

Dublin Lawn Tennis Council

Constitution

and

League Rules

**Dublin Lawn Tennis Council
c/o David Lloyd Riverview
Beech Hill
Clonskeagh
Dublin 4**

Tel: 01 2603201

Fax 01- 2603203

Email: dltc@eircom.net

Web: www.dltc.net

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CONSTITUTION

1. The Council

The Dublin Lawn Tennis Council (hereinafter called “the Council”) shall be responsible for the promotion of tennis leagues and other tennis events in the Region of Dublin.

2. Council Members

The Council shall consist of a President, Honorary Secretary, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and one Representative from each of nine Clubs competing in Council Competitions. The Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

3. Eligibility

3.1. Competitions shall be open to all Clubs whose grounds are situated within a radius of 48 kilometres of the General Post Office, Dublin.

3.2. To compete in Council Competitions, Clubs must comply with the following conditions:

- 3.2.1.** Be affiliated to Tennis Ireland.
- 3.2.2.** Affiliation fees and any other fees due to Tennis Ireland shall be fully paid.
- 3.2.3.** Capitation fees and any other fees due to the Leinster Branch Tennis Ireland shall be fully paid.
- 3.2.4.** Entries for any competition must be accompanied by the appropriate entry fee.
- 3.2.5.** All fines payable to the Council are fully paid

3.3. Clubs and players participating in a League shall be subject to the Constitution and Rules of the Council upon submission and acceptance by the Council of an entry form for a League

4. Powers of the Council

The Council shall have the following powers and duties: -

- To appoint sub-committees.
- To fill any vacancy occurring amongst the Officers or Council members.
- To organise competitions which shall be held annually
- To decide the dates and format for each competition.
- To decide the closing date for entries to each competition
- To decide the entry fee to be paid for each competition.
- To decide on the eligibility of the entry of any Club, team or player for a Council Competition
- To refuse the entry or entries of any club whose courts or premises are considered unsatisfactory or for any other reason which is deemed to be good and sufficient.
- To enforce the rules governing any particular competition.
- To suspend, expel or fine (up to a maximum of €1000) any Club and/or to suspend or expel a member of any Club competing in a Council competition whom they consider has acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the game or contrary to the rules of any competition, provided that the defaulting Club or person shall have been given a reasonable opportunity of appearing before the Council and offering an explanation.

5. Decisions of the Council

5.1. The Council shall have absolute power to make decisions on any matter which may arise in connection with a Competition and which is not provided for in the Rules. The decision of the Council on any such matter or on the interpretation of any Rule shall be final.

5.2. While any dispute, protest or disciplinary matter affecting a Club, or member of a Club, is being discussed by the Council, any representative of that Club on the Council shall not be present nor shall take part in the decision taken.

6. Appeal of Decisions

- 6.1. Appeals of decisions of the Council must be notified in writing by letter or fax or e-mail by an Officer of the Club to the Honorary Secretary of the Council within 4 days of the notification of the decision
- 6.2. Appeals will be heard by three members of the Council who were not part of the Council Sub Committee that made the original decision

7. Competition Rules

- 7.1. All competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis as sanctioned by Tennis Ireland.
- 7.2. All competitors shall be of a player category as defined by Tennis Ireland.

8. Annual General Meeting

- 8.1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held not earlier than the 1st day of February and not later than the last day of February in each year.
- 8.2. The business of the Meeting shall be: -
 - Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
 - Adoption of the Minutes of any Special General Meeting
 - Consideration of a Report from the Honorary Secretary
 - Consideration of a Report from the Honorary Treasurer
 - Presentation of the Audited Accounts of the Council for the year ending 31st December previous to the Meeting
 - Election of: -
 - President
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Assistant Honorary Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - One Representative from each of 9 Clubs
 - Auditor.
 - Consideration of any duly proposed alterations or additions to this Constitution.
 - Consideration of any duly proposed alterations or additions to League Rules
 - Consideration of any other relevant business.

9. Notice of Changes to Constitution and League Rules

- 9.1. Notice of proposed alterations or additions to the Constitution or Competition Rules must be submitted by the Honorary Secretary of a participating club and be received by the Honorary Secretary of the Council not later than the 1st January preceding the intended General Meeting.
- 9.2. A Special General Meeting may be called:-
 - By the Council
 - At the request, in writing, of 10 clubs participating in Council competitions.
- 9.3. The request to call a Special General Meeting shall: -
 - Clearly set out the business to be transacted.
 - Be signed by 2 Officers of each of the requesting Clubs.
- 9.4. Upon receipt of such a request the Council shall, without undue delay, determine the date and venue for the Special General Meeting.
- 9.5. No business shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting except that specified in the agenda.

10. Notification of AGM or Special General Meeting

The Honorary Secretary shall give at least 14 days notice of both Annual and Special General Meetings to the Honorary Secretary of each participating Club. The notice shall include the Agenda for the Meeting and will be sent by to the nominated Honorary Secretary of each participating Club

11. Proceedings of Council, AGM or Special General Meetings

- 11.1.*** Each participating Club present at a General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall have one vote which must be exercised by a bona fide member of the Club in question.
- 11.2.*** The President of the Council shall preside at all meetings of the Council and at General Meetings.
- 11.3.*** In his/her absence, a member of the Council shall be appointed by those present to take the chair and preside.
- 11.4.*** In the case of equality of votes at a Meeting of the Council or at a General Meeting, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 11.5.*** The quorum for Council Meetings shall be six, two of whom must be Officers.
- 11.6.*** The quorum for General Meetings shall be 15 duly represented Clubs.
- 11.7.*** Minutes of the proceedings of every Council and General Meeting shall be recorded in books kept for that purpose. Such Minutes signed by the Chairman shall, in the absence of proof of error, be accepted as conclusive evidence of the facts therein stated.
- 11.8.*** This Constitution or any Competition Rules shall not be altered or added to, except such alteration or addition be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

LEAGUE RULES

12. Format of Leagues

- 12.1.* Each League shall be divided into Classes.
- 12.2.* Each Class may be divided into Sections.
- 12.3.* The division of any Class into Sections shall be at the discretion of the Council.

13. Format of League Matches

- 13.1.* Each league match shall consist of a number of events as specified for that League by the Council
- 13.2.* An event shall be the best of three sets.
- 13.3.* The tie break shall operate at 6 games all in each set.

14. Eligibility:

14.1 Age Categories

14.1.1. Winter League, Summer League, Floodlight League

Players must have attained the age of 14 years by 31st December in the year preceding the competition.

14.1.2. Mixed League

Players must have attained the age of 18 years by 31st December in the year preceding the competition.

14.1.3. