently play for a lower ranking team in the same season.
  - b) Where 2 teams from a club are in the same division they will be scheduled to play in week 1 or week 2. Results must be submitted within 7 days or the result will be declared null and void. In the event of postponement, the match must be played within the next 7 days and the card submitted.
18. Only bona fide members of Affiliated Clubs who have paid the appropriate full subscription at least fourteen days prior to the match shall be allowed to play, provided they have not taken part in the League competition for another club in the same season.
19. The first round in each season shall commence, for the Men's and Ladies competitions, on the first Friday following the May Day Bank Holiday and the remaining rounds shall be played on the Friday of each succeeding

week, except the late Spring Bank Holiday week-end, which will be a vacant weekend.

20.

- a) Each competing team shall be represented by four players who shall be arranged in pairs and each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team. The visiting players shall play, throughout the match, on courts of their choice from those allocated by the home club. Each team shall play one Home and one Away match against each other team in the division in each season.
- b) All rubbers are to be the best of three sets with a tie-break to be played at six games all in each set, unless the following exception applies. A championship tie break may be played in place of the third set of any rubber if, in the reasonable view of the captains, there is a significant chance that a match might not be completed on one night, on the courts where it started, due to failing light where there are no floodlights, or where floodlights will be cut off, or due to adverse weather conditions. The only other reason a championship tie break should be played in any rubber is by mutual consent of both captains. A championship tie break is the first to 10 points with a margin of 2 and is scored as 1-0 on the score card.
- c) Away teams cannot be expected to change courts during the course of a match other than by mutual agreement and neither should they be expected to change venue during the course of a match. Away teams should not be expected to return at a later date to complete the fixture unless adverse conditions have caused the match to stop and it has not been possible to complete it with a championship tie break.

21. Umpires are not required but the game score in each set shall be called clearly by the server prior to the commencement of each game. In the event of bad weather, or because the courts are unfit for play, the match will only start with the mutual consent of both captains. In the event of an appeal against playing conditions when a match is in progress, the match can only continue with the agreement of both captains.

22. For each match, a minimum of three new LTA authorised balls shall be provided for each court by the home team. If dated, the balls must be for the current season.

23. All matches shall commence at 6.15 pm and, if a pair is not ready to start by 6.45 pm, the opponents of that pair in the first round shall be entitled to claim the first set by 6-0. If that pair are not ready by 7pm the opponents of that pair shall be entitled to claim a walkover in the first rubber. If that pair is still not ready for their second rubber when called upon, a walk-over may be claimed. The captain should declare before the beginning of the second rubber that his/her team has claimed the first rubber/s.

24. If both pairs of one team are unable to start by 7 pm, each opposing pair in the first round shall be entitled to a walk-over. Likewise, any pair then not ready by 7.15 pm will concede a walk-over in the second round.

25. The match will have been deemed to start after the first serve takes place. The courts will have been allocated at the start of the warm-up and the courts can only be then changed by agreement of both captains.
26. If a match is started but not finished due to bad light or weather conditions, with the mutual agreement of both captains it can be completed on the same night on alternative courts, under lights if necessary, otherwise Rule 27 applies. [Please also refer to N.B. in Rule 20 re Championship tie-breaks.]
27. If a match is not started or not completed on Friday through bad light or weather conditions, where possible it should be completed during the following seven days at the mutual agreement of both team captains. League matches shall take precedence over club play and friendly matches.
28. When a match is completed on another day under Rule 27, the previous scores shall hold good and the match shall continue from the position where it was left. If a member of a team is genuinely unavailable for a rearranged match, the player can be replaced by another player providing he/she has not already taken part in a match scheduled for that week.
29. Should the courts be unplayable for a whole week, a match arranged for that week may be completed at any time agreed by the team captains and sanctioned by the League Committee, and shall, in any case, be completed by one week after the end of the final Friday of the season. (Rule 28 also applies in this case.)
30. In the case of **illness or** accidental injury after the start of play there will be allowed a maximum 5-minute suspension of play and if the player is not then recovered, the rubber will be forfeited.
31. Points shall be awarded as follows:
  - a) In each match, the team winning most rubbers (or where the number of rubbers won is equal, most sets, or when the number of rubbers and sets is equal, the most games) shall receive 2 points with a further 2 points for each rubber won. One point shall be awarded to each team in the event of a tie (number of rubbers, sets & games all equal) with 2 points to the winning pair in each rubber. The losing team shall receive 2 points for each rubber won so that a total of 10 points shall be awarded for each match.
  - b) At the conclusion of each season, the order of all teams shall be determined by the number of points gained in all matches (whether played or by default) and the teams scoring the highest number of points in Division 1 shall be adjudged the Champions of the Men's and Ladies' competitions for that year. If two or more teams in any one division shall score an equal number of points, the order of precedence in the division shall be determined by the head to head results between

the teams concerned. The decision will be made based on the scores in the head to head games ie. points then sets then games won.

