

# **KENDAL AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **1.**

The League shall be named “The Kendal and District Tennis League”, but may also include the name of a sponsor if appropriate. The League shall comprise such divisions and shall be restricted in the number of teams as shall be decided by the Committee.

### **2.**

A Committee consisting of five members including a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall administer the League. The Committee shall be elected by member clubs at an Annual General Meeting, which shall be held within the first three months of the calendar year. No more than two members of the Committee shall be from the same club and there shall be a quorum of three at any meetings of the Committee.

### **3.**

The Committee shall have the right to co-opt other members as it thinks fit.

### **4.**

At the Annual General Meeting each club which paid an entry fee for the preceding season or has been elected to participate in the league for the following season shall have one vote regardless of the number of teams. Clubs with only junior teams shall have the right to attend the AGM but shall not have voting rights, except on matters affecting juniors. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

### **5.**

Any proposals for changes to the Rules and Constitution must be made in writing to the League Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

### **6.**

An entry fee for each team entered in the league shall be payable. The amount of the entry fee shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting for the following season.

### **7.**

Books of account shall be kept by the Treasurer who will present annual accounts to the AGM made up to date not more than one month prior to the date of the meeting.

### **8.**

A bank account shall be maintained in the League’s name with the relevant bank as deemed appropriate by the Committee. The Treasurer shall have a mandate to sign cheques drawn on the account for the League’s business without the necessity for a counter signature.

## **KENDAL AND DISTRICT TENNIS LEAGUE: RULES**

### **1. SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS**

The league shall consist of four sections: Men, Ladies, Mixed and Junior. Each section shall consist of one or more divisions depending on the number of teams participating, at the discretion of the Committee.

### **2. RULES OF PLAY**

Play shall be governed by the Rules of the ITF.

### **3. MEN'S & LADIES' SECTIONS**

Each team in the Men's & Ladies' Section of the League shall comprise 2 pairs.

Each pair shall play both of the opposing pairs. Each rubber shall consist of two sets (with normal tie-breaks up to seven points with a winning margin of at least two points) and a super tie-break if the sets are equal (in any super tie-break the winner will be the first to ten points with a winning margin of at least two points).

One point will be awarded for each set won and an additional point will be given to the winners of each super tie-break played.

### **4. MIXED SECTION**

Each team in the Mixed Section of the League shall consist of three pairs. The 1<sup>st</sup> pair shall play against the opposing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pairs, the 2<sup>nd</sup> pair shall play against the opposing 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pairs and the 3<sup>rd</sup> pair shall play the opposing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pairs.

Each rubber shall consist of two sets with normal tie-breaks at 6-6.

One point shall be awarded for each set won.

### **5. INCOMPLETE TEAMS**

Where a club fails to provide the requisite number of players for any match the rubbers not played shall count to their opponents.

### **6. BALLS**

The home club shall provide new tennis balls (any make approved by the LTA). If used balls are provided, both Captains must approve their condition.

### **7. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

Any player participating in any match must be a bona-fide paid-up member of the club for which he/she plays and may play for only one club in one Section of the League i.e. a player may play for one club in the Men's or Ladies' Sections and another club in the Mixed Section.

Any player who has represented one club and wishes to transfer to another club in the same section must give the League Secretary seven days' notice in writing during which period he/she shall be ineligible to play for either club.

Only Junior players who have progressed to full (yellow) ball tennis may participate in League Matches. This is typically the first year of Secondary School.

### **8. STARTING TIMES**

All midweek matches shall commence at 6-30pm. If any rubber has not started by 6-45pm the offending team shall be liable to forfeit the first set. If the rubber has not started by 7-00pm the offending team shall forfeit that rubber.

Afternoon matches shall commence at 2-30pm unless the home team has notified the league of a different start time before the season's fixtures are finalised or another time is agreed by both teams in advance.

### **9. POSTPONEMENTS**

All matches shall be played on the dates laid down by the Committee at the start of the season.

If a match is postponed due to inclement weather the Home Captain or Match Secretary shall within 2 days offer the visiting Captain or Match Secretary 2 alternative dates which do not clash with any of the visiting team's other Kendal League fixtures. The visiting team must agree to 1 of these offered dates within 2 days of receiving the proposed alternatives.

Reference should be made to the Kendal League Website 'Rearrange Fixture Date Finder'.

