

# Scottish Inter-club Challenge Cup Competition Rules 2024

### 1. Title

This competition shall be named The Scottish Inter-Club Challenge Cup Competition and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Competition.

### 2. Description

The Competition is intended to be the premier Scottish doubles event for regular playing members of registered clubs in Scotland. The Competition shall be played:-

- In the “true spirit” of the game of tennis;
- As a knock-out event throughout;
- In two sections, one being for women and one for men

### 3. Prizes

- 3.1. A perpetual Challenge Cup shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules, the Rules of Tennis and the Rules and Regulations of the LTA as adopted for the time being by Tennis Scotland so far as they are applicable to The Competition and which shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to each section of the Competition.
- 3.2. The Club winning the final tie in each section shall be adjudged the holder for one year of the Challenge Cup and shall receive 6 medals or other mementos as Tennis Scotland may determine.

### 4. Club Eligibility

The Competition shall be open to all Clubs which are registered to Tennis Scotland.

### 5. Player Eligibility

- 5.1. Each player shall play in the Competition for only one affiliated Club in one season.
- 5.2. The Competition is open to Club players who play for that same Club in District league fixtures or in approved University competitions during the same year of the Scottish Cup. University competitions shall have been previously approved by the Tennis Scotland Referee.
- 5.3. Each player shall be a bona fide full playing member of the Club and have a Advantage Tennis membership number linked to the club on or before a date in April set annually by Tennis Scotland. Membership of the Club shall be in accordance with that Club’s current Constitution, Articles of Association or Rules which must be available if requested by Tennis Scotland.
- 5.4. Player Eligibility Rule 5.1 above shall still apply if a player relocates during a season.
- 5.5. If any player ceases to work at any Club, having played in any of The Competition’s ties for that Club, all of these Player Eligibility Rules herewith shall continue to apply for subsequent ties in that season.
- 5.6. To qualify to play in the semifinal or final a player must have played for the same Club in two fixtures in the calendar year of the current Scottish Cup competition in any of the following competitions:

District League matches (winter, spring or summer leagues)

District Cup matches (winter, spring or summer cups)

National Premier League Doubles

University Team competitions

Matches used to count towards eligibility must take place on separate days.

Walkovers given to a Club do not count towards eligibility

5.7. To play in the final all players must comply with the above and have either:

Played in 1 round of the Scottish Cup in the same season

Have a doubles WTN not better than any other member of the named team for the final

5.8. Reserve Player – A team may have a 7<sup>th</sup> player for any tie. This player can replace an injured player during a tie, this player must have a doubles WTN which is not better than or the same as that of any other member of the declared team, and this player must also comply with the player eligibility rules in 5.6. For the avoidance of doubt, any substitute may only be brought in at the start of a rubber, if a player retires once a rubber starts, then the team have to concede that rubber and the substitute can play subsequent rubbers. No changes to pairs or team order can be made.

5.9. Any Club infringing any part of this Rule 5 shall lose the whole tie in which any ineligible player has played.

## **6. Management and Appointment of Referees**

Tennis Scotland shall manage the Competition and appoint a Tennis Scotland Referee thereof. A substitute Referee may be appointed if deemed necessary.

## **7. Priority**

Ties in the Competition shall have priority over all other events except for International and International Trial matches.

## **8. Entry Fee**

A Club wishing to participate in the Competition shall enter online by a date published annually by Tennis Scotland and pay the appropriate entry fee at the time of entry.

## **9. Draws**

Tennis Scotland shall make the Draws for each section of the Competition and publish the Draws online on dates published in advance. Nominated team captains will be emailed a link to the Draws and to the Rules of the Competition.

If the previous year's finalists and/or semi-finalists enter, Tennis Scotland, when making the draw, shall ensure that the finalists are in opposite halves of the draw and semi finalists are also in opposite halves of the draw.

The previous year's finalists and semi-finalists will enter the competition in the round of 16 and will be drawn at random in any line of their half i.e. they will not be seeded.

