

# **RULES OF LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITIONS**

## **SUMMER & WINTER SEASONS 2025**

**West of Scotland Youth 8&U – 18&U Leagues & National Open Mixed League**

**[The Rule Book - Tennis West of Scotland](#)**

**General Rules for all Tennis West of Scotland competitions**

### **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, and must be currently registered with the LTA. A club or venue becomes affiliated to Tennis West of Scotland once it has entered a team online into that season's staged competitions and has paid its annual affiliation fee which is set at the Annual General Meeting of the Company.

Team entries will be not accepted from any club which has outstanding team entry fees from the previous season.

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.

Each participating club or venue must assign key roles to its league contact or contacts and to all team captains who must be LTA Advantage members linked to the club.

### **KEY CLUB ROLES**

#### **a. CLUB ADMINISTRATOR (COUNTY & DISTRICT LEAGUE CONTACT)**

- Enter and edit a team entry.
- Edit fixture details.
- Assign Team Captain roles.
- Add players to teams.
- Reschedule, relocate, and swap home/away matches for your club's home matches only depending on league settings.
- Change a match result.
- Enter a result, update match status.

*Tennis West of Scotland recommends that each club assigns more than one member to this role.*

## b. TEAM CAPTAINS

Once a team captain role has been assigned by the Club Administrator, the team captain will have access to

- Submit results for all of the club's home matches
- Reschedule, relocate and swap home/away matches for their team only if access have been given by the League Administrator.

*A User Manual for each role can be found on the League Support website page.*

3. All players who participate in competitions must be LTA Advantage Members with their membership number linked to the club/venue they are competing for in advance of that player playing any match. Note that a player's membership may be linked to more than one club/venue.

Once a player plays in a recorded match, that player will be given a World Tennis Number [WTN]. Information on WTN can be found at [www.tenniswos.co.uk](http://www.tenniswos.co.uk)

- *To become an LTA Advantage Member – [www.lta.org.uk/advantage](http://www.lta.org.uk/advantage) – and remember to link your membership number to your club by 'managing your venue' when you log in to your personal player profile.*

4. The playing year will be split into two Seasons-- the Summer Season will run from early March to mid-August and the Winter Season will run from mid-August until early March on dates set annually. 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 LTA Advantage Membership number is linked, in any league or cup competition only if that player's club has not entered any team into that competition at any level.

5. A junior player may represent one club in youth league competitions and a different club in adult league and cup competitions in the same season so long as the player has his/her LTA Advantage membership number linked to both clubs.

Junior players may play in up to two age groups in the Youth League Summer season and up to two age groups in the Youth League Winter season. Competition age group eligibility changes on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. Current competition age groups can be found on the Tennis West of Scotland web site.

## Arbitration

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

6. All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors, or interpretation of rules shall be referred firstly to the League Manager and, if required, to the Board, whose decision shall be final.
7. Any dispute arising between clubs shall be referred firstly to the League Manager and, if required, to the Board, whose decision shall be final and binding on both clubs. Should either of the two clubs have a member on the Board, such member(s) shall not participate in voting on the dispute or protest.
8. Complaints relating to any incident occurring during a fixture should be in the hands of the League Manager within 7 days of the date of the fixture.
9. The day-to-day organisation of the league and cup competitions shall be carried out by the League Manager under the auspices of the Tennis West of Scotland Board of Directors. The League Manager 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 Manager's decision on all matters is final.

10. 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.
11. 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

12. All match dates which are not scheduled by the League Organiser, shall be arranged by clubs and their team captains by instruction from the League Organiser. The Board shall fix dates between which matches shall be played i.e. the competition period.
  - a) Fixtures for the Premier and First Divisions of the summer doubles leagues, together with fixtures for the Singles league, the Summer and Winter Season 60 & Over League and National League competitions, will be fixed by the League Manager.

- b) Scheduled dates may thereafter be changed up to a date set by the League Manager if both captains agree to do so.
- c) For all matches, 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.
- d) The home team will provide post-match hospitality for Summer Doubles matches and team captains should encourage every team member to participate. Hospitality is however optional at Singles league and Senior age group league and cup competition matches and its provision [or not] should be confirmed at the same time that match arrangements are agreed.
- e) Matches may be played indoors or outdoors however one week's notice must be given to the opposing captain of a team's intention to play indoors otherwise the match will be played outdoors.  
If outdoor courts are deemed unplayable due to inclement weather on the match date then a match may be played indoors without notice being given.
- f) A club may not participate if toilet facilities are not available for all players.
- g) The safety of players is the responsibility of the home venue.

**13.** The club on whose ground the match is played shall provide at least three new Dunlop first grade balls per court but, if the match is played on neutral ground, such expenses shall be divided between the competing clubs unless otherwise arranged.

**14.** The official ball for all West of Scotland events is the Dunlop ball.

**15.** Clubs with fewer than three courts shall not be eligible to take part in competitions in which three courts are normally required unless they are prepared (if called on to do so by their opponents when the match date is agreed) to play their matches on their opponent's courts, always provided that the opponents have three courts available. The club on whose ground the match is played shall provide balls.

