

RULES

The following Rules have been compiled only for the Dunlop West of Scotland 2020 Doubles League



Qualification

1. The league and cup competitions shall be open to clubs and tennis venues affiliated to Tennis West of Scotland, a Company limited by guarantee. A club or venue becomes affiliated once it has signed and submitted an Affiliation Form and has paid its annual affiliation fee which is set at the Annual General Meeting of the Company.
2. A club or tennis venue wishing to compete shall enter competitions online by an entry date notified to clubs. An entry fee per team as determined at the Annual General Meeting shall be paid by a date set by the Company.
3. No club shall be eligible to compete while its annual fees remain unpaid.
4. All players who participate in competitions must have a British Tennis Membership number which links to the place to play they are competing for.
 - ***To become a British Tennis Member – 0208 487 7000 – and remember to ask to link your BT membership number to your club or clubs.***
5. The playing Season will be split into two Seasons-- the Spring/Summer Season will run from 1st March until 31st July and the Autumn /Winter Season will run from 1st August until 28th/29th February. No adult shall be allowed to play for more than one club in West of Scotland competitions during either of these seasons. An adult player may compete for a different club of which he or she is a member and to which his or her British Tennis Membership number is linked, in any league or cup competition only if that player's club has not entered any team into that competition.

6. A junior player may represent one club in junior league and cup competitions and another club in adult league and cup competitions, in the same season, so long as the player has his/her British Tennis membership number linked to both clubs.

N.B. Junior players may play in up to two age groups in the National League winter season. A junior player may also play for any other club to which he/she is linked in the National League Scotland [Open] which is delivered by Tennis Scotland in the winter season.

FAQ A British Tennis Member's membership number may be linked to more than one club. A BTM can do this online by logging into the BTM's player profile at www.lta.org.uk or by contacting British Tennis Services at 0208 487 7000.

7. All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors, or interpretation of rules shall be referred firstly to the League Organiser and, if required, to the appropriate Committee or Board, whose decision shall be final.
8. Any dispute arising between clubs shall be referred to the arbitration of the Competitions sub-committee or appropriate member of staff whose decision shall be final and binding on both clubs. Should either of the two clubs have a member on that sub-committee, such member(s) shall not participate in voting on the dispute or protest.
9. Complaints relating to a fixture should be in the hands of the League Organiser within 7 days of the date of the fixture.
10. The day to day organisation of the league and cup competitions shall be carried out by the League Organiser under the auspices of the Tennis West of Scotland Board of Directors and Competitions sub-committee. The League Organiser shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of these regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these Regulations; to suspend or modify any of these Regulations in appropriate circumstances. The League Organiser's decision on all matters is final.
11. The Board may delegate all or any of the powers given to them under these rules to a Sub-Committee appointed by them for the purpose.
12. The Board shall have power to alter or add to these rules as they may from time to time deem expedient, as well as to introduce other competitions and determine the structure and composition of divisions and sections.

Arrangement of Fixtures

13. Matches for this competition have been scheduled by the Organiser. Any match may be rescheduled on a date before the scheduled date if both team captains agree. Any match which is cancelled due to inclement weather must be played on or before the date shown on the schedule for this purpose.

Although matches have been scheduled, the home team captain must confirm arrangements for the match, by text or by telephone call, with the away captain at least 5 days before the match date.

Matches will be played outdoors. The safety of players is the responsibility of the home venue and current government guidelines must be adhered to for the duration of this competition. Any club which does not follow such guidelines will be asked to withdraw all its teams if no appropriate steps are taken to comply with these guidelines.

A club may not participate if toilet facilities are not available for all players.

14. The club on whose ground the match is played shall provide three approved balls per court. No hospitality should be offered to teams.

15. The official ball for all West of Scotland events is the Dunlop Fort ball.

16. Clubs with fewer than two courts shall not be eligible to take part in the competitions unless they are prepared (if called on to do so by their opponents) to play their matches on their opponent's courts, always provided that the opponents have two courts available. The club on whose ground the match is played shall provide the balls and hospitality.

Clubs without floodlit courts or early closing policies must make this aware to opponents in advance and the appropriate scoring format and start time for play agreed [Refer Proof of conformation may be required if any dispute arises.

Recording Match Scores

17. The winning team captain must record player details for both teams and the individual set scores for all rubbers played **within 24 hours** of the match being completed.

18. Walkovers must not be entered online by a team captain but the details of any claim for a walkover should be e-mailed to the county office. The opposing team captain must be copied into any correspondence or the claim will be disregarded. If a walkover is awarded by the League Organiser then the League organizer will record the walkover online and award the appropriate penalty points to the team forfeiting the match.

It is hoped that no matches will be conceded if clubs have followed the recommendation to have a large pool of players for each team.

19. If an 'unknown player' is selected, a comment must be added to the online match scorecard to provide the player's name and British Tennis membership number if known. It is the responsibility of the relevant team captain to determine the British Tennis membership number of any 'unknown player' and to ensure that the BT membership number is linked to the club which he or she has represented. This should be notified as soon as possible to the league organizer – either online or by email.

20. It is the responsibility of the losing team captain to check the recorded result and notify the county office by e-mail if there is any related query.

21. Team captains should be made aware that data cannot be edited after being submitted and confirmed. Any error must be notified to the league organiser – either online or by email - within 48 hours of the match being completed.

22. Final dates for the online submission of match scores will be published online and in the annual handbook. It is possible that the competition may be suspended for a period if government guidelines advise. Team captains will be advised of any suspension and regular information will be posted at www.tenniswos.co.uk

Once final league standings have been published by the county office, no amendments will be made to the standings unless an error has been made by the county office.

