

Rules & Regulations for the Seniors Tennis GB Inter-County Championships

Age groups: Women 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and Men 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75

1 Referee A Referee for the Championships shall be appointed by Seniors Tennis GB.

2 Composition of Teams

i) Each player, both singles and doubles, must be a British Tennis Member.

Singles players must be nominated in British Tennis Rating order.

ii) In the singles/doubles format, a team comprises a minimum of four and a maximum of five players. A fifth player may be introduced to play in the doubles rubbers in the second round as substitute for any player nominated to play in round one, but no player shall meet in round two a player who he/she met in round one.

iii) Where the match comprises doubles only, a team comprises a minimum of four and a maximum of five players i.e. one substitution may be allowed in the second round.

iv) If a player retires for any reason at any stage, he/she may take no further part in the match.

v) The teams for round one shall be nominated in writing by each team to its opponent before the first round begins.

3 Match Dates

i) All matches must be arranged by the Team Captains by **30 April 2019**.

ii) On receipt of the notification of the Divisions and the matches to be played, the home team will offer three dates for the fixture. The three dates must include dates over at least **2** different weekends and must be **8 clear** days apart. Dates should not be offered during National Championships and World Championships unless agreed by both teams.

iii) The onus is on both captains to ensure that arrangements are made expeditiously.

iv) No extensions of time will be granted beyond the end of the Competition.

4a Match Formats: 2 Singles/ 3 Doubles Matches will consist of five rubbers – two singles and three doubles in the following categories:

i) All Men's age groups up to and including 65s; Division 1 of 70s

ii) Women's 40; divisions above Division 3 of 50s and 55s; Division 1 of 60s and 65s

Round 1

Singles 1 v singles 1

Singles 2 v singles 2

1st doubles v 1st doubles

Round 2

1st doubles v 2nd doubles

2nd doubles v 1st doubles

Each match shall be decided on the combined result of singles and doubles. All rubbers must be completed.

4b Doubles only:

Each match shall consist of four doubles rubbers to be played as follows:

- i) Men's 70 below Division 1; 75s
- ii) Women's 50 and 55 below Division 2; 60s below Division 1; 65s below Division 1, 70s and 75s

Round 1

1st pair v 1st pair
2nd pair v 2nd pair

Round 2

1st pair v 2nd pair
2nd pair v 1st pair

Each match will be decided on the number of rubbers won. However

- If rubbers are tied, the number of sets won will decide.
- If sets are tied, the number of games won will decide.
- If games are tied, the combined result of the first two rubbers will decide first rubbers, then sets, then games.
- If a tie still prevails, then the result of the leading rubber, ie 1st pair v 1st pair, will decide.
- If the first round of the match has been fully completed without concessions and inclement weather prevents the whole match from being completed, then a result can be obtained on the first round, first on rubbers, then sets, then games. If a draw still results, then the match between the first pairs will decide.

5 Match Arrangements

i) The matches will be managed, and all necessary arrangements made, by the County Associations concerned.

ii) The home team will be responsible for providing a minimum of three new ITF - approved tennis balls for each first round of rubbers, for arranging the date and venue of the match and for the hospitality.

iii) Teams must be prepared to play on any surface of acceptable standard, under floodlights or on covered courts, as offered by the home team with the following exception. If the courts that are available are of more than one surface it will be the choice of the away team as to which surface should be used.

iv) Each rubber shall be the best of three sets. The tie-break will apply at 6 games all in the first two sets

The 3rd set in all matches will consist of a Championship Tie Break

v) Team Officials are not allowed on court during the matches and no advice by any person is permitted during play.

vi) No player may play for more than one team during the finals weekend.

vii) All matches are to begin not before **1.00 pm** unless agreed otherwise by both captains.

viii) Both captains must complete and sign the scorecards, and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours and the losing captain is responsible for checking the entry.

6 Conduct, and Completion, of Matches

- i) If players arrive more than 30 minutes late, then the first set of each rubber not started at the agreed starting time may be claimed.
- ii) If players are more than one hour late, then each rubber scheduled to start at the agreed starting time may be claimed.
- iii) Incomplete rubbers will be void, except in the case of illness or injury (details of which must be clearly recorded in the scorecard) when the retiring player shall lose the match but may record and games and sets won in that match prior to his/her retirement
- iv) If a match is abandoned before completion of the first round, the match shall be replayed at the reverse venue with a new date and time being agreed mutually as per Rules 2 and 5.
- v) If sufficient prior notice has been given by the home venue that no play is possible so that the away team does not need to travel to that match, then a new date and time shall be agreed mutually as per Rules 2 and 5 at the original venue.
- vi) If a County fields an incomplete team, one rubber will be deducted from that team's result. (This means that the incomplete team cannot win the overall match).

7 Eligibility Senior age qualification rules permit players to take part if they reach the minimum age at any time during the year in which the competition is played.

- A player, if selected, is eligible to represent his/her County only in accordance with LTA Rules 35 and 36.
- If a player moves to reside in another county, then one complete year must elapse before he/she may play a match for the new County, if selected.
- All County Organisers are responsible for verifying that their players are eligible before permitting them to play in any representative match.
- **In any one year, no player may play in more than one age category for which he/she is eligible, but a player may play down once in a younger age group (per season) See also paragraph in February letter.** If he/she plays down more than once, he/she will forfeit his/her rubbers in any second or subsequent match. The exceptions to this are the women's 75 and men's 75 where a player may play down in the women's and men's over 70 competition on a maximum of twice.

8 Conceded Matches

- i) In the event of a match being conceded the defaulting county will receive no points and **will be relegated to the division below** at the end of the season.
- ii) Counties who default more than once might not be accepted into the competition for the following year. On re-entry such counties will be placed in the lowest division.
- iii) Any county conceding a match must inform the Referee.

9 Promotion/Relegation

The final order in each division in which all matches have been completed (or results have been reached in accordance with Rules 3 and 4 above) shall be determined by the number of matches won.

In a division where this applies but there are teams with an equal number of matches won and in a division where not all matches have been completed but the number of matches won by two or more teams is equal, the positions shall be determined by comparing:

- the percentage of rubbers won to rubbers completed for each team. Should this still fail to determine the order, then
- **the result of the match between them**, or if more than two, then
- the percentage of sets won to sets completed. If two teams are still tied, then
- the match result, or if more than two, then
- the percentage of games won to games completed. Should this still leave two teams tied, then
- the result of the match between them.

10 Divisions shall be divided into two groups (A and B) which shall be rearranged annually by Seniors Tennis GB into geographical groupings where practicable to reduce travel costs (apart from Division 1).

Generally two teams from each division will be promoted and two teams from each division will be relegated, apart from Division 1 where there can be no promotions and the bottom division(s) where there can be no relegations.

The arrangement of divisions will depend on the number of counties entering the relevant age group.

11 The County winning Division 1A and 1B of each age category shall proceed to the Finals to determine the Champion County for the year.

12 Disputes Any dispute arising between Counties shall immediately be referred to the Referee.

13 Rules for the Finals **The separate rules for the finals shall apply in addition to these Rules**

14 Miscellaneous Seniors Tennis GB shall have power to modify any or all of these arrangements to meet special circumstances, such as a change in the number (or identity) of the entries.

15 This Competition is sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association and will be conducted under the present Rules of the Lawn Tennis Association and the LTA Competition Regulations in as much as they apply and are not varied by these rules.

16 Any matters not covered by the above regulations or their interpretation shall be resolved by the Referee whose decision shall be final.

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