This rule does not apply to clubs with two all-weather courts and floodlights.

## Recording Match Scores

**16.** In all league and cup competitions, the **HOME** 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. If a match is postponed then that match must be 'rescheduled' online to the new date to allow access to record match information.

Each team captain will be assigned admin rights by the Club's League Administrator and will login to the league web site with his/her personal LTA login and password. A team captain's '**User Manual**' can be found on the League Support page at [www.tenniswos.co.uk](http://www.tenniswos.co.uk)

- 17.** 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, copying the opposing team captain into any correspondence - otherwise the claim will be disregarded. The League Organiser will decide whether a walkover is merited and will record the walkover online and award appropriate penalty points to the team forfeiting the match.
- 18.** If an 'unknown player' is selected, a comment **MUST** be added to the online match scorecard to provide the player's name and LTA Advantage Membership number if known.  
If a player cannot be 'found', it is most likely that the player's LTA Advantage Membership is not linked to his or her club. It is the responsibility of the player's club to sort this, as a matter of urgency, otherwise the player is not eligible to represent the club and should not play a further match until carried out.
- 19.** 24 hours after completion of the match, it is the responsibility of the away team captain to check the recorded result and notify the county office by e-mail if there is any related query.
- 20.** Team captains should be made aware that data **cannot be edited** after being submitted and confirmed and so match details should not be recorded until all information is available. Any error must be notified to the league organiser – either online or by email - within 48 hours of the match being completed.
- 21.** Final dates for the online submission of match scores will be published online and on the web site. 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.
- 22.** Team Captains are advised to check online leagues on a regular basis 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

**23.** In exceptional circumstances, and only if mutually agreed by the clubs concerned, the date of any match in Division 2 or below may be altered to a new date within the competition period set for that competition. The home team captain must 'reschedule' the match date online as soon as possible after agreement is made.

An agreed date should only be changed in very exceptional circumstances.

**24.** Any club intending to concede a match shall advise the League Manager by email before the date agreed upon for playing and must copy in the opposing team captain. Careful consideration should be given to any potential concession as it has a very negative impact on all other teams in the division.

**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 play or 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 competitions in which the League Organiser schedules match dates, any postponed match must be rescheduled for a date before the last scheduled match date. If a match is postponed on the last scheduled match date then the match will be played one week later or before if both teams agree.

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 Manager who will then fix a date for the match to be played.

In the Premier Division and Division 1 of the men's and women's leagues, postponed matches must be arranged to be concluded before the date of the last scheduled match in that 'stage' of the competition. If the last scheduled match in any stage is postponed, it must be played at least 3 days before Stage 2 commences or one week after the date of the postponed Stage 2 match or before if mutually agreed by both captains.

If the match is not played on this date, neither team will be awarded points.

**26.** An entry fee is due for any competition in which the majority of teams have played two or more matches.

## Rules of Play

**27.** All midweek adult league matches (except those being played during May, June and July) shall start not later than 6.30 p.m. unless mutually agreed by the clubs concerned or unless, owing to exceptional circumstances, the League Manager shall have, in advance, approved a later start.

During May, June and July, such matches shall start not earlier than 7.00 p.m. unless both captains agree to an earlier start time.

Weekend matches should start at a reasonable time i.e. not before 10.00 a.m. and not later than 6.30 p.m. The match time is determined by the home team captain.

**28.** 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 competition, this order cannot be reversed.

### *Example*

*If Players A and B play together at second pair above Players C and D who play together at third pair then C+D as a pair can never in a future match that season 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.*

Any two players, playing up from a lower team and paired together, must be placed in order below any other pair containing a player nominated for the higher team.

### *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. This does not apply to a player 'playing up' into a Premier League team when Rule 30 applies.*

**29.**

(a) In the Men's and Women's Premier leagues, clubs must list not more than 12 nominated players in ranked order by the deadline date set by the League Manager. At the start of each match, a team's doubles pairings will be nominated in accordance with the lowest cumulative total of the nominated positions of the players. A player who is

nominated for a lower team will have a ranking of 12. Where the total is the same, the pairing with the highest ranked player shall be nominated as the higher pair.

**Examples**

***Example 1***

*If the players nominated at positions 2 and 6 play as a pair, and the players nominated at positions 3 and 5 play as a pair then pair (2+6) would play above pair (3+5).*

***Example 2***

*If player 1 partners a player nominated for the club's second team (1+12) then this pair would play above a pair (6+7).*

(b) Any player who is selected to play in the last scheduled Stage 1 (Qualifying) match in the Premier and Division 1/1 and Division 1/2 must either have been nominated pre-season or have represented the club in that competition in that season or the previous season.

**30.** In the Men's and Women's Summer Doubles leagues, teams in each division or section will play each season against each other team in that division or section.

There will be two stages in the Summer Doubles Premier Division and Division 1 competitions. In Stage 1 (Qualifying), teams will play once against each other team in their division with each team's final standing determining its position in either the Championship or Relegation Stage 2 playoff league.

