

Regulations

Winter Leagues 2009-2010. (Cymru Kitchens and Veterans)

Issued: September 2009

Eligibility – Clubs

- 1.1 The Winter Leagues shall be open only to Clubs in South Wales who are affiliated to Tennis Wales Ltd and fully paid up.
- 1.2 All competing clubs shall pay a League Fee for each team entered and accepted into the competition. The amount of the Fee shall be determined by the South Wales Committee of Tennis Wales Ltd. The fee shall be submitted with the entry form.

Eligibility – Players

- 1.3 No player, having played for one Club in the League shall be qualified to play for another club in the League during the same season without the prior permission of the League Committee and both clubs. The player concerned shall inform not only South Wales Committee of this request but also the Secretary of each club concerned to confirm the player's intention.
- 1.4 If an ineligible player takes part in any match, the offending Team shall be liable to a penalty deduction of 4 points.
- 1.5 (1) Current International and County players and those players that have been invited to represent their County either last year or during this year's competition **are expected to play for their Club's 1st team unless the strength of other players dictates otherwise.**
(2) Regular team players and highly-rated players are not allowed to play in teams lower than would normally be expected unless otherwise permitted by the League Committee **in advance.**
(3) If Regular team players are invited to play representative matches for South Wales or Wales then their team may request the postponement of any pre-arranged league match scheduled for the same date. Such request must be made in writing at least 14 days prior to the scheduled date to the League Committee.
(4) Regular team players who have been away or injured or otherwise not playing are not allowed to return and play in lower teams than would normally be expected unless otherwise permitted by the League Committee **in advance**

League Structure

- 2.1 The Leagues will be administered by the League Committee of the South Wales Division of Tennis Wales Ltd. All communications shall be made through the Tennis Wales Office unless otherwise advised. The League Referee shall be the contact for questions and disputes regarding the running/playing of matches in the league.
The League Committee shall format each division based upon the previous year's final league tables, the pursuant rules and the current year's entries.
The League Committee reserves the right to promote and/or regularise the number of teams in each division as required to create a balanced league structure.
- 2.2 The Clubs in all Divisions will play each other on a home and away basis unless a shortage or surplus of entrants dictates otherwise. Divisions thus formed may require teams to play each other on a Home or Away basis.
- 2.3 Clubs may have a maximum of two teams in any one Division. In this instance no exchange of players between the two teams will be permitted.

Schedule of Matches

- 3.1 All matches shall be completed in accordance with the schedules laid down by the League Committee.
- 3.2 For the purposes of arranging the dates and times of all matches, and to transact any other business in connection with the competition, a Fixtures Meeting shall be held prior to the start of the season for representatives of the competing clubs, with the dates and times of all matches being determined by the home club. Complete lists of the dates and times agreed upon shall be submitted to the Tennis Wales Ltd Office within 14 days of the date of the Fixtures Meeting.
- 3.3 The dates thus agreed upon shall be strictly adhered to and no match shall be postponed for any reason except bad weather or the unfit condition of the courts unless sanctioned by the League Committee and confirmed in writing by the club.
- 3.4 All matches should be completed within 14 days of the end of the fixture list relevant to the Division concerned.
- 3.5 A Club not completing its matches within the specified fixture period shall be awarded 0 points for matches not played.
- 3.6 Any team conceding TWO or more of its fixtures will be considered as having withdrawn from the League and will have all of its results of matches played declared null and void. The players will be subject to rule 1.3.
Any such team seeking to enter in the following year shall be placed two divisions lower than its current position.