32.

- a) In the event of a walkover or partial walkover, the defaulting team must notify the Results Secretary of a valid reason within 48 hours of the default.
- b) Any team giving three or more walkovers will be relegated and have their results declared null and void, and their opponents will forfeit the points for those matches also.
- c) If a higher ranked team within a Place to Play (P2P), without just reason, gives a walkover or partial walkover whilst its lower ranked team/s play, it will suffer the following penalties: the higher ranked team giving the walkover will have 10 points deducted (4 points in the case of a partial walkover) and the lower ranked team/s will lose any points gained in that round of matches.
- d) The League Committee retains the right to insist a match shall be played (see rule 36) 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 10 points.

33. Protests concerning play must, in the first instance, be reported to a member of the operational committee of the P2P who, if considered appropriate, can approach the Secretary of the League Committee with an official complaint in writing. Complaints must be placed within 10 working days of the match to which they refer. After considering statements from all teams involved in the protest(s), the League Committee shall cause its decision to be notified in writing to the complainant and the alleged offender. If the League Committee's decision is disputed the matter shall be dealt with under Rule 8e and 10 above.

34. The home team shall send results of each match, stating the numbers of rubbers, sets and games won and the names of the players, to the Honorary Results Officer of the League within seven working days of the match on the official form supplied, signed and countersigned by a representative of each team competing. In the case of a postponement of a fixture in accordance with Rule 27 above, the secretary of the home club shall notify the Results Officer, in writing, of such postponement not later than the day following that on which the match should have been played.

35. Trophies awarded for any League competition shall remain the property of the Avon Lawn Tennis Association.

36. Teams failing to comply with any of the above regulations will render themselves liable to a penalty involving the deduction of points or any other action the League Committee considers appropriate.

37. Avon LTA adopts the LTA's Rules & Regulations with regard to unimpired matches; please refer to the LTA website and / or LTA Handbook.

## WINTER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The authority to manage the Avon Lawn Tennis Winter League (hereinafter referred to as the 'Winter League') shall be vested in the League Committee of the Avon Lawn Tennis Association.
2.
  - a) No alteration shall be made in the Rules & Regulations adopted for the management and operation of the Winter League other than by resolution of the Executive Committee.
  - b) The competition shall be held annually in accordance with these Rules & Regulations and with the Rules of Lawn Tennis and the Regulations, for the time being, sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association. In the event of a conflict between any such rules, the latter Rules and Regulations shall prevail.
3. The League Committee will invite Registered Places to Play (P2P) to enter teams to take part in the competition. An annual entrance fee of an amount to be settled by the Executive Committee shall be paid for each participating team and no team will be allowed to take part unless the fees are paid by the date specified in the application form.
4. The competition shall be organised in divisions of 6 teams unless otherwise decided by the League Committee. Teams joining or rejoining the League shall be placed in the lowest division. If written applications for League membership are received on behalf of teams which are not participating in the Winter League in the season immediately preceding application, such applications shall be considered in date order.
5. The Winter League competition will comprise one first division fed by two divisions numbered 2A & 2B etc. In the lower divisions this will expand to four. All divisions with the same initial number shall be deemed to be of equal status. The composition of the various divisions shall be selected by the League Committee before the start of each playing season.
6.
  - a) When a club has more than one team competing in the competition, teams must be ranked in order of strength. A player who has taken part in 4 matches in any one season for higher ranking teams may not subsequently play for a lower ranking team in that season. No player may play in more than 10 matches in any one season.
  - b) Should two teams from the same P2P be competing in the same division, both matches between the two teams must be played by the 31<sup>st</sup> January of that season.
7. Only bona fide members of Affiliated Places to Play who have paid the appropriate full subscriptions at least 14 days prior to the match shall be allowed to play, provided they have not taken part in the Winter League competition for another club in the same season.