A team's position in the Stage 2 draws will be determined by its final standing however, if there are two teams from the same club in either a championship or relegation draw, then these two teams will play each other in the first round of matches in that draw.

CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW		#1	#2	#3	#4
1	Group stage #1		R3 HOME	R2 HOME	R1 AWAY
2	Group stage #2	R3 AWAY		R1 HOME	R2 HOME
3	Group stage #3	R2 AWAY	R1 AWAY		R3 HOME
4	Group stage #4	R1 HOME	R2 AWAY	R3 AWAY	

RELEGATION DRAW		#5	#6	#7	#8
1	Group stage #5		R3 HOME	R2 HOME	R1 AWAY
2	Group stage #6	R3 AWAY		R1 HOME	R2 HOME
3	Group stage #7	R2 AWAY	R1 AWAY		R3 HOME
4	Group stage #8	R1 HOME	R2 AWAY	R3 AWAY	

All matches shall be played under the tournament rules of the LTA, so far as these are applicable to and not inconsistent with the rules of this league.

**31.** In the Men's and Women's Summer Doubles leagues, teams must consist of six men, or six women, and each pair shall play three sets against the opposing corresponding pair, with a tie break operating at six games all in each set. A team which attempts to play a match without the full complement of players shall concede that match unless exceptional circumstances have caused this. A team shall provide full details of these circumstances to the League Organiser by email within 24 hours of completion of the match – copying in the opposing team captain.

N.B. a club's lowest team in a competition may, up to a maximum of two times in a season, consist of four players [instead of six] who will play at pairs 1 and 2 or, in the Senior Players' League, two players [instead of four] who will play at pair 1. The team will concede three sets 0-6 0-6 0-6. The team must advise the opposing team in advance whenever possible. If the team thereafter concedes a match in the same competition, Rule 40 will apply and the team will be withdrawn from the competition.

## Nominations

**32.** In the Men's and Women's Singles, Summer Doubles and Senior 40 & 60 leagues, clubs with more than one team in any one league shall nominate each team's players online by 10:00 am on the first day of that league's competition period. A team nomination list must have at least the minimum number of players required to play a match and, in the Summer Doubles Premier and both sections of Division 1, not more than 12 players.

In any one competition, a player can only be nominated for one team. Online nominations will be downloaded at the above time and retained by the League Organiser for use to settle any subsequent queries. Any team which plays a match having not nominated its players by the above date will incur a 2 point penalty each match until nominations are made. If a nominated list is not received, the team players which represent the team in its first match will be deemed to be nominated for that team.

Players in teams in the Men's and Women's Summer Doubles Premier League must be nominated in ranked order with teams submitting the order by email to the League Organiser before the first scheduled match is played. (refer to Rule 29). Players must also be nominated online by the above deadline in any order.

Nominating players online pre-season will highlight any player who is either not an LTA Advantage member or whose LTA Advantage membership is not linked to the nominating club. It is therefore advisable that nominations are made in advance of the deadline so that such a player can address the issue before the start of the competition period. 'How to' links can be found at [www.tenniswos.co.uk](http://www.tenniswos.co.uk)

**33.**

- a. Within the Premier and both sections of Division 1, a nominated player may 'play up' to any higher team **once** without loss of eligibility for their lower team. Within these divisions only, once a player has represented any higher team on more than one occasion, the player is no longer eligible to represent the lower team.
- b. Such a player can thereafter become nominated for the next higher team and play again for that team but only if the maximum number of 12 nominated players for that team is not exceeded.  
Such a player may replace a player on the higher team's nomination list however any displaced player may not thereafter play for any lower team.
- c. A player may be withdrawn from a team pool but cannot thereafter play for a lower team.
- d. In Division 2 and below, a nominated player can 'play up' to the next higher team two times and to any one even higher team once at any time during the competition period. Note exception below.

Example

A 5<sup>th</sup> team nominated team player can play twice for the 4<sup>th</sup> team and once for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or even 2<sup>nd</sup> team. Note however that the player cannot play up from 5<sup>th</sup> team to 3<sup>rd</sup> team on a 4<sup>th</sup> team match date.

i.e. the 4<sup>th</sup> team cannot maintain its strength at the expense of the higher 3<sup>rd</sup> team.

- e. Other than in exceptional circumstances, a lower team cannot maintain its strength at the expense of a higher team when both teams play at the same time.

**34.** Following the submission of team nominations, in the Premier and both sections of Division 1 only, one additional player - not previously nominated for any team - may be added to a team list of nominations up to 31<sup>st</sup> May so long as the number of players in that pool does not exceed 12. Any displaced player may not subsequently play for any other team.

The name of any such player to be added to a nomination list must be advised by email to the League Manager no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May. Note that Rule 29(b) applies to such additional players. In the Premier League, the proposed amended rank order of players must also be submitted by the club or team captain for approval.

The club must state in that email that the player is a bona fide member of the club and meets the membership criteria for the club, and that the player is eligible to represent the club in that competition. Before playing any match for

the club, the club must ensure that the player is an LTA Advantage Member with membership linked to the club.

