

NOTTS LTA SUMMER LEAGUE RULES

General

- The League shall be under the management of a Committee consisting of a Chairman appointed by The Notts. LTA Management, with Secretaries of each League section and three members elected annually at an Annual General Meeting to be held prior to the commencement of each season.
- The league shall comprise Men's, Ladies' and Mixed League sections and such other sections as the Committee may deem necessary for the running of any other matches or tournaments under its jurisdiction.
- Each League shall consist of Divisions of seven teams, unless a change in some divisions is deemed necessary by the relevant League Secretary.
- Clubs affiliated to The Notts. LTA may enter any number of teams in the League subject to approval of the League Committee and upon payment of the appropriate fees. No more than two teams from any one Club shall be allowed in the same Division of any League section.
- Any club having two teams in the same division within the same section, must ensure that theirs is the first match to be played by them in that division.
- Clubs intending to withdraw or add teams in the League for the ensuing season must give notice to the League Section Secretaries at least 2 weeks prior to the Fixture Meeting. A copy of the League Rules shall be sent to each Club on affiliation.
- If a Club withdraws a team from the League before completing its engagements then all records of matches played by that team shall be expunged.
- At the end of a season, any trophy presented to a Club at the head of a Division shall be held by that Club for the ensuing season. The Club Secretary shall be responsible for the safe-keeping of the trophy and shall deliver it up to the League Committee on demand.
- All differences and disputes shall be referred to and settled by the League Committee, whose decision shall be final. For any breach of any of these Rules or any other irregularity, the League Committee may impose such penalties either by way of deduction of points or otherwise as it may think fit.
- Fixtures shall be made in a manner directed and approved by the League Committee.
- All Summer League fixtures to be played by the end of October at the latest.
- Any proposed alterations or amendments to these Rules shall be submitted in writing, duly proposed and seconded by officials of at least two different Clubs, to the League Secretary at least four weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting of the League, or at such time as to enable two weeks notice of such a proposal to be notified and voted upon at an Extraordinary General Meeting specially convened for that purpose only. At least a two thirds (i.e. 2 -1) vote in favour shall be required for any such proposal to be adopted. Clubs shall be permitted two votes each, with the Chairman to have a casting vote if necessary.
- Any additions, alterations or amendments to existing playing formats shall be voted on at the AGM or EGM and will require at least a 2/3 vote in favour for the proposal to be adopted.

Fixtures, Promotion and Regulation

- Matches shall be arranged by the Club Match Secretaries or their representatives at a Fixture Meeting to be arranged by the League Committee. There will be a "cooling off" period of seven days following the Fixture Meeting for the rearrangement of any fixtures which were made in error. Rule 17 shall apply after the expiry of 7 days.
- Each Club shall play each of the other Clubs in the same Division once during the season, except that Clubs in the last Division shall play as many matches as the League Committee shall direct. The venue for fixtures shall be determined by the League section Secretaries.
- Should Clubs agree to play on a day other than Saturday or Sunday, they are at liberty to do so, providing that any home Club shall have the privilege of insisting upon a particular day of the week. A time shall be arranged for the commencement of the match when the fixture is made and shall be stated on the return of fixtures. This time is set for the commencement of play and not for players to arrive. Evening matches shall commence not later than 6pm. The home Club shall have the privilege of setting the time of play at weekends. This rule will also apply in the Winter League where floodlights are available.
- Two points shall be awarded for each win and one point to each team for a draw. In the case of two or more Clubs having an equal number of points at the end of the season, precedence shall be given to the Club winning the highest percentage of sets, then games.
- At the end of the season, the highest two Clubs in each Division shall be promoted and the lowest two Clubs relegated unless otherwise directed by the League Committee. Teams entering the League shall start in the lowest Division.
- All Clubs must record their home fixtures on the web scoring system within two weeks of being notified by NLTA Office that the system is ready for recording fixtures and results.
- No fixture shall be postponed for any reason except bad weather. In the event of bad weather or of no decision having been reached in the time agreed, the match shall be rearranged forthwith by the match secretaries of the Clubs concerned. In case of disagreement, that date shall be fixed by the League Committee.
- The responsibility for postponing a match on account of bad weather shall rest with the home team.

Eligibility

- Only properly elected members of a Club shall be eligible to play for that Club in any one League section during the same season. A player may not play for more than one Club in any one League section during the same season.
- (a) A Club entering more than one team in a League section shall nominate four players or more to be starred for each team, except for the lowest ranked team. In the mixed section this will consist of at least two ladies and two men for each team, except the lowest ranked team. These players are not allowed to play for teams ranked lower than the team for which they are starred.
(b) Each team's starred players must in total play at least 12 matches between them, for the team they are starred for or a higher ranked team. Once a starred player has played a match they may not be un-starred. Additional starred players may be added, but they must not have already played for a team lower than the one they are being starred for.
At the end of the season any team failing to achieve this quota may attract a penalty of one point. The league will consider extenuating circumstances.
(c) For those Divisions where fewer than 6 matches are played the quota requirement will be proportionally reduced. 5 matches will have a quota of 10, 4 matches 8, 3 matches 6. This takes into account small divisions and where matches are conceded, expunged or are "no plays".
(d) The names of all starred players must be submitted to the named League representative by 1st July (Summer Leagues) and 1st November (Winter Leagues). Any team not submitting their starrings by the deadline will have 2 points deducted.
(e) No player may represent a Club in more than eight matches in one League section in a season.