## 10. Schedule

- 10.1. Apart from the final round, ties shall be scheduled on dates set by Tennis Scotland and published at the same time as the Draws. The home team captain [Refer to Rule 11.1] must contact the away team captain, by text or by phone, at least 7 days before the next round is due to be played to confirm a date and match time. The options are that the match can be played on:-
- The scheduled date
  - The Saturday or Sunday of the preceding weekend
  - The Sunday which follows the scheduled Saturday.
  - Any midweek date before the scheduled Saturday.
  - If there is no agreement between team captains, the tie will be played on the scheduled Saturday at the start time outlined in Rule 17.1
- 10.2. Once agreed, the home team captain will reschedule the match online to show the date that the tie will be played.  
Matches not started or unfinished matches shall be concluded on the following day, weather- permitting, or as soon as possible thereafter.

## 11. Choice of Ground and Court Surfaces

- 11.1. The first-drawn Club in each tie shall have the choice of ground unless that Club had the choice in the previous round and its opponents played away from home. In any tie in which one or both teams received a bye then the first- drawn Club [top in the draw] shall have the choice of ground. Tennis Scotland shall have the right to select the venue for the finals.
- 11.2. Each tie shall be played on three courts of a similar surface. A Club with the choice of ground but not having three such courts at its disposal shall exercise its right by arranging for the tie concerned to be played at a suitable alternative venue, and shall inform the Referee and the opposing Club concerned of the details at least 72 hours prior to the time fixed for the start of the tie.
- 11.3. A Club, having three or more similar courts at its disposal, which has the right of choice of ground but which does not make three courts available for the tie concerned, shall concede the right of choice of ground to its opponent or concede the tie. The concession shall be notified to the opposing Club and the Referee at least 72 hours prior to the time set for the start of the tie.

## 12. Two Home-Drawn Ties on Same Date

A Club which has two teams drawn at home at the same stage in the Competition shall exercise its right by arranging for the ties concerned to be played on six courts. The home Club shall be bound to confirm the venue(s) and start time details to the Tennis Scotland Referee and the other Club(s) concerned at least 72 hours prior to the start time for the ties concerned.

Clubs in this position may offer to concede home advantage and play a tie away or on arranged neutral courts.

## 13. Team Composition

Each Club shall consist of a team of six players, who shall be arranged in pairs in order of playing strength and nominated before the draw is made.

#### 14. Order of Play

- 14.1. A draw is made to decide in which order the fixed rounds will be played so that in each round there will be one level-strength match. Each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team.
- 14.2. The order of play and the order of courts shall be decided by drawing the rounds from:-

Round	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3
A	1 v 1	2 v 3	3 v 2
B	2 v 2	3 v 1	1 v 3
C	3 v 3	1 v 2	2 v 1

- 14.3. In no case shall any pair play more than one rubber on the same court without the consent of both Captains except that, if both Captains agree, a succeeding round may be commenced before the preceding round has been completed.

#### 15. Time Limits

A time limit for the termination of each tie (except the finals) shall be fixed by the Captains before play commences and, unless the Captains agree that play shall cease earlier owing to unavoidable circumstances which have arisen subsequent to the time when the limit was fixed, play shall cease in each match at the conclusion of the game in progress when the time limit has been reached.

#### 16. Matches

In all Rounds of the Competition, a rubber shall consist of the best of three sets with the tie-break operating at six games all in each of the first two sets.

If the rubber score is one set all, a match tie-break (first to 10 points and winning by 2 clear points) will be played.

#### 17. Start of Play

- 17.1. In all Rounds of the Competition except the final Round, play for a tie or for the continuation of a tie shall start no earlier than 11.00 am or later than 2.00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays and not later than 6.15pm on other days unless permission to commence at a different time shall have been granted by the Referee. A match may start at a different time if both team captains agree.
- 17.2. Warm-ups shall have been completed prior to the scheduled start-of-play time.
- 17.3. Any team which does not have the full complement of six players ready for play:-
- 15 minutes after the agreed starting time will lose the first set 0-6 on each court from which a player is missing;
  - 30 minutes after the agreed starting time will lose all Round 1 matches 0-6, 0-6;
  - 1 hour after the agreed starting time will forfeit the whole tie.

#### 18. Tennis Balls

- 18.1. The home team shall provide new balls for each tie. New balls do not need to be provided for Rounds B and C.
- 18.2. Tennis Scotland shall select and provide the balls to be used in the finals.