If approval has not been provided by the League Manager prior to the match being played, the player is ineligible to play.

**35.** A club's lowest team in a competition does not require to nominate a pool of players unless any one of that team's players may be required to 'play up' before that player has played a match for the lowest team. If no nomination has been submitted, that player would become a nominated player for the higher team.

There is no limit to the number of players in a club's lowest team in a competition.

**A nominated player is ineligible to play in any lower team at any time.**

**36.** A player omitted from a team nomination list who subsequently plays for a team is deemed to be a nominated member of that team if the maximum number of nominated players is not exceeded.

#### FAQ

Q. *A player who is nominated for the club's 4<sup>th</sup> team 'plays up' for the club's 3<sup>d</sup> team in the first match of the season. Can the player play for the 4<sup>th</sup> team the following day?*

- *Yes, a player can 'play up' at any time during the competition period.*

Q. *Thereafter, the first team captain asks the player to 'play up' to the 1<sup>st</sup> team. Is this allowed?*

- *Yes, a player, nominated for a team in Division 2 and below, can 'play up' two times to the next highest team and once for any one even higher team and still be able to play for his/her nominated team. The player cannot thereafter 'play up' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> team.*

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**37.** 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. This also may apply when a match is played at a club at which floodlights automatically go off at a certain time. The home team captain has responsibility for managing this.

**38.** 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.

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

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

**39.** If a player is not changed and 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.

Where further rounds apply (e.g. in the Calcutta Cup, or where a league match is being played at a two-court club) this readiness rule shall operate from the start of each round.

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.

**40.** If a team defaults or concedes a match more than once in a season, all matches played by that team will be declared void, with consequent demotion. In such circumstances, a team in Division 3 or higher in the open and senior players' leagues will be demoted two divisions.

*Note that National League rules state that any team giving a walkover cannot participate further in that competition. However, the county office has the power to consider a team's position regarding a team walkover with extenuating circumstances, in which case a team receiving the walkover will win all rubbers 6-0, 6-0 and will receive 12 rubber points and a match win.*

**41.** 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.

**42.** The League Manager has the discretion to reinstate an ineligible player upon application in writing by his / her club.

**43.** Championship playoff matches will be played between the Section winners of those Divisions which are split into more than one section. The date of these playoffs will be set in advance by the League Manager and may only be changed or postponed with the agreement of the League Manager. In any Division with more than two sections, an appropriate playoff format will be played. Match dates will be scheduled and published at the start of the season.

Playoff information and arrangements can be found in Appendix 1

**44.** The winners of the Premier Divisions will be the West of Scotland champions for that season.

**45.** 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 result will determine the winner. This will also determine the position of any two teams in a division with equal points.

Where more than two teams are tied, then the team with the higher games percentage shall be placed in the higher position.

**46.** Any team gaining a walkover will be credited with points as detailed below. Defaulting teams will receive the point penalty as detailed in the table below:-

Team composition	Team receiving walkover	Team defaulting
	Credit	Debit
6 player team	9 points	10 points
4 player team	6 points	7 points
3 player team	6 points	7 points

At the end of a competition period, both teams in any un-played match will be deemed to have defaulted and the above penalty will be incurred by both teams.

**47.** Alternative scoring formats

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.

League organiser's order of preference:

- (i) Three sets to six with a seven-point tie-break played when games are 6-6.  
This is the preferred scoring option.  
The formats below should only be played in exceptional circumstances and with both team captains' agreement.
- (ii) As (i) 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 7-point tie-break played when games are 4-4.
- (iv) As (iii) but with a championship tie-break [first to ten points and winning by two clear points] played as the third set.

**48.** One point shall be awarded for each set won.

## **Senior Players' Competitions**

**49.** Men's and Women's 40 and 60 & Over Doubles league teams must consist of four women, or four men, and each pair shall play three sets against the opposing corresponding pair, with a tie break operating at six games all in each set. One of the alternative scoring formats may be used [Rule 47] if both captains agree.

- i. 40 & Over league midweek matches start at 6:30 pm on match dates agreed in advance by team captains within the competition period. Weekend matches will start at an appropriate time determined by the home team captain.
- ii. 60 & Over league matches are scheduled by the League Organiser. The home team captain should confirm the start time when confirming the match. A match start time should not be before 1:00 pm or after 3:00 pm.

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. The team must advise the opposing team in advance whenever possible.  
If the team thereafter concedes a match in the same competition, Rule 33 will apply and the team will be withdrawn from the competition.

## 50. Seniors eligibility

- 40 & Over league and cup competitions, participating players should reach the age of 40 by 31<sup>st</sup> December in the year of the competition.
- 55 & Over cup competition, participating players should reach the age of 55 by 31<sup>st</sup> December in the year of the competition.
- 60 & Over league competitions, participating players should reach the age of 60 by 31<sup>st</sup> December in the year of the competition.

