

PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT LTA

HEAD PLYMOUTH TENNIS LEAGUE RULES 2019

1 NAME

The League shall be known as the HEAD Plymouth and District Lawn Tennis League.

2 MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the League shall be open to those clubs in affiliation to the Plymouth and District LTA and to their respective county LTA's **and who are represented at the AGM.**
- b) The facilities of new clubs applying to join the League must be inspected to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee before acceptance to the League.

3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the following officers:-

President, Vice President (s), Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, League Secretary, Junior League Secretary and Press Secretary. The Executive Committee has the power to co-opt up to two members.

- b) A League Secretary shall be elected annually.
- c) Control of the League shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Plymouth and District LTA together with two delegates from each club in membership.

4 SUBSCRIPTION

There shall be an entry fee per team and a Club affiliation fee, which must be paid **before** the start of the League programme. This fee shall be determined by the AGM for the coming season. The AGM may authorise an Honorarium to be paid to the League Secretary and Junior Secretary and also for the purchase of equipment recommended by the League for the effective function of their duties.

5 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- a)** Teams shall be arranged in Divisions, up to a maximum of six teams in each Division, at the Annual General Meeting.
- b)** At the end of the season the top two teams in a Division shall be promoted and the bottom two teams relegated (see 5c).

The two teams finishing at the bottom of the lowest Division should apply for re-election at the AGM along with any new applicants.

- c)** No club shall have more than 2 teams in Division 1.
- d)** A team that continues to provide only 1 pair without explanation on the result sheet shall be investigated by the Executive Committee for any action deemed necessary by them.

6 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- a)** All players must be members of the club that they represent on a permanent basis, ie membership without limitation to a period of the season.
- b)** All players must be registered with the League Secretary on a form to be signed by two officers of the club, verifying that the player is a member of the club on a permanent basis.
- c)** Additional players may be registered during the course of the season and are eligible to play once the League Secretary acknowledges their registration. Players can only play in matches originally scheduled for on or after their date of registration.
- d)** A player may only play for one club during the course of a season.
- e)** A player may not play in more than one match fixture for the same week, a rearranged or postponed match shall count for the week in which it was originally fixtured.
Contravention of this rule will cause forfeiture of the points gained in the lower team(s) in which the player(s) played. The League Secretary shall define, each season, which fixtures constitute the weekly grouping.
- f)** Where a club enters two or more teams in the League they shall be identified as "A", "B", "C" etc in order of merit. A player of a lower ranking team may play a total of two matches for the higher ranking team(s) but playing a third match will render the player ineligible to play for the lower ranking team(s).
- g)** A team playing an unregistered or ineligible player shall forfeit any points gained in events in which such players were involved. The points shall be awarded to their opponents.

7 MATCH FORMAT

- a) One home and one away match shall be played between each team in a Division.
- b) Matches will consist of four doubles events, there being four players in each team. Each event shall be the best of three sets. The first two sets will be tiebreak sets at 6 – 6. If the sets are shared the third set will be played as a long tiebreak, ie the first pair to ten points or two clear points if the score reaches 9 – 9.
- c) The HEAD tennis ball shall be the “named” official ball for League matches and all clubs are expected to use this ball. The home team in each match shall provide a minimum of eight new current season HEAD authorised balls.
- d) League matches shall normally be played on Monday evenings except where clubs have entered several teams and then on evenings approved by the AGM.
- e) The visiting team shall have the choice of order of play.
- f) The home team shall have the choice of courts to be used and to decide if the courts are fit to play. Where matches are scheduled for the same club on the same evening and less than the required number of courts are fit to play for both matches to proceed, then the match involving the higher ranked of the home teams shall proceed.
- g) Matches are scheduled for 6.00 pm and shall commence (including the knock up) by 6.10 pm.
- h) Where players fail to arrive in time to start their event by 6.10 pm the opposing pair(s) may claim the first set (6 – 0). This ruling applies to the second set from 6.30 pm. All claims must be made before their event begins.
- i) Where no more than one of the opposing team arrives by 7.00 pm then the whole match shall be forfeited and the team deducted an extra five points.
- j) Once a player has commenced playing in a match that player may not be withdrawn to play in another match.
- k) Floodlights may be used to complete a match unless the **away** team objects to their use **before** the match begins.

