

National Seniors Inter-Club Championships 2020 Rules

Eligibility to compete

To be eligible to compete, a venue must be registered with the LTA, have a bona fide membership, and comply with the published Rules of the tournament.

Age Groups

1. For all events with the exception of the Men's and Women's 35 events, teams consist of 4 players, in 2 pairs, ranked 1 and 2. For the 65/70/75 age groups the maximum will be 5 players except in the Medley events where it will be 4 players. All players must be present at the start of the match.
2. The age which players shall achieve at any date in 2020 is the qualifying age which players can use for all domestic tournaments. Teams must be entered in the competition by the date set by the Tournament Referee.

Rules for the Finals

3. Teams reaching the final will be asked to submit details of players that have played during the season and the team for the final must be composed of players who have played for the team they are representing at least once in previous rounds. Should this not be possible then, with the exception of nomadic teams, a team may substitute a player providing they are not of a higher rating/standard than all of the previous team members who have played in the competition, and subject to the Tournament Committee's approval.

Match dates

4. The dates by which matches are to be played must be strictly observed throughout the competition. Following the draw for the tournament, teams will be e-mailed informing them of the identity of their opponent in the first round. Within 10 days of the date of that email, the home team must contact the away team to offer 3 possible dates for the match within the prescribed period for the match to be played. Should the final play-by date, as stated on the draw sheet, be offered, there must be indoor courts available. The away team must accept one of the dates within 7 days of the date of the e-mail of dates being offered or the choice of date will revert to the home team. The three dates must be offered on the same occasion.

If the home team has not contacted the away team within 10 days of the date of the e-mail advising the name of the opponent, then the away team has the right to claim home advantage, but only with the approval of the Event Organiser. The 3 dates must include dates over at least two different weekends and there must be 8 clear days between the 1st and 3rd date.

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

World Championships:

<i>Super Seniors</i>	<i>11 – 16 October</i>
<i>Seniors</i>	<i>26 April – 2 May</i>
<i>Young Seniors</i>	<i>13 – 18 September</i>

National Seniors' Championships:

<i>Clay Court Championships</i>	<i>25 May – 1 June</i>
<i>Grass Court Championships</i>	<i>18 – 25 August</i>

The 35 Inter-county weekends

European Inter club Championships

In the case of preliminary/first round matches, dates must be offered by 25 February and should not include dates before 1 March unless by mutual agreement. In the event of a dispute, the Tournament Referee's decision is final.

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

Match arrangements

- 5. The draw for the first round of each competition will determine home advantage. For each successive match, home advantage will be determined by the Event Organiser, by reference to the venues of the previous match/matches played in the competition.**
6. The home team selects the surface on which the match will be played. Clubs must be prepared to play on any outdoor hard or grass court, under floodlights or on any indoor surface, as offered by the home team. Home teams unable to offer courts must give the away team choice of venue. With the exception of inclement weather, there should be no break in play unless mutually agreed by both captains.
7. 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' date must concede at the semi-final stage.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse an entry for the next year's competition to any team failing to fulfil its tournament commitments in the current year.

8. It is the responsibility of the home team to arrange dates, venues and hospitality for matches. The home team must supply new balls and refreshments for the match.

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Match format

9. Each rubber will consist of the best of three sets with the tie-break operating at 6-6 in the first two sets. The 3rd set will consist of a Ten-Point Tie Break.
10. For singles rubbers, players must have an LTA Player Rating and be nominated in ratings order.
11. The order of play for each match must be:-

a. Events with only Doubles

<i>Round 1</i>	1st Pair v 1st Pair	2nd Pair v 2nd Pair
<i>Round 2</i>	2nd Pair v 1st Pair	1st Pair v 2nd Pair

- A team will consist of 4 players, except for the 65/70/75 where a maximum of 5 players will be allowed

b. Medley Event

<i>Round 1</i>	Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles
<i>Round 2</i>	Mixed Doubles 1	Mixed Doubles 2

- A team will consist of 4 players

c. Men's and Women's 35 Events (4 players)

<i>Round 1</i>	Singles 1 v 1	Singles 2 v 2	Doubles 2 v 2
<i>Round 2</i>	Doubles 2 v 1	Doubles 1 v 2	

- A team will consist of 4 players

Match result

12. Each match shall be decided on the combined results of singles (where appropriate) and doubles.
 - a. If rubbers are tied, the number of sets won will decide.
 - b. If sets are tied, the number of games won will decide.
 - c. If games are tied, the combined result of the first two rubbers will decide, first rubbers, then sets, then games.
 - d. If a tie still prevails, then the result of the leading rubber, i.e. 1st Pair v 1st Pair, will decide the match.

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Conduct and completion of matches

13. 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 a 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.

If inclement weather prevents the first round from being completed, then the match should be re-played at the venue selected by the away team, provided the original away team had travelled to the fixture. If not, then the match is re-played 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 a result will be obtained on the first round, first on rubbers, then sets, then games, as before.

14. Results should be entered online by the winning team within 48 hours and details of how to do this will be circulated to all captains by the LTA in late January. Event organizers should also be informed of the result.

Eligibility of players

15. All Players must be British Tennis Members. They may play for the same club in different age-groups. Players may also play for different clubs in different age-group competitions, but on no account may they play for different clubs in the same age-group competition.
16. No player may represent their club in more than 3 events over the finals weekend.
17. A Player representing a club must be able to prove current Bona Fide membership of that club

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18. A club which 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:-
- a. a nomadic club must be registered with the LTA .
 - b. each year, a nomadic club must nominate in writing to the Tournament Referee, the players it wishes to use in all its teams in the championships for that year, before the date of the nomadic club's first match in the championships. 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 ladies for a Mixed Doubles team. A player may only be nominated with his or her prior consent and he or she must have been a member of the nomadic club on 1 October in the year preceding the championships.
 - c. each venue of an organization, such as David Lloyd Leisure Ltd and Virgin 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 (ie prove that the club is their "home club" of which they are rackets or full member.
 - d. a nomadic club may not nominate a player who is a member of any other club which has a team participating in the same event in that year's championships, unless the nomination is accompanied by a specific letter of dispensation, signed by an officer of that other club, for that year's competition only. Any match in which a player takes part who has not been properly nominated in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) above, shall be forfeited by the nomadic club.
 - e. no entry will be accepted unless the applicant nominates on the entry form the venue at which all its teams will play all its home matches. Any team not playing home fixtures at the nominated club may be penalized by playing all matches away the following season.

Ratings

19. The results of singles matches will be submitted to to the LTA to count for ratings. All the singles results will be submitted together after the tournament has completed on finals day.

Tournament Referee's decision is final

20. Any matters not covered in these rules shall be resolved at the discretion of the Tournament Referee.