

Rules and Regulations

Tennis Wales South Summer Doubles 3 Pair League 2024

Eligibility – Clubs

- 1.1 The South Wales Summer Doubles League shall be open only to Clubs in South Wales which are registered Places to Play with the LTA and Tennis Wales Ltd and fully paid up.
- 1.2 All competing clubs shall pay a League Entry Fee for each team entered and accepted into the competition. The amount of the Fee shall be determined by the South Wales League and Competitions Committee of Tennis Wales Ltd ('the League Committee'). The Fee shall be submitted with the entry form.

Eligibility – Players

- 1.3 All players must be members of the club that they are playing for. No player, having played for one club in this 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 the League Committee of this request but also the Secretary of each club concerned to confirm the player's intention. If a player plays for 1 club in the 3 pair league, he/she may play for ANOTHER club in the 2 pair league
- 1.4 Where a club enters more than one team, no player having played in any higher team more than once shall be allowed to play in any lower team during the season.
- 1.5 All players are strongly encouraged to be British Tennis Members and ensure that their club or South Wales venue, in the case of a multi-centre chain, is listed as their designated Place To Play.
- 1.6 If an ineligible player takes part in any match all rubbers involving that player will be conceded to the opposing team. If two ineligible players take part in a match, that match will be conceded to the opposing team.
- 1.7 In order to compete in the Open Leagues, a player must be a minimum of 11 years old at the start of their club's respective season.
- 1.8
 - (1) Current Senior (Open) 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 2 or more regular team players are invited to play representative matches for South Wales or Wales, and are therefore unavailable for the same league match, then their team may request the rearrangement of the match. Such requests must be made in writing at least 14 days prior to the scheduled date to the League Committee. This rule does not apply to players invited to play junior or age-group senior (veterans) representative matches.
 - (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 League will be administered by the League Committee. 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 The dates and times of all matches shall be determined by the home club, which will submit a complete list of such matches to Tennis Wales by the date specified by the League Committee. Where the away team believes that there is a compelling reason preventing it from fulfilling the fixture on the selected date or at the selected time, it may appeal within 14 days to the Tennis Wales office; the League Committee will consider the matter and its decision shall be final. If a team or club fails to notify Tennis Wales of its home fixtures by the given date, it will be subject to a fine equivalent to the League Entry Fee for each team. Such clubs must notify their opponents of match dates within 7 days of the date for their agreement prior to schedules being finalised.
- 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 both clubs.
- 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 withdrawn from the league and all results of matches played by the team will be declared null and void. The players will however still be subject to rule 1.3, 1.4 and 1.7(2)
A team fielding only 4 eligible players on more than one occasion shall be withdrawn from the league as above.
Any such team seeking to enter the league in the following year shall be demoted two divisions below its current position.

Match Format

- 4.1 A team shall consist of six players (three pairs). No substitution is allowed. If a team is able to field only two pairs, all rubbers involving that team's third pair will be conceded 6-0, 6-0. 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 1	2 v 3	3 v 2
Round 2	1 v 2	2 v 1	3 v 3

- 4.3 The team captains will submit their 3 pairs in order of merit before the match commences.
- 4.4 In all divisions there will be a tiebreak at 6-6 but the third set will be replaced by a professional tiebreak.
In Premier Divisions, if both captains are in agreement before the commencement of the match then a tie break can be played at 6 games all in the final set.
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 scheduled to start at 6.00pm or later. A minimum of three hours shall be allowed for the completion of the match. The time of cessation of play for an evening match shall be at sunset or when floodlights have to be extinguished in accord with Planning Regulations.