Match Format

- 4.1 A team shall consist of four players (two pairs). No substitution is allowed.
A match will be deemed to be conceded if a team is unable to field two pairs.
- 4.2 Each match will be played over 2 rounds,
The fixed draw is as follows,
Round 1 1 v 2 2 v 1
Round 2 1 v 1 2 v 2
- 4.3 The team captains will submit their 2 pairs in order of merit before the match commences.
- 4.4 There will be a regular tie-break at 6-6, but the third set will be replaced by a professional tiebreaker.
Professional tie-breaks are to be the first to ten points with a two point advantage. This will be shown on results cards as 1-0 or 0-1 (e.g. 6-4 3-6 1-0) and will be counted as one set and one game when the cards are totalled at the end of the match.
- 4.5 An evening match shall be one schedule to start at 6.00pm or later. The time of cessation of play for an evening match shall be at sunset or when floodlights have to be extinguished by Planning Regulations.

Scoring System

- 5.1 The winner of each match shall receive 6 points and the losing team 2 points. Where the events are shared 2-2, the winner of the match shall be determined by reference to the number of sets won. If the number of sets won is the same, then the winner of the match shall be determined by reference to the number of games won. If the number of games won is the same, then the match shall be determined by reference to the result of the event between the teams' first pairs.
- 5.2 In the event of a match being conceded, the Club in default shall have no points but the intended opponents shall receive 6 points, 4 events, 8 sets and 48 games.

Postponed Matches

- 6.1 The home team must contact the visiting team in the event of it being found necessary to postpone the match due to bad weather or the unfit condition of the courts. It is the obligation of the visiting team to advise the home team of the telephone number of the official responsible for the team and the latest time by which that official must be contacted to stop the visiting team travelling.
- 6.2 Postponed matches must be played within 18 days, with the home team offering the away team 2 dates within this period. The dates offered and the agreed date for replay must be submitted by **both teams** to Tennis Wales Ltd on Form E within 5 days. If agreement is not reached within 7 days, both teams should immediately send in Form E to Tennis Wales Ltd, stating the problem
- 6.3 An extension to the period within which postponed matches must be played may only be sanctioned by the South Wales League Committee.

Abandoned Matches

- 7.1 Where weather or bad light results in a match having to be abandoned, if a team has won sufficient events to win the match, the result shall stand. In these circumstances, only the events, sets and games completed will count. Where an insufficient number of events has been completed to achieve a result, the whole match is to be replayed at the same venue within 18 days. In these circumstances, the home team must offer the opposition 3 dates within this period. The dates offered and the agreed date for the re-match are to be submitted in writing by both parties to Tennis Wales Ltd office within 5 days.
- 7.2 An extension to the period within which abandoned matches must be played may only be sanctioned by South Wales League Committee.
- 7.3 If weather or bad light does not interfere with play, all 2 rounds must be completed by actual play or concession of events.

Courts and Equipment and Dress

- 8.1 All competing clubs should make available 2 courts of an acceptable standard and equipped in accordance with the Rules of Lawn Tennis.
- 8.2 Where a club has sufficient courts of different surfaces, a match shall, unless otherwise agreed by the two captains, be played on one surface, except that a match may if necessary be transferred to another surface following the intervention of the weather and/or Health and Safety reasons. The home club shall have the choice of surface and the visiting club shall have the right to determine court allocation. Matches which will require the use of floodlights shall commence upon courts with the floodlights.

- 8.3 All matches shall be played with at least 6 new balls that are of an ITF recognised brand.
- 8.4 Appropriate tennis wear must always be worn, with competitors adhering to the rules of the host club both in dress and footwear.

Late Arrival

- 9.1 If any player is not on court and ready to play within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time, a set will be deducted from each of the opposing pairs unable to commence play.
- 9.2 If play has not commenced within 40 minutes of the agreed starting time, then the first round event(s) will be conceded 6-0 6-0.
- 9.3 If any player is not on court by the commencement of the 2nd round events then all events involving the player(s) concerned will be conceded 6-0, 6-0.
- 9.4 Teams are asked to consider travelling time/distances in the context of Late Arrival. Visiting teams should make contact with the home team if difficulties are experienced during travelling and this will be taken into consideration before claiming any sets.