23. Team Captains are advised to check leagues and report problems to the county office, either by e-mail or by comment on the tournament software web site, throughout the period of competition.

At the end of the competition period, the appropriate penalty will be incurred by both teams in any match for which no match score has been recorded online i.e. the match will be deemed not to have been played.

Postponements and Cancellations

24. Any club intending to concede a match shall advise the League Organiser by email before the date agreed upon for playing and must copy in the opposing team captain.
25. In the cases of matches postponed on account of the weather or not concluded owing to an agreed time limit or interruption, the home Team Captain must offer three dates on which to conclude the match to the visiting Team Captain. This offer must be made within three days after the original date of the match. Such rescheduled matches shall be played as soon as possible. In the event of clubs not reaching agreement within seven days of the original date, notification of this failure to agree a date must be sent by the Secretary of the home club to the League. A date, one week after the last scheduled date, has been recommended for such matches and will be the match date unless the fixture has been arranged for an earlier date. If the match is not played by the recommended date, neither team will be awarded points.

RULES OF PLAY

26. Matches must not start after 7:00 p.m. and not later than 6:30 p.m. if the home venue does not have two floodlit courts.
27. Teams and pairs within teams shall be played in order of playing strength **as determined by the team captain**, and captains, if requested, shall provide written copies of their teams in order of pairing prior to going on court. Once an order of pairs in a team has been established in any one season, this order cannot be reversed.

Example

If Players A and B play together at first pair above Players C and D who play together at second pair then C+D as a pair can never in any future match in that competition play above A+B as a pair. C or D could partner another player and play above A+B as a pair. Similarly A or B could partner another player and play below C+D as a pair.

FAQ

A player who is playing up from a lower team, and partnering a nominated player of the higher team, can play at any position in the higher team.

28. Any player participating in the last scheduled match must have represented the club in that competition in that season or the previous season.
29. To avoid arguments, it is recommended that, prior to a match on courts without floodlights, the captains of each team should agree upon the time limit beyond which play will not be continued.
30. Should the match not be completed (at the expiry of the time limit or because of interruption due to inclement weather) the match shall be continued from the point at which it was stopped, on the same courts, and by the same players as soon thereafter as possible. If it is impossible for all the same players to play on the continuation, up to two substitutes shall be allowed in the same position as the players for whom they are substituting so that the team plays in the same order as the original selection. The rule only operates in the absence of mutual agreement between the clubs, i.e. they may agree to replay the whole match in which case different teams may be selected.

N.B. The players who conclude the match are recorded online.

Rule 25 will apply in relation to arranging a date to complete the match.

31. Players must arrive ready to play as it is likely that there will be no access to changing facilities. If a player is not ready to play 15 minutes after the time appointed for the commencement of the match, the defaulting team shall lose the first set on the court concerned to love. 45 minutes after the time appointed for the commencement of the match, if play has still not started the second set is forfeited. If a player is not changed and ready to play one hour and 15 minutes after the time appointed for the commencement of the match, all three sets are forfeited on all courts. No additional penalty is incurred.
The captain of the non-defaulting team must intimate to the captain of the defaulting team before play starts on the court concerned that he/she is invoking this Rule.
32. If a team defaults or concedes a match more than once in a season, all matches played by that team will be declared void.
33. Teams must consist of four women, or four men, and each pair shall play three sets against the opposing corresponding pair.

A team which attempts to play a match without the full complement of players shall concede that match however:-

A club's lowest team in this competition may, **up to a maximum of two times** in a season, consist of two players [instead of four] who will play at pair 1. The team will concede three sets at second pair 0-6 0-6 0-6 or the score appropriate to the scoring format agreed.. The team must advise the opposing team in advance when possible. If the team thereafter concedes a match in the same competition, Rule 32 will apply and the team will be withdrawn from the competition.

No formal nominations will be requested from clubs for this competition however teams are asked to follow the following recognized principles of West leagues.

- A player should not play up on more than twice in any league competition. 'Playing up' is allowed at any time in the competition.
- A recognized 'higher team' player should not play down unless the lower team has no other players to call on.

34. Any sets (points) won by an ineligible player will be awarded to the opponents. Any sets (points) won by a pair or pairs below the pair containing the ineligible player will also be awarded to the opponents.

In addition, the team fielding the ineligible player will incur a penalty of 3 points.

35. The Division 1 winners will be the West of Scotland champions for that season. No other trophies will be awarded this season.

36. The club with the highest number of points in a league shall be the champion club of the division or section. Should the points be equal, the head to head match result will decide. If more than two teams are tied, games percentage will decide.

In the event of all those being equal the championship will be shared.

37. A team gaining a walkover will be credited with 6 points. The defaulting team will receive a 7 point penalty point deduction.

At the end of a competition period, both teams in any match not played will be deemed to have conceded that match and the above penalty will be incurred by both teams.

38. The following scoring options are permitted and, before the start of the match and preferably when the match is confirmed, both team captains will agree the most appropriate format.

Organiser's order of preference:

- i. Three sets to six with a seven point tie-break played when games are six all.
- ii. As above but with a championship tie-break [first to ten points and winning by two clear points] played as the third set.
- iii. Three short sets to four with a seven point tie-break played when games are four all.
- iv. As above but with a championship tie-break [first to ten points and winning by two clear points] played as the third set.

If there is any dispute between captains, the home team captain's decision is final.

39. One point shall be awarded for each set won



ARBITRATION

The LTA Code of Conduct will apply to all players who compete in West of Scotland league and cup competition matches