51. Senior league teams must consist of two couples played in order of strength determined by the team captain. Once an order of pairs is established in a competition, that order cannot be reversed in the same competition [Refer Rule 28]. Each couple will play three sets against the equivalent couple of the other team. Tie-breaks will operate at 6 games all in all sets.

Alternative scoring formats as described in Rule 47 may be used by mutual agreement of team captains.

52. A club may enter one team into each of the Men's and Women's 40 and 55 & Over KO competitions. There is no limit to the number of teams entered by a club into league competitions.

53. 40 and 55 & Over KO matches will be played on dates set by the League Manager or on an earlier date. Matches which are postponed because of the weather should be arranged on a mutually agreeable day during the following week and before the date set for the next round.

54. Each team will comprise of two pairs each of which will play a 'best of three sets' rubber against the opposing pair. Any deciding third set will be a match tie-break (MTB) to 10 points, winning by 2 clear points, and recorded as 1-0 or 0-1. A MTB counts as 1 game and 1 set. The team winning more sets will progress. If sets won are equal then games won will decide. If the number of games won by each team is also the same, the result of the match between the two first pairs will decide the tie.

N.B. When sets are equal but one team has won more games, that team should be recorded online as the 'shoot-out' winner.

55. The match score must be entered online within 24 hours of the match being concluded.

56. A team which gives a walkover to its opponents in its first match is not eligible to participate in the Consolation Event.

57. The **Clydesdale Cup** competition shall be open to all affiliated clubs. If the entry is sufficient, the draw shall be made in two divisions. Placement into each division will be based on the position of the first men's and first women's team in that season's Summer Doubles leagues.

58. Each team shall consist of 3 mixed couples. The captain of each team shall place pairs in order of playing strength which shall then be placed against the equivalent pairs of the opposing team.

59. Each pair shall play three sets against the opposing corresponding pair with the tie break operating at six games all in each set.  
Alternative scoring formats as described in Rule 47 may be used by mutual agreement of team captains.

60. The competition format is an elimination draw with the team winning the majority of sets progressing to the next round. The dates of the various rounds shall be decided by the League Manager.

61. The **Senior Calcutta Cup** competition shall be open to men's teams from affiliated clubs in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 of the Men's Summer Doubles league competition. A club may enter only one team into this competition.

62. The **Junior Calcutta Cup** competition shall be open to men's teams from affiliated clubs in Division 4 and below of the Men's Summer Doubles league competition. A club may enter only one team into this competition.

63. Only players eligible to represent teams in that season's competition may participate. Any player nominated for a lower team may play at any stage of the competition irrespective of the number of times that player may have 'played up' that season in league competitions.

Each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 players and each fixture shall consist of 3 singles matches (to be played first unless mutually agreed otherwise by both team captains) and two doubles rubbers. Each rubber shall be determined by the best of three tie-break sets with a match tie-break, first to 10 points and winning by 2 clear points, being played at one set all. Alternative scoring formats as described in Rule 47 may be used by mutual agreement of team captains.

The order of play in both singles and doubles, in each round of the competition, shall be determined by the team captain. Doubles pairs and the order of these pairings should be declared at the start of the match and cannot thereafter be changed.

If a team wins all three singles rubbers and then loses both doubles rubbers, this will be deemed a 'draw' with the winning team decided by a 10-point shoot-out between one doubles pair, made up of one player from each of the doubles pairings, from each team.

A team conceding a doubles rubber will forfeit any subsequent shoot-out.

**64.** The final shall be played on the grounds of Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club if requested by that club.

**65.** In each round of the Calcutta Cup, the home team captain must offer at least two dates to the away team at least one week before the first date offered. In the event of failure to agree a date, the match will be played on the 'play by' date with a 1.00 pm start time. The date and time of the final will be decided annually by the League Manager.

**66.** **Winter Knock-Out Inter-Club Shield** teams will consist of two men and two women. A match will consist of four rubbers – a men's doubles, a women's doubles and two mixed doubles. Rubbers will be the best of 3 sets, with a tie-break in the first two and a championship match tie break (first to 10 points and winning by 2 clear points) played if one set all. Substitutes are not allowed. The men's and women's doubles will be played first followed by two mixed doubles rubbers.

Alternative scoring formats as described in Rule 47 may be used by mutual agreement of team captains.

**67.** Clubs may enter only one team into the Winter Knock-out competition.

**68.** The result of a match is decided by rubbers won. Where rubbers are equal, sets are counted and the team with the most sets is the winner. Where sets are equal, games are counted, and the team with the higher games' percentage is the winner. Games percentage is counted by dividing the number of games won by the total number of games played. If games are equal, the result of the match between the first mixed pairs will decide.

**69.** If a match is interrupted by inclement weather, the match may be resumed at the score where stopped provided the teams remain the same and the match is resumed on the courts where started. Note Rule 38.

**70.** The Winter League competitions are run as separate **Monday Floodlight** and **Sunday Afternoon** leagues whose matches are played on a set day of the week. Clubs entering the evening leagues should have three floodlight all-weather courts available. Clubs may enter up to two teams in each league.

