

## Seniors Age Groups Rules

### **18. Eligibility**

#### **Venue Eligibility**

- 18.1 Entry to LTA National League – Senior's ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.
- 18.2 A venue that does not have its own courts and clubhouse (a Nomadic Club) may enter teams only if they have entered the competition in previous years and subject to the following conditions:
- I. A nomadic club must be registered with the LTA
  - II. Each year, a nomadic club must nominate in writing to the Tournament Referee, the players it wishes to use in all teams in the events for that year before the date of their first match. A maximum of 6 players shall be nominated for each of the Men's and Women's teams and a maximum of 3 Men and 3 Women for a Mixed event. A player may only be nominated with his/her prior consent and must have been a member of the nomadic club on 1st October in the year preceding the competition.
  - III. Each venue of an organisation such as David Lloyd Leisure Ltd that operates multiple venues is considered to be a separate club. A player representing such a club must be able to prove Bona Fide membership of that club i.e. prove that the club is their home club of which they are rackets or a full member.
  - IV. No entry will be accepted unless the applicant nominates on the entry form the venue at which all its teams will play their home fixtures. Any team not playing their home fixtures at the nominated club may be penalised by playing all matches away the following season.

#### **Player Eligibility**

- 18.3 A player may represent
- I. Different venues in different events, but may not play for different clubs in the same age group.
  - II. A player must have played at least one match in that event prior to playing in the final. Should this not be possible a player with the same or worse Doubles ITF World Tennis Number to all other players who have played in the team may be substituted and with agreement from the Referee. No player may play in more than 3 events in the finals.
  - III. If replacing a singles player Singles ITF WTN will be used.
- 18.4 All players must
- I. Have a LTA Advantage membership number which links them to the venue they are competing for
  - II. Have an ITF, WTN
  - III. Be a member of the venue they are competing for as of April 2026 and commit to representing that venue.
  - IV. The age which players shall achieve at any date in 2026 is the qualifying age for each event
- 18.5 Events and age categories are (A player must be 30 or over):
- I. Men's – 30,35,40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75
  - II. Women's – 30,35, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70
  - III. Mixed – Junior (M45/W40), Senior (M55 / W50), Super Senior (M65 / W60) & Medley (M45 / W40)

### **19. Match Arrangements**

#### **19.1 Time and Dates**

The dates by which matches are to be played must be strictly observed throughout the competition. Within 10 days of receiving the draw the home team must make contact with the away team and offer 3 possible dates. Should the final play by date be offered there must be indoor courts available. The away team must accept one of the dates within 7 days. The 3 dates must include dates over at least two different weekends and there must be 8 clear days between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dates. Some of the older age groups may well arrange matches mid week but the 8 clear days between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dates still apply.

For successive rounds home advantage will be determined by the event organiser by reference to the venues of the previous matches played in the competition.

Dates should not be offered during the following periods unless agreed by both captains:

- World Championships, Super Seniors, Senior's and Young Seniors
- National Seniors Championships - Clay and Grass courts
- European Inter Club Championships

#### Start Time

The latest start time for matches will be 1.00pm unless agreed otherwise by both captains.

It is not in the spirit of the tournament to concede walkovers. All matches should be played regardless of team strength or distance to be travelled. Any team unable to play on the pre-arranged finals day must concede at the semi- final stage.

The Home team will be responsible for organizing refreshments.

#### 19.2 Court Surfaces

The home team shall provide 2 or 3 courts of the same surface.

#### 19.3 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls per court

#### 19.4 Match Format

Apart from the Over 30 and 35 Events, where there will be 2 singles and 3 doubles, a match will consist of 4 doubles rubbers.

Over 30 and 35 singles. Players must play in WTN order

#### 19.5 Team Format

A team shall consist of 4 players with the exception of events from the age of 65 and older where the maximum will be 5 players.

#### 19.6 Order of Play

##### Doubles only events

|         |             |     |
|---------|-------------|-----|
| Round 1 | Doubles 1v1 | 2v2 |
| Round 2 | Doubles 1v2 | 2v1 |

##### Medley Event

|         |                 |                 |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Round 1 | Men's Doubles   | Women's Doubles |
| Round 2 | Mixed Doubles 1 | Mixed Doubles 2 |

##### Over 30/35 Events

|         |             |             |             |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Round 1 | Singles 1v1 | Singles 2v2 | Doubles 2v2 |
| Round 2 | Doubles 2v1 | Doubles 1v2 |             |

#### 19.7 Match Scoring

Each rubber will consist of the best of 3 sets with a tie break at 6-6 in the first two sets. The 3<sup>rd</sup> set will consist of a ten point tie break.

#### 19.8 Match Result

Each match shall be decided on the combined results of the singles (where appropriate) and doubles.

- I. If rubbers tied the number of sets will decide
- II. If sets are tied the number of games will decide
- III. If games are tied the combined results of the first two rubbers will decide first rubbers, then sets then games
- IV. If a tie still prevails then the result of the leading rubber i.e. 1st Pair v 1st Pair will decide the match.

Results should be entered online by the winning team within 48 hours. Event organisers should also be informed.

### **20. Problem Solving Issues**

#### 20.1 Late Arrival

If a team arrives on court more than half an hour after the agreed starting time of a scheduled rubber, then the first set of that rubber with a score of 6-0 will be awarded to the other team. If the team arrives on court more than an hour after the agreed starting time of a scheduled rubber then that rubber will be awarded to the other team with a score of 6-0,6-0

#### 20.2 Inclement Weather

If inclement weather prevents the first round from being completed then the match will be replayed at the venue selected by the away team provided that the original away team had travelled to the fixture. If not, the match will be replayed at the original venue by the scheduled end of the round, or by permission of the Event Organiser.

If the first round of a match has been fully completed and inclement weather prevents the whole match from being completed then the result will be obtained on the first round, first on rubbers, then sets, then games as before.

- 20.2 The Tournament Referee's decision is final. Any matters not covered in these Rules shall be resolved at the discretion of the Tournament Referee.