

# TENNIS SUSSEX

## RULES FOR THE SUMMER AND WINTER INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

**(N.B. These rules do not apply to men's divisions 1-4 and ladies' divisions 1-2 in the summer leagues which are played under the terms of the Aegon Team Tennis rules)**

Prefixes:- G – General S – Summer W – Winter

**G1.** The management of the competitions shall be with the Council of Tennis Sussex, who may delegate control and all or any powers given under these rules to the Competitions and Tournaments Committee. In this event the Committee may make such regulations as may from time to time in its opinion be necessary. Such regulations, which shall be binding, must be reported to the Council of Tennis Sussex.

**G2.** The competitions are open to all Sussex registered tennis clubs, whose constitution/rules have been approved by Tennis Sussex, where appropriate. They will be held in accordance with these league rules and with any relevant rules and regulations of The Lawn Tennis Association.

**G3.** A trophy or trophies may be provided at the discretion of the Council. The trustees for the time being of Tennis Sussex will be deemed to be the legal owners of such trophies. The secretary of the club winning a trophy or trophies will give the Council a receipt together with an undertaking to return it (or them) in like good order and condition when required. Such trophy or trophies will normally be presented at a suitable occasion following completion of the relevant competition at the discretion of the Council.

**G4.** Any complaint by one club about another relating to these competitions must be made in writing within two days of the incident to the secretary of the Competitions and Tournaments Committee with a copy to the alleged offending club. Upon receipt of a reply from the alleged offending club the Competitions and Tournaments Committee will make a decision based upon the evidence provided by both clubs. Should no reply have been received from the alleged offending club within seven days the Competitions and Tournaments Committee, having first checked that its communication has been received, will make a decision in respect of the complaint.

**G5.** No player may play for any registered club in these competitions unless he or she has been elected a full playing member of that club in accordance with its rules. Such member must also be a British Tennis Member (BTM) in accordance with the rules of the Lawn Tennis Association. A temporary member of such a club is not eligible to play in these competitions. A player may not represent more than one club in any summer or winter season.

**G6.** In each competition the Competitions and Tournaments Committee will place properly entered and eligible club teams in men's and ladies' divisions comprising, as far as is practicable, seven teams in the summer and six/seven teams in the winter leagues. This will be done annually in such manner that no team which has finished first or second in its division in the previous year will fail to achieve promotion to a higher division where this is possible. In the same way, wherever possible, no team will be placed in lower division than in the previous year unless it finished bottom or next to bottom in its division in that year (but see rule G9 below). In both the summer and winter competitions divisions may be divided regionally into two parts in which case only the winning teams of each of the two parts of the highest regional division will be guaranteed promotion as above.

**G7.** Except as provided in rule S2, the club at whose premises the match is played will provide at least four new balls per court in use. Such balls will be of a type authorised by the Lawn Tennis Association.

**G8.** The dates of matches will be notified by the Competitions and Tournaments Committee at least one month before the start of the respective summer or winter season. Upon receipt of these fixture dates clubs may change the date of any of these fixtures, after consulting with the relevant opposing club, provided that this is done within twenty-one days of receiving the fixtures. After this twenty-one day period clubs are not entitled to change fixture dates unless with the mutual consent of the opposing club. Any such fixture changes or, in the case of postponed or abandoned matches, arrangements for replays, must be notified within seven days to the League organisers. Re-arranged matches should be organised for the earliest possible date even if postponement of a friendly fixture results. Clubs may indicate on their form of entry their preferred dates for home matches.

**G9.** Except in exceptional circumstances any team which concedes any match to its opponents will have all its results in that season disregarded and may be demoted by more than one division. Agreements between clubs to share unplayed matches or rubbers are not acceptable.

**G10.** The captain of the winning team or (in the case of a drawn match) the captain of the home team is required, within forty eight hours, to enter the match result online, in accordance with the procedures established by the Lawn Tennis Association. Such online submissions must include the full names and BTM numbers of the players in both teams. Failure to submit the match result within seven days will result in the deduction of one point from the offending team's divisional point score.

**G11.** If a match is abandoned after the arrival of the visiting team, then irrespective of whether play has begun, the visiting team will have choice of ground for any necessary replay.

**G12.** The decision as to the fitness of the courts for play rests with the captain of the home team who must always consider the opinion of the visiting team captain, and must be prepared subsequently to justify his or her decision in case of dispute. When courts are declared unfit for play after the beginning of a match and alternative courts are provided, the captain of the visiting team may allocate his or her players to each of the alternative courts and may stipulate that these players remain on these courts for the duration of the match.

**G13.** A club is not bound to play the same team throughout a competition. No changes may be made in the composition of a team after the start of a match. If a match is postponed or abandoned, the composition of the teams may be changed for the replay.

**G14.** No club may have more than two teams in any one division. Where two teams from one club are in the same division the fixture between these teams will be programmed early in the season involved (summer or winter). In the event of the fixture being postponed for any reason, it must be rearranged and played before 31<sup>st</sup> July in respect of the summer leagues and before 31<sup>st</sup> December in respect of the winter leagues.

**S1.** The summer competition will be called the Sussex County Lawn Tennis Association Inter-Club Challenge Cup Competition, and will be played on any acceptable grass, hard or synthetic tennis court surface.