**71.** Matches may be played indoors or outdoors [Refer to Rule 12(e)]

**72.** Matches shall be played on the dates fixed, unless teams agree to postpone on the day because of bad weather. Postponed matches will be played on the same day of the week one week later, failing which on the first date suitable to both clubs.

**73.** Teams must consist of 3 ladies and 3 men, and each match in the Monday Floodlight league consists of three mixed doubles pairs played in order of strength determined by the team captain and in the Sunday Afternoon leagues consists of one women's doubles pair, one men's doubles pair and one mixed doubles pair - each of three sets with tie breaks in each set if needed. Alternative scoring formats as described in Rule 47 may be used by mutual agreement of team captains.

**74.** One point shall be awarded for each set won in all winter competitions.

**75.** In the **Singles league**, an affiliated club may enter up to 2 women's and 2 men's teams. Additional teams may be entered if a club has access to six courts to play two home matches on the same day.

**76.** Separate women's and men's leagues will operate, divided into divisions and sections as deemed necessary.

**77.** Each team shall consist of 3 players. Each player must have a World Tennis Number (WTN) and be a current LTA Advantage Member with membership linked to the club that he/she is representing.

‘How to’ links can be found at [www.tenniswos.co.uk](http://www.tenniswos.co.uk)

**78.** Fixtures will be played on Saturdays or Sundays, determined by the home team captain, starting at 10.00 a.m. on the weekend dates fixed by the League Manager and issued before the start of the competition. In the event of a fixture being incomplete or unable to start because of bad weather, the match will start at 10.00 a.m. on the following day; or, if both clubs agree, at 6.30 p.m. on an evening before the next scheduled round of fixtures in this competition.

**79.** Clubs with more than one team in this competition must nominate players online for all teams by 10:00 am on the first scheduled day of competition (Refer to Rule 32). A maximum of 6 players may be nominated for a 1<sup>st</sup> team with any player nominated for a lower team able to ‘play up’ once. If a player ‘plays up’ a second time then player becomes nominated for the higher team and cannot thereafter ‘play down’.

**80.** Each rubber will be the best of three tie-break sets with the option of any deciding third set being a full tie-break set or a 10-point match tie-break set recorded as 1-0 or 0-1. If there is no agreement, the third set will be a match tie-break.

**81.** The team order will be determined by players' singles World Tennis Numbers at the time of the match. It will be the responsibility of each team captain to ascertain current singles World Tennis Numbers before the start of each match as this number changes on a regular basis.

1. [www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk)
2. 'Compete'
3. 'Find a player profile'
4. Select player



**82.** If clubs have a women's and a men's team home match on the same day, the men's fixture should start at 10.00 a.m. and the women's tie will start at 12.00 noon.

**83.** One point shall be awarded for each set won in each rubber. A match can award a minimum of 6 (e.g. 6-0, 2-4) and a maximum of 9 points (e.g. 5-4)

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

1. The team with the greatest number of points.
2. If two teams are level on points, the head-to-head result.
3. If the head-to-head result is a draw, by set difference.
4. If more than 2 teams are level, by set difference.

## ROWAN CUP & BULLETIN TROPHY

**84.** A club can enter one team only into each of the Rowan Cup (Men) and Bulletin Trophy (Women) events.

**85.** Each event will be split into a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, the 1<sup>st</sup> Division made up of the 8 teams which have entered and have finished highest in the previous Summer Doubles league. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division will be made of the remaining teams which have entered.

86. Each team will comprise of two pairs. Players must be added to the online player list for that team before the start of play in each round of the competition.

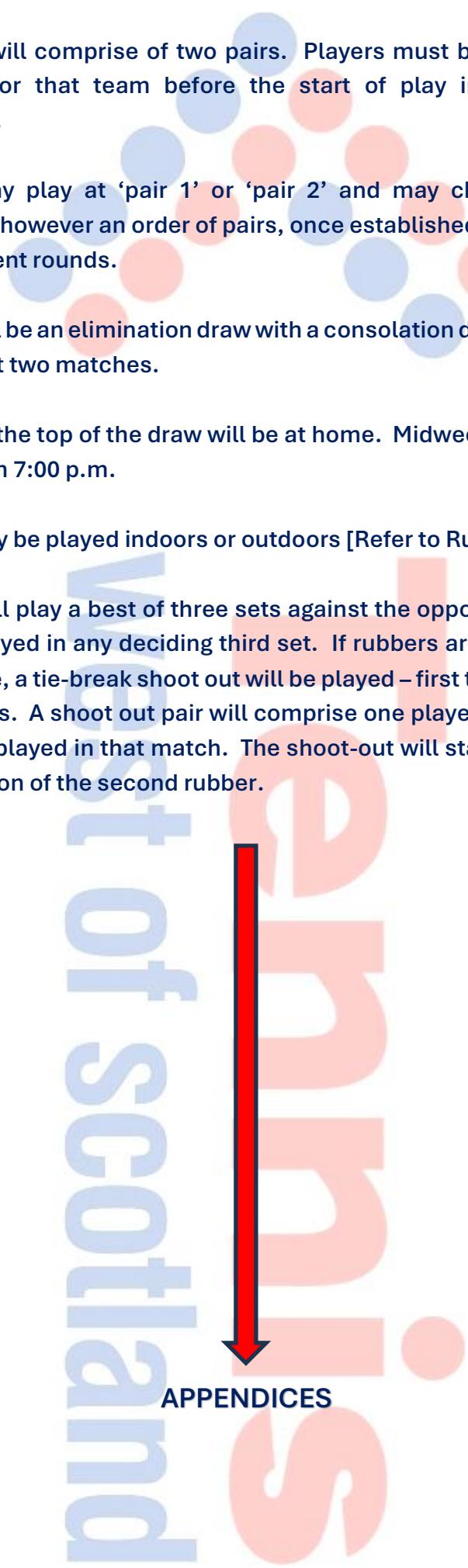
87. A player may play at 'pair 1' or 'pair 2' and may change throughout the competition however an order of pairs, once established, may not be reversed for subsequent rounds.