### **19. Referees and Umpires for Individual Ties**

Tennis Scotland shall reserve the right to appoint accredited referees and/or umpires for ties at any stage in the Competition. Otherwise, any two Clubs drawn against each other may, by mutual agreement, appoint an accredited referee and/or umpires for that tie.

### **20. Winner of Each Tie**

- 20.1. The Club team which wins the majority of nine rubbers shall be declared the winner of the tie.
- 20.2. The Captain of either team may concede rubbers, sets and/or games for the purpose of producing a result, but this must be no later than five minutes after the time limit set for the tie shall have been reached.
- 20.3. If, for any reason, the tie is discontinued before either team has won five rubbers, the result will be determined as follows:-
  - Should the number of rubbers be equal and provided that two rounds shall have been completed, the majority of sets shall decide or, if sets are equal, the majority of games. Rubbers, sets and games in an unfinished third round shall not be counted. A match tie-break will count as one set and one game.
  - If no result can yet be obtained, the tie shall be concluded on the following day from the point at which the play was stopped or interrupted, both teams complying with the Change of Players Rule 22 hereafter if all original six players cannot play.
- 20.4. If no result can be obtained in a discontinued tie, it shall be concluded on the following day or a mutually agreed date from the point at which the play was stopped or interrupted, both teams complying if necessary with the Change of Players Rule 22.

### **21. Recording matches**

- 21.1. The winning team captain must record the names of all players of both teams and the scores of all rubbers within 24 hours of the match being completed. The losing team captain should confirm online that the match information is accurate.
- 21.2. A match will be forfeited if an incorrect player is selected when submitting a match score online unless the Referee is notified of an error within 24 hours.

### **22. Change of Players**

- 22.1. A Club is not bound to play the same team throughout the Competition, but no change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in a tie after the start of play except as hereinafter provided.
- 22.2. If a tie is uncompleted under Rule 20, the composition of a team may be altered provided that no rearrangement of the team or alterations to the order of merit takes place and that not more than two substitutes per team shall merely take the

place(s) of the replaced player(s). Any such substitute:-

- Must comply with the foregoing Player Eligibility Rule 5; and
- Must not have a better World Tennis Number than the player being replaced.

### **23. Scratching from the Competition**

Tennis Scotland, as the event organizer, has the right not to accept an entry into the subsequent National League Open and Scottish Cup event from a team which has entered and then scratched from the previous season's Competition.

### **24. Disputes**

Any dispute arising between Clubs shall be referred in writing to the Referee whose decision shall be final and binding upon both Clubs.

### **25. Rules and Disciplinary Procedures**

- 25.1. All 26 of the Rules herein, including those quoted within Rule 3.1, shall apply together with the current year's LTA Tournament Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct, Anti-Doping Policy and, where applicable, the LTA Guidelines for a Non Umpired Match.
- 25.2. Any question relating to the Rules of The Competition shall be referred to the Referee, whose decision shall be final.
- 25.3. The Referee shall have the power to disqualify from the Competition any Club deemed to have broken any of these Rules and the Referee's decision thereon shall be final. Any such Club may also be subject to further disciplinary action by Tennis Scotland.
- 25.4. By payment of its online entry fee, each Club is deemed to have accepted these Rules and to be bound by them.
- 25.5. The Rules for the current season shall be published on the Tennis Scotland website when the Draws for that year's Competition are published.

### **26. Amendment of the Rules**

These Rules may be altered or amended from time to time by Tennis Scotland at a meeting properly constituted in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Tennis Scotland.

Appendix A

**2024 Scottish Inter-Club Challenge Cup**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Date</b>
Online entries open	Tuesday 30th January 2024
Online entries close	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 23.59 hours
Draws published online by	Friday 8th March 2024
Players' BT membership number linked to the club	24 hours before first tie start time [Refer Rule 5.2]
Round of 64	Sunday 14th April 2024
Round of 32	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Round of 16	Saturday 11th May 2024
Quarter-finals	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Semi-finals	Saturday 1st June 2024
Finals at Whitecraigs LT&SC	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2024