

Regulations

Winter League 2026-2027

Eligibility – Clubs

- 1.1 The Winter Leagues shall be open only to Clubs in South Wales which are registered as Places to Play with the LTA and 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 League & 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 they are playing for. No player, having played for one Club in either the Senior (previously known as 'Vets') League or the Open (previously known as Chiltern) League shall be qualified to play for another club in the same League during the same season without the prior permission of the League Committee and both clubs. When submitting such a request to the League Committee, rationale must be provided for the Committee to consider before a decision is made. It is the players responsibility to inform not only the League Committee of this request but also the Captains of each club concerned to confirm the player's intention. A player may represent one club in the Mixed division and another club in the ladies or men's division.
- 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 to 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 the match will be deemed as conceded by the team with the ineligible player.
- 1.7
 - (1) Current (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. The League Committee will monitor player selection and allocation to teams, making reference to players results in previous and current matches via the LTA system to avoid the scenario of players 'playing down' before committing to higher teams, particularly at the start of the season.
 - (3) If a player is deemed to be ineligible as per 1.7(2), results of the match are subject to 1.6
 - (4) If 2 or more 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.
 - (5) 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.

Players will be deemed to be seniors/veterans if they are aged 45 for men and 40 for women by 31st December in the year in which the league starts.
- 1.9 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.

League Structure

- 2.1 The Leagues 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 10 days to the Tennis Wales office; the League Committee will consider the matter and its decision shall be final.
- 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 rules 1.3, 1.4 and 1.7 (2).
Any such team seeking to enter in the following year shall be demoted two divisions below 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 tiebreak.
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 3 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 accordance with Planning Regulations.

Scoring System

- 5.1 Each team will receive 4 points for a match that is played and completed. The team winning the match will receive 4 points and the losing team will receive 0 points, so the winner of each completed match will receive a total of 8 points and the losing team 4 points. Where the events are shared 2-2, 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 6 points each. A team losing a match where events are shared at 2-2 will be awarded a 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 8 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 21 days. Within 5 days of the date of the original match the home team must offer the opposition 2 dates within this period. The agreed date for the re-match is to be submitted by email to Mark Lewis mark.lewis@tenniswales.org.uk 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 stating the dates offered. If a date for the re-match cannot be agreed upon, then both should contact Mark and 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 21 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 21 days. In these circumstances, within 5 days of the date of the original match the home team must offer the opposition 2 dates within this period. 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.
- 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 21 day period.
- 7.3 If weather or bad light does not interfere with play, both 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, which have been subjected to a risk assessment to ensure that they are safe for play, and which are 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 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 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. 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. The match cards should be kept by the captain for safekeeping during the season but do not need to be emailed into Mark anymore.

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 names 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 as soon as possible after the end of the match schedule. 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 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 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 [Tennis Wales Ltd, Office 10, House 3, Ground Floor, The Maltings, East Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF24 5EZ](#) 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

- 13.1 All matches in the Winter Leagues 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.