

# RULES OF THE YORKSHIRE DOUBLES LEAGUES

## Organisation

- 1 The competitions shall be called the "Yorkshire Doubles Leagues. Separate competitions shall operate for ladies' doubles and men's doubles.
- 2 Membership of the Leagues shall be open to Clubs affiliated to the Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association (YLTA).
- 3 The Leagues shall be managed by a League Committee appointed by the Executive Council of the YLTA.
- 4 Application for entry to the Leagues shall be made annually by Clubs. Clubs may enter more than one team in the Leagues. Entry fees as determined by the Executive Council shall be paid on application. Clubs agree to abide by these Rules.
- 5 Women's Teams shall consist of three pairs. Men's Teams shall consist of two pairs.

## Qualification of players

- 6 A player representing a club must be a bona-fide member of that club. No player may play for more than one club in the same season.
- 7 If a club has more than one team, then once a player has played twice in a higher team that player may not play again for a lower team in that season. If this rule is breached, the offending team will be deemed to have lost each rubber played by the ineligible player 0-6, 0-6.

## Fixture organisation

- 8 Grouping of competing teams in Divisions shall be determined by the League Committee.
- 9 All matches shall be arranged between team captains; fixture dates to be emailed to the Yorkshire League Organiser.
- 10 All matches and re-arranged matches shall be completed by the due dates advised at the start of the season.
- 11 If a team wishes to re-arrange the date of a match previously agreed and submitted to the YLTA office, then at least two weeks' notice shall be given to the other team captain, who is urged to view the request sympathetically and offer two revised dates, provided the re-arrangement does not seriously compromise the innocent party. If agreement cannot be reached, then the original date shall stand.
- 12 If a match is postponed because of bad weather, the home team captain shall within 7 days submit to the visiting captain at least two further dates when match may be completed or replayed. If within 21 days from the date when the match should have been played no new arrangements have been agreed, then

the match captain of the visiting team shall notify the League Committee who shall arbitrate.

### **Match procedure**

13 Match start times shall be scheduled for no later than 3.00pm for those taking place on Saturdays and Sundays and no later than 6.30pm for those playing on a weekday. Any pair(s) not on court and ready to play within 30 minutes of the agreed start time shall concede the rubber(s) in question. Such rubbers shall be clearly indicated on the scorecard.

14 The LTA Code of Conduct shall apply on match days. The team captain is responsible for the behaviour of his team both on and off the court. Recognised tennis clothing shall be worn for all matches.

15 The home captain shall allocate the courts and be the final arbitrator on whether the courts are fit for play.

16 Level pairs shall play together first and the visiting pairs shall remain on the same court for the duration of the match unless otherwise agreed by both team captains at the start. The home team pairs shall move up or down determined by toss at the start of the match.

#### **17.1 Weekend rules**

Women's Matches shall consist of three rounds of three rubbers. Each rubber shall be the best of three sets. A normal tiebreak to 7 points (to be won by 2 clear points) shall be played at 6-6 in the first two sets. If a rubber is tied at one set all then a deciding tiebreak to 10 points (to be won by 2 clear points) shall be played and shall count as a full set. If prior to the start of the match both teams agree to play a full set instead of a third set tiebreak for all three rounds, then they can do so. If there is no such agreement, then a third set tiebreak shall be played. If a match has already been decided after the first two rounds of rubbers (i.e. at 6-0 or 5-1 win) then the remaining round shall be played as best of three tiebreaks to 7 points, each tiebreak counting as one full set.

Men's Matches shall consist of two rounds of two rubbers. Each rubber shall be the best of three sets. A normal tiebreak to 7 points (to be won by 2 clear points) shall be played at 6-6 in all sets. If agreed by both captains, then a deciding tiebreak to 10 points (to be won by 2 clear points) can be played instead of a full third set. If there is no such agreement prior to the start of the match, then a full third set will be played.

#### **17.2 Evening rules**

Teams may elect to play evening rules on a weekday evening, if both captains agree. Matches shall consist of three rounds of three rubbers. Each rubber shall consist of two sets. A normal tiebreak to 7 points (to be won by 2 clear points) shall be played at 6-6 in each set. If a rubber stands at one set all then it shall count as a half. If a match has already been decided after the first two rounds (i.e. a 6-0 or 5-1 win) then the remaining round shall be played as two tiebreaks to 7 points, each tiebreak counting as one full set. If rubbers are even at the end of the match the result shall be declared a draw and the points shall be shared. If the final round of rubbers is not completed, then the score at the end of the completed second round shall be taken as final.

18 If any match is unfinished, it may be continued by mutual consent within 21 days with the same players. Otherwise the match shall be played de nova at a date mutually agreed upon by the two captains on or before the league completion date. (See Rule 10).

19 Winning captains to input score on website within 48 hours. Losing captain to verify within a week.

### **League Positions**

20 A team shall score 2 points for a win and 1 point for a draw. Teams shall be positioned in each division according to the number of points won, then number of rubbers won.

21 It is the responsibility of the team captains to fulfil their match commitments. If, however a team concedes a match for whatever reasons, then that team shall be deemed to have lost that match and shall be deducted 2 points. The team having won by forfeit shall be awarded 2 points, 9 rubbers and 18 sets. If a pair is absent from a match, the three rubbers conceded shall be forfeited with a recorded score 0-6,0-6 for each rubber.

### **Promotion and relegation**

22 In the Ladies Division 1, the top team shall be declared Champions and the bottom two teams relegated. In all other ladies' divisions, the top two teams shall be promoted, and the bottom two teams relegated. In the Men's Division1 the top team shall be declared Champions and the bottom two teams relegated.

23 If a team gains a title or promotion or is able to avoid relegation as a result of a match improperly conceded or not played, then action will be taken by the League Committee to negate such benefits.

24 Any team who concedes two or more matches will be relegated.

25 If a team withdraws from the competition before completing its engagements, all the records of matches played by that team shall be expunged.

26 Any club with only two courts available for matches shall not be eligible for promotion within the League.

### **Trophies**

27 The winners of all League trophies, cups and shields shall be entitled to hold them until the end of the following season. A club holding any trophy, cup or shield shall be responsible for its safe custody and return to the YLTA and bear the cost of insuring it against loss. The property in every trophy, cup and shield shall be vested in the YLTA, and no other prize or award (other than club colours) shall be given to or accepted by a winning club without the sanction of the Executive Council.

### **Discipline**

28 For any breach of these rules, the League Committee may impose such penalties as it may think fit, by points deduction or otherwise.

29 Any appeal or dispute shall be referred to the YLTA Disciplinary Committee. Short particulars thereof shall be sent in writing to the Committee by the clubs concerned, who may be represented at any meeting convened to deal with the matter. Prior notice of any meeting will be given in writing. Any decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be final.