8 ABANDONED MATCHES

In the event of abandoned matches, where two events have not been completed, the match shall be deemed not to have started and shall be replayed. Where at least two events have been completed the points are awarded for those events and then for any **completed** sets.

9 AWARDING OF POINTS

- a) A maximum of twelve points shall be awarded for each match.
- b) In a two set match, the winning pair shall receive two points and the losing pair no points. In a three set match, the winning pair shall receive two points and the losing pair one point. In an uncompleted match (providing that at least two events have been completed) one point is awarded for each **completed** set.
- c) The home team shall be responsible for sending the completed score sheet, which must be signed by the representative of each team, to the League Secretary and shall reach the League Secretary within four days or postmarked within two days of the match being played. Where a score sheet has not reached the League Secretary within this time the home team shall be penalised two points.

10 FIXTURE POSTPONEMENT, RE-ARRANGEMENT AND FULFILMENT

- a) All matches shall be played on the date on the fixture list unless both teams agree to an earlier date. Under no circumstances except for bad weather shall matches be postponed until after the original fixture date. All matches must be played before 1st August or 15 days after the first day of the last scheduled week, whichever is the later date. No points will be awarded for matches which remain un-played by that date.
- b) Where bad weather causes a postponement in any week (except the last week) the home team must within **FOUR** days of the original date offer the away team three new dates of which two must be on different days of the week. The first date must be at least seven days from the date of offer unless mutually agreed by both teams and the dates offered must not clash with any fixture date of the away team or any Plymouth Tournament (unless both teams agree).
Within **THREE** days of receiving the new dates offer, the away team must accept one of the dates and notify the home team who will inform the League Secretary.

If the postponement is in the last fixture week, the home team must within **TWO** days offer two new dates. Within **TWO** days of receiving the new dates offered, the away team must accept one of the dates and notify the home team who will inform the League Secretary.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE RULES WILL MEAN THAT THE OFFENDING TEAM LOSES THE MATCH 8 – 0.

- c) Any team failing to fulfil two or more fixtures shall be deemed to have resigned from the League and shall have to re-apply for membership. Failing to fulfil a fixture shall be either leaving a match un-played by the end of the season or failing to put out at least one pair in a match for whatever reason.

11 LEAGUE POSITIONS

- a) League positions will be decided by the most points gained in matches played before 1st August or 15 days after the first day of the last scheduled week, whichever is the later.
- b) Where two teams finish equal on points at the end of the season their positions shall be decided by:-
 - 1. Set difference, and if still equal by:-
 - 2. The aggregate of the two matches between each other during the season.

The aggregate shall be decided on events, sets, games in that order of priority. If the teams are still equal and if the championship or promotion or relegation is affected by the outcome then the Executive Committee shall arrange a play-off. If more than two clubs finish equal on points and set difference at the end of the season then their positions shall be decided by the total aggregate of matches played between those clubs involved during the season using the same methods as above.

12 ALTERATION OF RULES

The League rules may only be altered at the Annual General Meeting and notice of any proposed alteration must be submitted, in writing, to the League Secretary, by 31st December preceding the meeting. These will be circulated to all member clubs and any proposed amendments must be submitted, in writing, to the League Secretary by 31st January.

13 APPEALS COMMITTEE

Any appeal against a decision made shall be lodged with the League Secretary within 48 hours of the decision received. The Appeals Committee will then meet as soon as possible to discuss the Appeal. Notification of an Appeal may initially be made by phone but must immediately be followed up in writing (letter or e-mail) after that date.

14 OTHER MATTERS

The Executive Committee of the Plymouth & District LTA shall have the power to deal with any matters not covered by these rules.