88. The draw will be an elimination draw with a consolation draw to guarantee each team at least two matches.

89. The team at the top of the draw will be at home. Midweek matches must start not later than 7:00 p.m.

90. Matches may be played indoors or outdoors [Refer to Rule 12(e)]

91. Each pair will play a best of three sets against the opposite pair with a match tie-break played in any deciding third set. If rubbers are tied at 1-1 no matter the set score, a tie-break shoot out will be played – first to 10 points winning by 2 clear points. A shoot out pair will comprise one player from each of the two pairs which played in that match. The shoot-out will start within 2 minutes of the conclusion of the second rubber.



**APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX 1

### SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREMIER & DIVISION 1 SECTIONS

- a) In the Men's & Women's Premier League and Divisions 1/1 and 1/2, Stage 1 has 8 teams playing once against each other in match weeks 1 – 7. Any matches in Stage 1 which have been postponed or cancelled must be played no later than the Sunday following the last scheduled Stage 1 date. Such matches can take precedence over other arranged matches.
- b) The final standing of a team determines its Stage 2 draw. The top 4 teams will compete in a 'Championship' Group and play once against each other. The position in the draw is determined by the team's final standing in Stage 1 [ref. Rule 30].
- c) Teams which finish Stage 1 in positions 5 – 8 will compete in a 'Relegation' Group with position in the draw determined by its final standing in Stage 1.
- d) In the Premier and Division 1/1, the team which finishes in bottom place in this Group will be relegated to the next lowest division with the second from bottom placed team qualifying for a 'promotion/relegation' playoff against the second placed team in the Chmpionship Group of the division below.
- e) In Division 1/2, the two bottom-placed teams at the end of Stage 2 will be relegated with the third bottom team qualifying for a 'promotion/relegation' playoff against the winner of the playoff between the two teams which finished in second position in both sections of Division 2.
- f) The team which finishes top of the 'Championship' Group in both sections of Division 1 will be promoted to the higher division. The team which finishes in second position will qualify for a 'promotion/relegation' playoff against the second bottom placed team in the 'Relegation' Groups of both the Premier and Division 1.
- g) The team which finishes top of the 'Championship' Group in each division will be the champion team of that division for that season.
- h) Home ties in Match weeks 8-10 take precedence over any other club matches scheduled. For clubs with 6 or more courts, two matches should be played alongside each other in preference to rescheduling.
- i) When arranging fixtures at the start of the season, clubs in these leagues should consider not scheduling home ties for Tuesdays or Fridays in match weeks 8 – 10 in June unless they can host two matches at the same time.

## APPENDIX 2

### PROMOTION & RELEGATION

Each new season, Tennis West of Scotland invites team entries from clubs for the leagues which it organizes. As each new season's competition is therefore a new competition, no rules are published with regard to promotion and relegation.

Every year, some clubs enter additional teams or withdraw existing teams. If one of these very much outweighs the other, the number of sections within the lower leagues may be changed in order to create sections with the ideal number of teams which is 9 [+/-1] teams. The lowest divisions in any leagues are therefore fluid.

On the assumption that there is no change to the number of teams, the following principles apply to promotion and relegation.

#### **SUMMER DOUBLES [Men's & Women's Leagues]**

##### Premier Division

The bottom team is relegated to Division 1/1

The second from bottom team plays off, at home, against the second top team in Division 1/1 on a date fixed by the league organizer and published before the start of the competition.

##### Division 1/1

The bottom team is relegated to Division 1/2

The second from bottom team plays off, at home, against the second top team in Division 1/2 on a date fixed by the league organizer and published before the start of the competition.

##### Division 1/2

The two bottom teams are relegated – one to each of the two Division 2 sections.

The team which ends top of the 'relegation stage' will remain in Division 1/2. The third from bottom team in Division 1/2 i.e. second top of the 'relegation stage' will play off, at home, to the winner of a playoff between the second top teams in each of the Division 2 sections.