Scoring System

- 5.1 Each team will receive 3 points for a match that is played and completed. Each team will be awarded 1 point for each pair competing in the match. The winner of each match shall receive 4 points and the loser 0 points, so the winner of each completed match will receive a total of 10 points and the losing team 6 points. Where the events are shared 3-3 (two round matches), the winner of the match will 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 will be determined by reference to the number of games won. If the number of games won is the same, the match is a draw and each team will receive 2 points, making a total of 8 points each. A team losing a match where events have been shared 3-3 will be awarded 1 bonus point.
- 5.2 In the event of a match being conceded, the club in default shall have no points but the intended opponents shall receive 10 points, 6 events, 12 sets and 72 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. Within 5 days of the date of the original match the home team must offer the opposition 3 dates for a re-match. The dates offered and the agreed date for the re-match are to be submitted by email by both parties to Mark at Tennis Wales within 7 days. The home team must amend the agreed date for the re-arranged fixture on the on-line League Planner system. If the home team does not offer dates for a re-match within 5 days, the away team should contact Mark within 10 days. If the away team do not respond to the dates offered then the home team should contact Mark within 10 days stating the dates offered. If a date for the re-match cannot be agreed upon, then both teams should contact Mark at Tennis Wales where the League Committee will adjudicate.
- 6.3 An extension to the period within which postponed matches must be played may only be sanctioned by the League Committee if requested within the 18 day period.

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, within 5 days of the date of the original match the home team must offer the opposition 3 dates for a re-match. The dates offered and the agreed date for the re-match are to be submitted by email, by both parties to Mark Lewis. The home team must amend the agreed date for the re-arranged fixture on the on-line League Planner system. If the home team does not offer dates for a re-match within 5 days, the away team should contact Mark within 10 days. If the away team does not respond to the dates offered then the home team should contact Mark within 10 days stating the dates offered. If a date for the re-match cannot be agreed upon, then both teams should contact Mark at Tennis Wales and the League Committee will adjudicate.
- 7.2 An extension to the period within which abandoned matches must be played may only be sanctioned by the League Committee if requested within the 18 day period.
- 7.3 If weather or bad light does not interfere with play, all 2 rounds (or 3 rounds if agreed by both teams) must be completed by actual play or concession of events.

Courts and Equipment and Dress

- 8.1 All competing clubs should make available 3 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 that will require the use of floodlights shall commence upon courts with the floodlights.
- 8.3 All matches shall be played with at least 9 new balls that are of an ITF recognised brand.
- 8.4 Appropriate tennis-wear and non-marking footwear must always be worn.

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 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. 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. Each card must be duly signed and counter-signed by the captains or other responsible official. The winning team captain (or the home captain in a drawn match) must enter the result and details of the match on the on-line League Planner system within 3 days of the match being played.
- 10.2 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 the result is correct then he/she must confirm the result. If the result has not been entered correctly, it is the duty of the losing team captain to post a message on the web site to such effect and the League Referee will adjust or overrule as necessary. 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.
- 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 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. In particular, where neither the match cards nor the result entered online contains the name of all of the players who took part in the match, one point will be deducted from each team.
- 10.6 The League Committee shall endeavour to distribute to Club Secretaries the draft league results by 31st August. Any objections must be submitted in writing and sent by a Club official to the Tennis Wales office. No objection can be considered unless received within 14 days of the date that the draft results were dispatched.

Promotion / Relegation

- 11.1 The team scoring the highest number of points in Premier Division I shall be the South Wales Champions for that year.

- 11.2 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%).
- 11.3 In normal circumstances, the bottom two teams in each division shall be relegated and the top two teams shall be promoted except for Divisions I East & West and Division 2 West. In these divisions there shall be play-offs between the first placed team in one division and the second placed team in the other division in each Division 1 and Division 2 West. The winners of each play-off shall be promoted. Players competing in the Division 1 play-offs must have competed for their divisional or lower club team at least twice during the league season.
- 11.4 The play-off matches will be confirmed following ratification of the season's results and are subject to the same eligibility rules as the League. The play-off date shall be the weekend of September 14th/15th. The first placed teams shall be the Home team in the playoffs. The Home team is to give at least 14 days notice of the day and time of the play-off match. If courts are not available then the Away team can host.
- 11.5 If a Division has 7 teams then 3 teams may be relegated and only 2 promoted from the division below.
- 11.6 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

- 12.1 Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of these rules shall be referred to the League Referee, 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.
- 12.2 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 Ltd Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Rules and Regulations

- 13.1 All matches in the South Wales Summer Doubles 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.