Rules of Play

- All League matches must be played on grass courts, if available and fit for play. Should grass courts become unfit for play during a match then the match shall be continued on hard courts if available.
- Where all courts are of the same surface, pairs of both teams shall play a rubber on each court in turn. Where courts are not of the same surface, the visiting captain may elect for each pair of the visiting team to remain on the same court for all rubbers of the match.
- Each home Club is required to provide a minimum of three new tennis balls per court to the standard authorised by the Lawn Tennis Association.
- Any pair not ready for play, within half an hour of the arranged time for commencing, shall lose the first two sets. A team, if still incomplete after one hour, shall lose the match but shall be permitted to continue play and may win up to eight sets only. In the event of adverse weather conditions causing abandonment before one hour has elapsed from the time arranged for commencement then the match shall be re-arranged forthwith.
Any team with only 1 pair ready to play after 1 hour shall be deemed to have conceded the match and the result shall be recorded as per rules 29 and 31.
A time shall be arranged for the completion of all matches commencing in the morning. A duration from 10.30 am to 2.30 p.m. is recommended for such matches.
- A team shall consist of three pairs: each pair shall play against each pair of the opposing side. Two short sets only shall be played, each to a maximum of 6-5 with a 7 point tie-break to operate at 5 games all.
- In the Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Leagues a match shall be decided by the winning of the majority of sets. Only in the case of mutual agreement before the match to obtain a complete finish of all eighteen sets shall a re-arrangement take place where one team has already won 10 sets, and bad weather or bad light prevents completion. Where bad light becomes a problem and floodlights are available, these shall be used to complete the match..
- If the outstanding rubber of a match with a score of 8 sets all is not completed the rubber may be completed (not started afresh) by the four players concerned within seven days, subject to the agreement of the captains before the start of the match. If no agreement is made, then the match must be re-arranged forthwith by the Match Secretaries of the Clubs concerned.
- If any Club concedes a match the result shall be recorded as 12 – 0 sets and 72-0 games. (Winter league 75 – 0 games.)
- The detailed results of each match must be fully recorded on the score system by the winning side, or if a draw the home team, within 3 days of being played. To be confirmed by the other team within 7 days. In the case of conceded matches this must be sent to the appropriate League Secretary for recording on the system..
- Any Club conceding a match shall have two points deducted from their Division total. Any Club conceding more than one match in any one Division shall have their results in that Division expunged and be demoted to a lower Division next season.

Order of Play for Two-Court Clubs:

Pairs 2 and 3 only need arrive on time. There will be no penalty for late arrival of pair 1 thereafter except that teams must be complete 30 minutes after match commences.
Home Pair 3 v. Visitors 3 Home Pair 1 v. Visitors 1 Home Pair 1 v. Visitors 2 Home Pair 1 v. Visitors 3 Home Pair 3 v. Visitors 2
Home Pair 2 v. Visitors 2 Home Pair 2 v. Visitors 3 Home Pair 3 v. Visitors 1 Home Pair 2 v. Visitors 1
The usual Rules will apply for an incomplete team after one hour of match commencement. However, the Rule claiming all three rubbers for an incomplete team after 30 minutes of commencement should be amended to two rubbers only - as only two courts are available for play. This Rule will also apply to the Winter League.

Floodlighting Protocol:

The following is a proposal to help avoid problems where floodlighting is used for matches and which highlights the existing rules.

Rule 13. "Evening matches shall commence not later than 6pm." This time is set for the commencement of play not for players to arrive.

Rule 17. "No fixture shall be postponed for any reason except bad weather"

With extracts from the above rules in mind and following some problems that have occurred where floodlights have been used, the following protocol for clubs providing this facility should be applied:

- Prior to the match starting, the visiting team captain must be informed of any time limits that apply to the use of the lights. Then every effort can be made to run the match without undue time loss.
- If the club premises are affected by time constraints, then these should be made clear to visiting teams.

Comments on this protocol will be welcomed by the League Chairman.

Protocol. Display of League Rules;

The complete League rules are now to be provided by the League Committee to each club so that these can be placed on permanent display to be accessible to both home and away captains during interclub matches.

NOTTS LTA SHORT FORMAT SUMMER LEAGUE RULES

- Each team shall consist of three pairs. Each pair shall play against each pair of the opposing team as follows:

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Court 1	Home 2 v Away 1	Home 1 v Away 2	Home 3 v Away 3
Court 2	Home 3 v Away 2	Home 2 v Away 3	Home 1 v Away 1
Court 3	Home 1 v Away 3	Home 3 v Away 1	Home 2 v Away 2

In rounds 1 and 2 each rubber will consist of one set.