In all other Divisional sections, two teams will be promoted. If a team withdraws from a higher league, three teams may be promoted to 'fill' the vacancy created.

In most other Divisional sections, two teams will be relegated however the following scenarios should be noted:

1. If Division 5 is divided into two sections and the lower Division 6 into three sections then two teams will be promoted from each of the three Division 6 sections and three teams will be relegated from the two Division 5 sections.
2. If Division 6 is divided into three sections and the lower Division 7 into four sections then two teams will be promoted from each of the four Division 7 sections and three teams will be relegated from the three Division 6 sections. However, the team with the highest set percentage of the three third from bottom teams will not be relegated.
3. In all sections of Division 7, two teams will be relegated and replaced by two teams from any of the four Division 8 sections.

## Divisional Championship Playoffs

These are played on dates fixed by the league organizer and published before the start of the competition, between the teams which finish in top position in each section of a Division.

Home and away is also fixed by the league organizer and published before the start of the competition.

In a Division of three Sections, a round robin league will be played on fixed dates between the three top teams.

In a Division of four Sections, an elimination draw will be played on fixed dates between the four top teams.

There are no championship playoffs in the Premier, Division 1/1 and Division 1/2 leagues. The top team will be the champion of that Division.

## AUTUMN WINTER DOUBLES [Men's & Women's 40 & Over Leagues]

Leagues are created with 6 [+/-1] teams in each Section of a Division. Matches will be arranged by team captains within an advised competition period.

- In all Sections, two teams are promoted and move into different Sections of the next higher Division. Two teams are relegated and move into different Sections of the next lower Division.
- Either the third-placed or fourth-placed teams in each Section of a Division are switched to the other Section in that Division with the result that no team should play any other team in two consecutive seasons.
- In the two Division 2 sections, one team only is promoted to take the place of the two teams relegated from Division 1 which has only one Section.
- If a team withdraws to leave five teams in a section, only one of the remaining teams will be relegated at the end of the season.

## 60 & OVER DOUBLES [Men's & Women's Summer/Autumn Leagues]

The principle of two teams promoted and two teams relegated applies where practicable. The 60 & Over Summer and Autumn Leagues operate independently from each other.

## YOUTH LEAGUE [Junior Age Groups]

In 2025, Divisions and Sections within Divisions will be compiled each season based on team entries and whether clubs enter teams into Division 1 or Division 2 onwards.

## APPENDIX 3

### DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS

These are played on dates fixed by the league organizer and published before the start of the competition, between the teams which finish in top position in each section of Division 2 and below.

Home and away is also fixed by the league organizer and published before the start of the competition.

In a Division of three Sections, a round robin league will be played on fixed dates between the three top teams.

In a Division of four Sections, an elimination draw will be played on fixed dates between the four top teams.

There are no championship playoffs in the Premier, Division 1/1 and Division 1/2 leagues. The top team will be the champion of that Division.

### CHAMPIONSHIP & PROMOTION / RELEGATION PLAYOFFS

As published at the start of each season, playoff matches will be played outdoors (or indoors if both teams agree) on fixed dates over one week in August with a start time of 6.30 p.m. Teams should report early so that play, not the warm-up, has started no later than 6.30 p.m.

Where a 'home' team is without floodlights on the required number of courts, play will start no later than 6.15 pm. The home team captain will decide whether an approved abbreviated scoring format will operate – refer to Rules at [www.tenniswos.co.uk](http://www.tenniswos.co.uk)

Details of participating teams can be found appended to the final standings published on the Tennis West of Scotland web site and on the league web site.

### Arrangements

Team players must be eligible to represent the team according to the nominations submitted by your club at the start of the season and must have played at least once in this season's competition. If any nominated team players are unavailable to play on the match date, players may be brought up from lower teams as long as they have played at least once for the club during this season in the adult league competition and even although they may already have played up twice in the same season for the higher team. With regard to player eligibility, playoff matches are deemed to be part of that year's 'summer' season. [Refer Rule 5]

The home team captain should confirm arrangements as early as possible with the opposing captain and no later than 5 days before the match is due to be played.

If the weather does not allow the match to be played on the due date, it will be played at the same venue one week later (or on an earlier date agreed by both

captains) and will take precedence over arranged matches in any other competitions.

Please note that Playoff dates CANNOT be changed and other matches, scheduled for the same date, must be rescheduled if there is not sufficient number of courts to play both or if the matches involve the same players. If a match needs to be rescheduled because of a playoff match, the home team captain must offer three dates and the away captain must accept one of the offered dates.

Match scores, including names of all players, must be entered online within 24 hours of the match being played.

Pre-season, a draw will be carried out to decide whether Division 'A' or 'B' winners will play at home in any Championship playoff.

In Promotion/Relegation playoffs, the team in the higher division will play at home.

### **2025 playoff dates:**

Women

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Men

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August

3 team Round Robin,  
4 team Elimination draws,  
Division 1/2 /Division 2 playoff

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>–Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August

[Check dates online.](#)

In 2025, Section 'A' winners will play at home to Section 'B' winners.