**S2.** The home club will set aside two or more courts as appropriate to the divisional format. In exceptional cases the Competitions and Tournaments Committee may allow a club having insufficient courts of the same type to compete in the competition. In such a case the visiting team will have the right to remain on the same courts throughout the match.

**S3.** The summer competition will begin in mid April and will end on the last Sunday in September annually. Matches played outside this period must be sanctioned by the Competitions and Tournaments Committee.

**S4.** All entries together with the appropriate fees must be received by the Competitions and Tournaments Committee on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year preceding that in which the competition will be held.

**S5.** Each team will consist of four men or four ladies arranged in pairs. Each pair will play a match against each pair of the opposing team, each match comprising the best of three sets. The tie breaker (as approved by the Lawn Tennis Association) will apply at six games all in all three sets. Having exchanged team lists the two team captains will decide by lot the order of play and the allocation of courts for the first round of matches. The visiting captain will then immediately decide whether or not the visiting team will remain on the same courts for the second round of matches.

**S6.** In any one summer competition in any one season any player who has played four times in one or more divisions or teams may not subsequently play in a lower division or team. Nor may any player participate in more than six matches in total.

**S7.** When a match in progress is abandoned due to bad weather, bad light or any other circumstances beyond the control of the home team, then the result will stand provided that three rubbers have been completed. For the purposes of this rule conceded matches will not apply.

**S8.** At the end of the competition league tables will be published showing the final order of the teams in each division. Points will be awarded, two for a match won and one for a match drawn. The league order will be established firstly by the number of points awarded, secondly by the number of rubbers won, thirdly by the number of sets won, fourthly by the least number of sets lost, fifthly by the number of games won, sixthly by the least number of games lost, and finally by lot.

**S9.** Entire rubbers conceded by illness, injury or retirement or by failure to produce a full team will be scored 6-0, 6-0 against the conceding pair(s). Any completed sets and games in a conceded rubber will be taken into account in the application of rule S8. In normal circumstances matches conceded by failure to raise a team on the scheduled date of a match will be dealt with in accordance with rule G9.

**S10.** Matches may be played during the weekend at any time between 10.30 am and 4.00 pm, and the home club is required to give its opponents seven clear days of the starting time. Should this notice not be given then the match will start at 2.15 pm. If a player is not ready to play within thirty minutes of the starting time, the opposing team may claim that rubber.

**W1.** The winter competition will be called the Sussex County Lawn Tennis Association Inter-Club Winter Hard Court Competition, and will be played on any acceptable hard or synthetic tennis court surface.

**W2.** The winter competition will begin on the first Saturday in October and will end on the last Sunday in March annually. Matches played outside this period must be sanctioned by the Competitions and Tournaments Committee.

**W3.** All entries together with the appropriate fees must be received by the Competitions and Tournaments Committee on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May preceding the October in which the competition is due to begin.

**W4.** Each winter competition will be referred to by the year in which it commences. (i.e. the competition commencing in October 2005 will be referred to as the 2005 competition and so on.)

**W5.** In any one winter competition in any one season any player who has played four times in one or more divisions or teams may not subsequently play in a lower division or team. Nor may any player participate in more than six matches in total (or seven matches in total if an eight team division is involved).

**W6.** Each team will consist of four men or four ladies arranged in pairs. Each pair will play a match against each pair of the opposing team, each match comprising the best of three sets. The tie breaker (as approved by the Lawn Tennis Association) will apply at six games all in all three sets. Having exchanged team lists the two team captains will decide by lot the order of play and the allocation of courts for the first round of matches. The visiting captain will then immediately decide whether or not the visiting team will remain on the same courts for the second round of matches.

**W7.** When a match in progress is abandoned due to bad weather, bad light or any other circumstances beyond the control of the home team, then the result will stand provided that three rubbers have been completed. For the purposes of this rule conceded matches will not apply.

**W8.** At the end of the competition league tables will be published showing the final order of teams in each division. Points will be awarded, two for a match won and one for a match drawn. The league order will be established firstly by the number of points awarded, secondly by the number of rubbers won, thirdly by the number of sets won, fourthly by the least number of sets lost, fifthly by the number of games won, sixthly by the least number of games lost, and finally by lot.

**W9.** Entire rubbers conceded by illness, injury or retirement or by failure to produce a full team will be scored 6-0, 6-0 against the conceding pair(s). Any completed sets and games in a conceded rubber will be taken into account in the application of rule W8. In normal circumstances matches conceded by failure to raise a team on the scheduled date of a match will be dealt with in accordance with rule G9.

**W10.** All matches should be played at the weekend and should commence at 10.30 am unless varied by the home team, in which case seven clear days notice must be given. In all cases sufficient time must be allowed for the match to be completed in day-light hours. If a player is not ready to play within thirty minutes of the starting time, the opposing team may claim that rubber.

**W11.** Where possible matches will be scheduled at regular intervals throughout the period October-March. Whilst teams are permitted, by mutual agreement, to change the dates of matches in accordance with rule G8, each team is required to play a minimum of three of its scheduled six/seven matches in the period October/December. This rule is designed to reduce end of season match congestion caused by inclement weather in the New Year period. Teams which fail to observe this rule will be penalised as follows:-

- a) deduction of one league point if only two matches are played between October/December.
- b) deduction of two league points if only one or no matches are played between October/December.