

# HALSTEAD AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE RULES (Revised September 2018)

## 1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 The competition shall be known as The Halstead & District Tennis League.
- 1.2 Membership of the League to be confined to Clubs and others (see constitution 1.2) whose base is situated within a radius of 15 miles of Halstead and accepted by The Annual General Meeting; or between meetings by the League Committee.
- 1.3 The League competition shall comprise Mixed, Mens and Ladies sections, each divided into divisions as appropriate. The number of teams in a division shall not exceed 8. (The League may also stage other competitions, each of which shall have their own Rules).

## 2. PROCEDURES

- 2.1 The entire management of the League competition shall be delegated to the League Committee. Their decision on matters not covered by these Rules or in interpretation of these Rules shall be final.
- 2.2 Teams shall be entered each year by completion of an entry form to be returned to the Secretary by a date decided by the Committee.
- 2.3 Teams in each section of the competition shall comprise:-
  - Mixed Section – 3 pairs
  - Mens Section – 3 pairs
  - Ladies Section – 2 pairs
- 2.4 The “**standard**” days for the competition shall be:-

Mixed Section – Monday	“Reserve” days for use when essential to accommodate teams, shall preferably be:-
Mens Section – Wednesday	Mixed Section – Friday
Ladies Section – Wednesday	Mens Section – Friday
	Ladies Section – Saturday

Clubs for whom the Reserve day provides great difficulties may select an alternative Reserve day for their home matches provided this choice is notified to the League on the entry form by the due date.

- 2.5 Where clubs have two teams in the same division their first match in each half should be against each other if this is considered to be possible by the League Match Secretary.
- 2.6 The match season shall begin not before the fourth Monday in April and end not later than the first Sunday in September.
- 2.7 Fixtures shall be compiled by the League’s officers and issued to clubs either at the A.G.M. or as soon as possible before the commencement of the season.
- 2.8 Matches shall be played on the date originally fixed. The captain of the home team shall forward the result of the match in detail to the League Match Secretary within 48 hours (Sundays excepted).

If the result slip from a match is not received within one week of its completion then one point shall be deducted from the home team’s total unless a phoned explanation has been received by the League Match Secretary.

- 2.9 In the event of a team failing to fulfil its engagements, except for bad weather, a walkover shall be conceded to its opponents. The home team shall forward a result slip to this effect.

- 2.10 The home captain's decision shall be final in postponing a match due to bad weather. The captains should agree a new date and the home captain should inform the League Match Secretary of the re-arranged date, which shall be regarded as a fixture.
- 2.11 Clubs must complete all matches by the end of the season (See Rule 2.6). Clubs should not agree "not to play". In the absence of a result, or an explanation, outstanding matches will be awarded to the away team by the League Match Secretary.
- 2.12 Any protests concerning a match must be in writing and reach the League Secretary within 4 days of the match, and shall be dealt with by the League Committee.
- 2.13 The League Trophies shall be presented at a Presentation Evening to be arranged by the Committee. All trophies must be returned to the designated committee member(s) by a date in August to be determined by the Chairman. Trophies will be engraved by the League ready for presentation and remain the property of the League at all times.

### **3. ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1 All players must be bona fide members of the club for which they are playing in the League and no person may play for more than one club. The only exception is where a person's club does not have a team in one of the three sections of the League as identified under Rule 1.3, when that person may also play for a second club who does have a team in that section.
- 3.2 When a club has two or more teams they shall be registered as "A", "B" or "C" teams. Playing members of the club's higher teams must be registered to the League Match Secretary prior to the first match being played. If this is not done then the players representing the club in the first match will be deemed to be registered for the A team (or B team if a C team has been entered). Registered players may not play for any team below the one for which they are registered.
- 3.3 An unregistered player may play twice for higher teams, but upon playing a third time shall then be considered a registered player for the next higher team above the original registration.
- 3.4 A club may, at the mid-point of the season, remove from the registered list of players, any player who has not played three times for the higher team. Such players may then play for a lower team but are not eligible to play again in the higher team for that season.

### **4. MATCHES**

- 4.1 All matches to be played under Lawn Tennis Association rules. The format of the competition shall be:-  
Mixed – Each pair to play each of the opposing pairs for one set with a tie-breaker at 6-6  
Mens – Each pair to play each of the opposing pairs for one set with a tie-breaker at 6-6  
Ladies – Each pair to play two sets against each opposing pair with a tie-breaker at 6-6.
- 4.2 A minimum of 2 courts must be continuously available for each match.
- 4.3 New balls for the match will be provided by the home side, such balls must be on the ITF approved list for the current year.
- 4.4 4.4.1 All match starting times below refer to match play, not to preliminary practice.  
4.4.2 Matches for teams of 3 pairs shall commence not later than 6.45pm. Any pair being more than 15 minutes late shall be deemed to have lost the first set 0-6. Where only two courts are available, play

must commence by 6.30pm. In this instance only two pairs are required at the specified time but the third pair must be available to play 30 minutes later.

4.4.3 Matches for teams of two pairs shall commence not later than 6.45pm. Any pair being more than 15 minutes late shall be deemed to have lost the first set 0-6.

4.4.4 Match starting times may be varied by 15 minutes (earlier or later) by agreement between clubs/captains made not less than one week before the match. The responsibility for informing players rests with team captains.

4.4.5 Match starting times for weekend matches must be specified by the home team and communicated to opponents in good time.

4.5 If a match is unfinished due to bad light or rain, the whole of the match shall be replayed at a time and date agreed between the clubs involved, unless the following applies:

- a) where a result has already been obtained (i.e. where one team has won more sets than the other team can obtain if they win all the remaining unplayed sets) any outstanding sets are halved.
- b) even where a result has not been obtained if 2 rounds (6 sets) have been completed for Mens and Mixed matches or 1 round (4 sets) for Ladies matches, both captains can still agree to halve the outstanding sets to avoid a replay.

Where a replay is necessary the home captain shall inform the League Match Secretary of the new date, which shall be regarded as a fixture. Different players can be used in the replayed match.

4.6 No change may be made in the composition of a team during a match. The team captains must nominate their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pairs on the result slip before play commences.

Where three courts are available correct rotation must be observed (home team first)

1<sup>st</sup> Round 1-3, 2-1, 3-2

2<sup>nd</sup> Round 1-1, 2-2, 3-3

3<sup>rd</sup> Round 1-2, 2-3, 3-1

Where only two courts are available the 1<sup>st</sup> round above should be observed, then played as convenient

## 5. SCORING

5.1 Results sent in shall show the number of sets won by each team, and the score in each set.

5.2 5.2.1 Mens/Mixed Sections – 3 points will be awarded to the winning team. 1 point will be awarded to a losing team gaining 4 sets. 2 points will be awarded to each team for a draw.

Ladies Section – 3 points will be awarded to the winning team. 1 point will be awarded to each team for a draw.

5.2.2 When a team fails to fulfil a fixture except for bad weather (see Rule 2.9) then that team will incur a 2 point deduction. Their opponents will be awarded the maximum number of games, sets and points available for the match.

5.3 Any club intending to withdraw a team must notify the League Secretary in writing. Any matches previously played by such a team will not count towards final league positions.

5.4 The winner's title for each division shall go to the team with the greatest points total. If two teams have the same points total then the team with the greatest number of matches won shall be the winner. If matches won are equal then the number of sets won. If this should also be equal then the game difference shall decide the winner.

5.5 While 7 or more teams are in a division of a section then two teams go up and two teams go down each season, otherwise only one.