

The key issue here is safety. If courts are unsafe then the club/venue is likely to be in breach of the terms and conditions of its public liability insurance. That means that practically any incident/accident will not be covered by the insurers and the club/venue's officers will be liable for any claim. We had to advise a Yorkshire club to stop using some school courts which were clearly unsafe after an injury was sustained during a match (It was one of the home players who got injured and there wasn't a claim in this case).

If the courts are "safe" but less than optimal then it's a really difficult situation. Anyone who has played league tennis in Yorkshire will have come across dodgy surfaces. Grass courts that are lumpy and patchy and which clearly give the home team an advantage, old courts with very smooth surfaces which are faster than most people play on and hopeless in the wet, but which play well in the dry and again present a home advantage through familiarity, or just worn surfaces of any kind with which the home team are familiar.

I'm not aware of any of the district leagues that lay down court condition criteria and it would be a minefield to try. I would suggest the best course of action is for the away team to register their unhappiness with the home team and to copy in the league secretary. That could easily be written into league rules, repeated complaints could then be discussed by the league committee and an agreed course of action taken against the offender. It would of course still require someone independent to assess the court surface in question to avoid people just complaining because they lost!