8. Teams shall arrange their own fixtures by mutual consent by 15<sup>th</sup> November and these are to be played between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> March. Fixtures shall be submitted to the Results Officer by 15<sup>th</sup> November. These may only be rearranged as a result of adverse weather conditions, mutual consent or exceptional circumstances. In the latter the Results Officer shall be notified not later than the day following that on which the match should have been played.
9.
  - a) Each team shall consist of two men and two ladies who will play one Men's doubles, one Ladies' doubles and all players will play one mixed doubles thus making four rubbers in all. The visiting players shall play, throughout the match, on courts of their choice from those allocated by the home club. Each rubber shall be the best of three sets with a tie-break to be played at six games all in each set. The order of play to be decided by the home team captain. Each team shall play one Home and one Away match against each other team in the division in each season.
  - b) All rubbers are to be the best of three sets with a tie-break to be played at six games all in each set, unless the following exception applies. A championship tie break may be played in place of the third set of any rubber if, in the reasonable view of the away captain, there is a significant chance that a match might not be completed on one night, on the courts where it started, due to failing light where there are no floodlights, or where floodlights will be cut off, or due to adverse weather conditions. The only other reason a championship tie break should be played in any rubber is by mutual consent of both captains. A championship tie break is the first to 10 points with a margin of 2 and is scored as 1-0 on the score card.
  - c) Away teams cannot be expected to change courts during the course of a match other than by mutual agreement and neither should they be expected to change venue during the course of a match. Away teams should not be expected to return at a later date to complete the fixture unless adverse conditions have caused the match to stop and it has not been possible to complete it with a championship tie break.
10. Teams will declare their mixed pairs in order of strength before the match begins.
11. Umpires are not required but the game score in each set shall be called clearly by the server prior to the commencement of each game. In the event of bad weather, or because the courts are unfit for play, the match will only start with the mutual consent of both captains.
12. In the event of an appeal against adverse weather conditions when the match is in progress, the match can only continue with the mutual agreement of both captains who can agree to complete the match at another time when all possible efforts must be made to keep the same players in the team or, if not possible, a similar standard replacement.

13. For each match, a minimum of three new LTA authorised balls shall be provided for each court by the home team.
14. All matches shall commence at the agreed time and if any pair is not ready to play within half an hour of that time, the opponents of that pair shall be entitled to claim the first set 6-0. If the pair are not ready 45 minutes after the scheduled start time the opponents of that pair may claim a walkover in the first rubber. If that pair is not ready to play their second rubber when called upon, likewise a walk-over may be claimed scoring 2 sets and 12 games for each rubber. If both pairs of one team are unable to start by 45 minutes after the scheduled start time each opposing pair in the first round shall be entitled to a walk-over. Likewise, any pair then not ready one hour after the start time will concede a walk-over in the second round.
15. Any team giving three or more walkovers will be relegated and have their results declared null and void, and their opponents will forfeit the points for those matches also.
16. The home team shall send results of each match, stating the numbers of rubbers, sets and games won and the names of the players, to the Honorary Results Officer of the League to arrive within 7 days of the match on the official form supplied, signed and countersigned by a representative of each team competing.
17. Protests concerning play must, in the first instance, be reported to a member of the operational committee of the P2P who, if considered appropriate, can approach the Secretary of the League Committee with an official complaint in writing. Complaints must be placed within 10 working days of the match to which they refer. After considering statements from all teams involved in the protest(s), the League Committee shall cause its decision to be notified in writing to the complainant and the alleged offender. If the League Committee's decision is disputed the matter shall be dealt with under Rule 8e and 10 of the Summer League Rules and Regulations.
18. Points shall be awarded as in rule 31a of the summer league.
19. At the conclusion of each season, the order of all teams shall be determined as in rule 31b of the summer league.
20.
  - a) After completion of all League fixtures in any one season, promotion and relegation will be determined using the same formula as the summer league, see rule 16.
  - b) The last two teams in the lowest division at the end of each season must apply for re-election. Such applications will be considered by the League Committee together with those from any new team or teams re-joining the League.

- c) The League Committee retains the right to insist a match shall be played (see rule 36 of Summer League Rules & Regulations) 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 10 points.
21. Trophies awarded for any League competition shall remain the property of the Avon Lawn Tennis Association.
22. Teams failing to comply with any of the above Regulations will render themselves liable to a penalty involving the deduction of points or any other action the League Committee considers appropriate.