In round 3 each rubber will consist of two sets.

Any sets reaching 6 games all shall be decided by a 7 point tie-break.

- The Short Format League Secretaries will decide on division sizes according to the number of teams entering.
- Any pair not ready for play within half an hour of the arranged start time shall lose the first set. A team if still incomplete after one hour shall lose the match but may continue to play and may win up to 5 sets only. In the event of adverse weather conditions causing abandonment within one hour of the scheduled start time then the match shall be rearranged forthwith.
- A match shall be decided by the winning of the majority of sets. Only in the case of mutual agreement before the match to obtain a complete finish of all 12 sets shall a re-arrangement take place where one team has already won 7 sets and bad weather or bad light prevents completion. If floodlights are available these may be used to complete the match.
- If the outstanding rubber of a match with a score of 5 sets all is not completed, the rubber may be completed (not started afresh) by the 4 players concerned within 7 days, subject to agreement of the two captains before the start of the match. If no agreement is made, then the match must be re-arranged.
- If any club is awarded a walkover the result shall be recorded as 8 sets to nil, 50 games to nil.
- In all cases, other than those mentioned in this section, the Short Format League will be governed by the relevant Rules appertaining to the Summer League.

NOTTS LTA WINTER LEAGUE RULES

- Each team shall consist of three pairs. Each pair shall play against each pair of the opposing side. One set only of 12 games to be played.
- The match will be decided upon the number of games won. Two points for a win, one point for a draw.
- Hospitality is completely at the discretion of the home side; but a hot drink is most welcome on a cold day!
- The final play-by date will be the last weekend in May. Fixtures not played by that date count as concessions by the home Club.
- In all cases, other than those mentioned in this section, the Winter League will be governed by the Rules appertaining to the Summer League.

NOTTINGHAM TENNIS CENTRE INDOOR LEAGUE RULES

- See also rules 4, and 19 of the Summer League Rules
- The League will be played over 1 season. September to April with promotion and relegation.
- Each team shall consist of 2 ladies and 2 gentlemen playing 1 men's doubles, 1 ladies doubles and 2 mixed doubles, played in that order.
- A rubber will be a maximum of 16 games. Only completed games will count towards the score.
- The match will be decided upon the number of games won. 2 points will be awarded to the winning team, with 1 point to each team if the match is drawn
- The league will normally be made up of 8 teams per division. At the end of each league season 2 teams will be promoted and 2 teams relegated from each division for the following season. Final positions in each division are determined by the number of points awarded. In the event of teams being equal on points the position will be decided by percentage games won divided by percentage games played. If this is still equal the result between the two teams will count.
- All fixtures will be arranged by the Indoor League Organiser and notified to clubs prior to commencement of the season. They will also be found on the Nottingham Tennis Centre website. Fixtures may not be postponed or rearranged for any reason whatsoever, other than by the League Organiser.
- Matches will take no longer than 1 ½ hours to complete. Ahead of the first match will be a 10 minute "knock up" period, followed by two rounds of 40 minute matches. There is no official "knock up" ahead of the second round.
- At deuce games will be decided on the next point. In Mens/Ladies doubles the receiving pair nominates which side to receive from. In the mixed doubles the male serves to male, female serves to female.
- Strict time keeping is essential, and the following rules MUST be adhered to.
 - Players must be ready to commence play at the time stipulated. Two games will be conceded for every 5 minute period after the 10 minute knock up or part period of lateness and no knock up will be permitted if more than 10 minutes late starting.
 - Play will stop precisely on time or before, at the end of the first rubber after 40 minutes and at the end of the match after 1 ½ hours to permit the next match to start on time. **At the call of time only the point being played may be finished.**
- Court costs will be shared by the two teams and captains will be responsible for payment before commencement of the match.
- Any team failing to appear will be responsible for the full cost of court hire for both teams. In the event of a walk-over, 44/0 result will be recorded. If only 3 players appear for a match, the rubbers which can be played should be played, with the other two rubbers being recorded as 16/0. A team of 3 players must pay the cost for a full team and cannot win the match unless an eligible 4th player arrives in time for the mixed doubles. Where a team concedes a match for the second time during a season they also receive the penalty of a loss of one point. If that team consequently concedes a match for the third time their results are expunged and the team are relegated.
- Tennis balls will be provided by the League.
- A club entering more than one team shall nominate one gentleman and one lady for each team (this should reflect the playing standard of the players concerned), except the lowest ranked team. These players shall be ineligible for teams ranked lower than the team for which they are nominated. (Nomination list to be received before the start of the season).
- Maximum of 10 appearances for any one player
- Any disputes or complaints in connection with a match need to be received by email within 7 days of the match, addressed to the Indoor League Organiser whose decision is final.