**If the rearrangement has not been agreed within 2 weeks, the match will be automatically declared void with neither team getting any points.**

If a rearranged fixture is again postponed it shall be regarded as a draw unless both teams agree to a further rearrangement.

All League fixtures are to be completed by August 31.

#### **Exceptional circumstances:**

If a team is unable to reach a venue due to verifiable circumstances beyond its control e.g. traffic accident in the surrounding area, then the match should be rearranged for a future date. If the clubs cannot agree then the matter should be brought to the attention of the Chairman who will make the decision as to whether it should be replayed or the match forfeited.

#### **10. ABANDONED MATCHES**

If a match has started but is abandoned due to bad weather or poor light then if at least half the match has been completed the result shall stand, the points for the unplayed or incomplete sets being divided equally between the two teams.

In Men's and Ladies' matches half the match refers to two rubbers. In Mixed matches, six complete sets mark the half way point. If this half way stage has not been reached, the match must be replayed.

#### **11. CANCELLED MATCHES**

If a fixture is called off by a club for any reason other than weather conditions then their opponents shall be entitled to claim the points.

If a team asks to rearrange a fixture at any time after the fixtures have been finalised because they are unable to raise a team, they must offer to concede the match. The opposing Captain may agree to a re-arrangement, but is under no obligation to do so.

If any team withdraws from the league during the season then all results involving that team shall be null and void – thus resulting in relegation of that team from their respective division.

#### **12. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

Both Captains must agree the match result and set scores at the end of the match.

The Home Captain is responsible for compiling a match card on completion of the match, to be signed by both captains.

The Home Captain (or designated deputy or club Match Sec.) must record the result on the league website **within 2 days**. The Away Captain must then verify the result on the website **within a further 5 Days. The Away Captain can also enter the result by agreement with the Home Captain; the result will then be verified by the Home Captain or deputy.**

The signed match card should be retained by the Home Team Captain until the following AGM when the final results will be presented.

#### **13. PROTESTS**

Any club wishing to make a protest to the Committee about the result of a match must do so in writing to the League Secretary or Chairman within three days of the match. The decision of the Committee on any question of dispute or interpretation of the Rules shall be final.

#### **14. STARRED PLAYERS**

In the event of any club having more than one team in any section, players in the 1<sup>st</sup> team shall be starred and ineligible to play for a lower team. If a club has three teams then players in the 2<sup>nd</sup> team shall also be starred for that team and ineligible to play for a lower team although they may play for a higher team.

For Men's & Ladies' teams, four players must be starred. For Mixed teams, three Men and three Ladies must be starred. The names of starred players must be forwarded to the Fixtures Secretary prior to any team from the club playing in the league that season.

If a club has not submitted a starring list before the commencement of the season then those that play in the first match will be the ones starred.

Seven days' notice must be given to the Fixtures Secretary in the event of any alteration to the starring of players. Any player whose star rating is reduced must not play for any team during that period.

No player shall play for a lower team in their club when matches for the team for which they were starred have ended.

**The use of ineligible players** shall result in the forfeit by the offending team of the rubbers in which the ineligible person played.

In the event of any starred player not appearing at least once in any three consecutive matches, that player shall be de-starred and another playing member starred in his/her place.

**In the event that a starred player plays NO matches for the team for which he/she has been starred, then at the end of the season that team will be automatically deducted 10 points, subject to appeal to the Committee.**

#### **15. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

In any section of the League with more than one division, a promotion and relegation system shall operate with the bottom team in the higher division being relegated and the top team in the lower division being promoted.

If teams finish with equal points (sets), number of sets conceded shall decide placement. Where this still results in a draw, the results between the teams involved will be used, using the number of games won if necessary.

Any additional balancing of the divisions shall be made by extra promotion from the lower division or relegation from the higher division, to be agreed at the AGM.

#### **16. OTHER EVENTS**

The Committee shall have the discretion to promote other events and competitions that it may feel appropriate.

#### **17. SPIRIT OF TENNIS**

These Rules are written with the 'spirit of tennis' in mind. Anything not covered by these Rules shall be referred to the Committee via the League Secretary or Chairman. The decision of the Committee shall be final.

*Updates of Rules agreed at 2017 & 2018 AGM.*

*(Original Rules were rewritten and previously agreed at the 1992 AGM with later amendments).*