### **SENIORS' WINTER LEAGUE RULES**

The Rules & Regulations of the Veterans' Winter League are the same as the Winter League except for amendments detailed below:

- a) For the words 'Winter League' read 'Seniors' Winter League'.
- b) Rule 5 to be amended to read: 'The Seniors' League will comprise one first division and such additional divisions as the league sub-committee will decide prior to the start of the season'.
- c) Rule 7 will have an additional statement as to the eligibility of players, namely: 'Men players will become eligible to take part in the competition on reaching the age of 45 and Lady players will become eligible to take part in the competition on reaching the age of **42**'.
- d) Rule 20 to read:
  - i) After completion of all League fixtures in any one season, the last two teams to be relegated from each division.
  - ii) The top two teams in each division to be promoted, except Division 1

### **LATE-SUMMER LEAGUE RULES**

#### **SENIORS' LATE SUMMER LEAGUE RULES**

The Rules & Regulations of the Late-Summer Seniors' League are the same as the Winter League except for amendments detailed below:

- a) For the words 'Winter League' read 'Seniors' Summer League'.
- b) Rule 5 to be amended to read: 'The Seniors' Summer League will comprise one first division and such additional divisions as the league sub-committee will decide prior to the start of the season'.
- c) Rule 6a to be amended to read:

When a club has more than one team competing in the competition, teams must be ranked in order of strength. A player who has taken part in 4 matches in any one season for higher ranking teams may not subsequently play for a lower ranking team in that season. No player may play in more than 10 matches in any one season.

- d) Rule 6B to be amended to read: Where 2 teams from a club are in the same division they will be scheduled to play in week 1 or week 2. Results must be submitted within 7 days or the result will be declared null and void. In the event of postponement, the match must be played within the next 7 days and the card submitted.
- e) Rule 7 will have an additional statement as to the eligibility of players, namely: 'Men players will become eligible to take part in the competition on reaching the age of 45 and Lady players will become eligible to take part in the competition on reaching the age of **42**.'
- f) Rule 8 to be amended to read:  
Matches to be played in sequence on the allocated weekends. Teams shall arrange their own playing day/times by mutual consent. These may only be rearranged as a result of adverse weather conditions, mutual consent or exceptional circumstances. In the latter the Results Officer shall be notified by both team captains not later than the day following that on which the match should have been played.
- g) Rule 9a to be amended to read:  
Each competing team shall be represented by four players who shall be arranged in pairs and each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team. The visiting players shall play, throughout the match, on courts of their choice from those allocated by the home club. All rubbers are to be the best of three sets with the tie-break to be played at six games all in each set. Each team shall play one Home and one Away match against each other team in the division in each season.
- h) Rules 9b and 9c remain the same as in the Winter League
- i) Rule 10 does not apply.

### **LATE-SUMMER MIXED LEAGUE**

The Rules & Regulations of the Late-Summer Mixed League are the same as the Winter League except for amendments detailed below:

- a) For the words 'Winter League' read 'Late-Summer Mixed League'.
- b) Rule 5 to be amended to read: 'The Late-Summer Mixed League will comprise one first division and such additional divisions as the league sub-committee will decide prior to the start of the season'.
- c) Rule 6a to be amended to read:  
When a club has more than one team competing in the competition, teams must be ranked in order of strength. A player who has taken part in 4 matches in any one season for higher ranking teams may not subsequently play for a lower ranking team in that season. No player may play in more than 10 matches in any one season.
- d) Rule 6B to be amended to read: Where 2 teams from a club are in the same division they will be scheduled to play in week 1 or week 2. Results must be submitted within 7 days or the result will be declared null and void. In the event of postponement, the match must be played within the next 7 days and the card submitted.
- e) Rule 8 to be amended to read:

'Matches to be played in sequence on the allocated weekends. Teams shall arrange their own playing day/times by mutual consent and inform the Results Officer of these fixtures by 31 July. These may only be rearranged as a result of adverse weather conditions, mutual consent or exceptional circumstances. In the latter the Results Officer shall be notified not later than the day following that on which the match should have been played.

- f) Each competing team shall be represented by four players who shall be arranged in pairs and each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team. The visiting players shall play, throughout the match, on the courts of their choice from those allocated by the home club. All rubbers are to be the best of three sets with a tie-break to be played at six games all in each set. Each team shall play one home and one away match against each other team in the division in each season.
- g) Rule 9b and 9c remain the same
- h) Rule 10 does not apply