

East Cheshire Winter Tennis League

Constitution and Match Rules - Amended May 2013

1. Object

The object of the League is to provide competitive tennis for members from October to March annually.

2. Management

The League shall be managed by a Chairman, Administrator and Finance Officer.

3. Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall be held annually in April. A Special General Meeting shall be held if requested in writing by at least six participating league clubs. Each league club may send up to two representatives to any General Meeting. A quorum for any General Meeting shall be representatives from eight league clubs. The Administrator will give written notice of General Meetings to all league clubs not less than twenty-one days prior to the meeting together with a copy of any proposed amendments to the rules.

The Fixtures Meeting shall be held annually in September and attendance at this meeting is compulsory. Each participating club must be represented by at least one person for each team taking part. Failure of a club to be represented may result in disqualification of that club's teams.

4. Amendment to the Rules

The rules of the League may be amended only by a General Meeting. Written notice of any proposed amendment must be received by the Administrator not less than twenty-eight days before such meeting.

5. Voting

On general matters voting shall be by a simple majority. Each participating club shall have one vote. Where a tie results, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Where a resolution calls for amendment to the rules, a two-thirds majority of those clubs present and voting is required for adoption.

6. Elections

The Chairman, Administrator and Finance Officer shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for election, other than re-election, must be received in writing by the Administrator not less than twenty-eight days prior to the meeting. If any one of the Chairman, Administrator or Finance Officer is unable to complete their term of office, the two remaining Officers shall have the power to co-opt a replacement until the next Annual General Meeting.

7. Accounts

The Finance Officer shall keep records of the annual fees paid and due and of all payments made on behalf of the League and shall prepare an Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31st March and a Balance Sheet as at that date for submission to the next Annual General Meeting. The Finance Officer shall set the

annual fee which will be ratified by the Annual General Meeting.

8. Application of Profit

The League is a non-profit making organization. All profits and surpluses will be used in furtherance of the League's objects. No profit or surplus will be distributed other than to another non-profit making body on winding up or dissolution of the League.

9. Membership

Except at the discretion of the Committee, membership of the League is open to all clubs situated within a radius of 10 miles from Bramhall Railway Station. New applicants must complete an application form which must be sent to the Administrator.

10. Structure

The League shall consist of a number of divisions generally consisting of 11 teams. Each team shall consist of two men and two ladies.

No club shall have more than two teams in the same division.

11. Player eligibility

11.1 Anyone who has played for their county team at senior level in the Winter County Cup, or at County Week during the five years prior to the commencement of each season is ineligible to play. This does not apply to 35 and over County competitions.

11.2 No person may play for more than one club in a season.

11.3 A person may play for higher teams of the same club on two occasions during the season. A player who plays for higher teams on more than two occasions may not then revert to the lowest team that they have played for. As soon as the player has made their **second** appearance for the higher team the club must advise the Administrator of the team in which that player will play in any future matches that season.

11.4 A player may not "play down" in a team lower than that of which they are a regular member without prior agreement from the League Administrator. A player will be regarded as having moved up if they have made a total of three appearances for higher teams in the current season or five appearances for higher teams during the current and immediately preceding seasons.

12. Fixtures

Each team will play the other teams in the division once during the season. Matches will be played on the day and at the time agreed at the Fixture meeting and as advised to the Administrator.

If a club has two teams in the same division, the match between those teams shall be the first match played by them.

13. Format

All matches will take the form of four events being a mens' doubles and a ladies' doubles played simultaneously, following which the players will then change to play mixed doubles. Each event will consist of two sets with a tie-break operating at six games all. A match will consist of eight sets.

14. Playing Conditions

The home team shall provide two courts of the same surface for a match, the choice of

surface being at the home team's discretion. If floodlights are used, the home team shall be responsible for any cost involved. **The home team must advise the away team of the time at which the lights have to be turned off.**

15 Balls

The home team shall provide three new balls per court for a match.

16. Late Arrival

If an event is not ready to start after 15 minutes from the specified start time, a pair who is ready to play will be given a walkover of the first set of 6-0. If the event has still not started 45 minutes from the specified start time, they will be given a walkover for the second set of 6-0. If neither pair from one team is ready to play within 45 minutes of the specified start time, their team will forfeit the match.

17. Retirement

In the event of a pair retiring before the completion of a match, completed sets and games shall stand as scored and their opponents shall record the games and sets required to give them the match.

18. Postponement

If it is not possible to play a match because of bad weather, the home captain must, within 7 days of the original date, inform the Administrator and offer 3 other dates to the away captain. The captains must re-arrange the match and the home captain must inform the Administrator of the new fixture date within 21 days of the cancelled fixture.

If the home captain does not offer three dates within the 7 days then away the captain must inform Administrator. If the away captain does not respond within 7 days of new dates being offered, the home captain must advise the Administrator of the name of the person contacted. Failure to re-arrange the match within the time shown will be dealt with under Rules 27 and 28.

19. Unfinished Matches

If a match is started but not finished because of the weather **or because the floodlights have had to go out for any reason, be it power failure or local government regulation**, the result will stand if one team has won 5 sets or if 6 sets have been completed.

20 Conceded matches

A team conceding a match shall receive a one point deduction.

A team conceding a second match shall receive a further two points deduction.

A team conceding three matches shall be automatically relegated, and all of their results for that season deleted.

21. Results

Both teams must ensure that the scorecard is FULLY completed in block capitals and signed by both teams. The home team must ensure the Administrator receives it within seven days of the match being played.

22. League Positions

Based upon the match sets score, two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw. Final league positions will be decided on points total. If there is a tie on points, then "sets for minus sets against" shall decide. If there is still a tie, then "games for minus games against" shall decide. If there is still a tie, then the "head to head" result shall decide.

23. End of Season

All fixtures must be completed by 31 March.

24. Promotion and Relegation

At the end of the season the top two clubs in each division will be promoted and the two bottom clubs relegated.

25. Withdrawals

In the event of a team withdrawing from the League after the fixtures have been made, no additional team shall be placed in the vacancy for that season. The necessary adjustments will be made at the end of the season to reinstate numbers in each division. All resignations, withdrawals etc must be received by the Administrator at least fourteen days before the Fixtures Meeting.

26. Additions

Any club joining the League for the first time or re-joining or entering an additional team shall commence in the lowest division.

27. Disputes

Any unresolved disputes will be decided by the Administrator or such other person(s) as the Administrator considers appropriate.

28. Breach of Rules

If there is a breach of the Rules, the Administrator reserves the right to take whatever action is considered appropriate including, but not limited to, deducting points, imposing fines or relegation.

29. Dissolution

29.1. A resolution to dissolve the League shall only be proposed at a Special General Meeting and shall only be passed if carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the participating league clubs present and voting.

29.2. The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the Administrator and Finance Officer shall be responsible for the winding-up of the assets and liabilities of the League.

29.3. Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the League shall be paid to another non-profit making body.

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