Results

- 10.1 The Captain, or other responsible official of **each** team shall be responsible for submitting a fully completed legible match card by post, to the Tennis Wales Office. The name of each player (first name and surname) shall be recorded on the match card. The captain shall clearly distinguish on the card between club players with similar names. Every element of the card shall be completed in block capitals. Any elements shown on the card that are not filled in correctly or are missing, may incur a penalty deduction of 1 point per card. (this also applies to the online League Planner system, where the full names of players **MUST** be entered) The match cards must be sent to Tennis Wales Ltd within 7 days of the conclusion of each match, duly signed and counter-signed by the captains, or other responsible official, of both clubs.
- 10.2 The winning team captain must enter the result of the match online within 3 days of the match being played. It is the duty of the losing team captain to check the League pages on the Tennis Wales website after 3 days to ensure that the result of the match has been entered correctly. If so, **THEY MUST CONFIRM THE RESULT.ONLINE**. If the result has not been entered correctly it is the duty of the losing team captain to contact the winning team captain to resolve the difference within 7 days of the date of the match being played. If the winning team captain has not entered the result within 7 days of the match then the losing captain shall enter the result immediately.
- 10.3 It is also the duty of team captains to check the league pages of the Tennis Wales website and notify the Tennis Wales office if they think that any ineligible players have played for teams they have played. They have 7 days from the date of the relevant match to report such a matter.
- 10.4 On completion of the schedule of matches, club representatives shall check the League pages on the Tennis Wales website to ensure that **ALL** their results have been entered. If not, they must advise the Tennis Wales Office of this fact immediately.
- 10.5 The League Committee shall be under no obligation to take into account any match, the result of which has not been submitted in accordance with these Regulations by a designated date.

- 10.6 The League Committee shall endeavour to distribute to Club Secretaries the draft league results as soon as possible 14 days after the end of the match schedule. Any objections must be submitted in writing and sent RECORDED DELIVERY by the CLUB SECRETARY concerned to Tennis Wales Ltd. No objection can be considered unless received within 14 days of the date that the draft results were dispatched.

Promotion / Relegation

- 11.1 In the event of points being equal, a percentage of events won to count, then sets and then games will determine the team to occupy the higher position. (e.g. Number of events won/Total number of events played x 100%)
- 11.2 In normal circumstances, the bottom two teams in each Division shall be relegated and the top two teams shall be promoted, but the League Committee can exercise discretion in certain circumstances.
- 11.3 If a new club or team enters the league, accelerated promotion can be provided at the discretion of the League Committee and at no detriment to existing teams in the league if their playing standard so warrants and can be justified.

Disputes

- 13.1 Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of these rules shall be referred to the League Referee, preferably in writing. The Referee shall seek the view of all parties involved before reaching a decision which shall be final. In the event that these Rules are silent on a particular point, the Referee shall refer the matter to the League Committee whose decision shall be final. All correspondence shall be responded to within fourteen days of the date of request by the Referee or League Committee. Neither the Referee nor a member of the League Committee may participate in reaching such a decision where there is a conflict of interest. A club may lodge an appeal against the decision of the League Committee by writing, within FOURTEEN days of the date of the letter giving the League Committee's decision, to the Tennis Wales Office. (E mails will not be accepted)
- 13.2 In the event that there is an allegation of misconduct, this shall be reported to the Disciplinary Officer of Tennis Wales Ltd by completing a Tennis Wales Complaint Form which shall be forwarded to the Tennis Wales office by Recorded Delivery to arrive within seven days from the date of the alleged incident. It is desirable that such matters should be resolved by the parties involved at the time of the alleged incident, thus avoiding any further action. Upon receipt of a Complaint Form the matter will be progressed in accordance with the Tennis Wales Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Rules and Regulations

- 14.1 All matches in the Winter League shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the Lawn Tennis Association, the LTA Code of Conduct, the Tennis Wales Ltd Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and these Regulations.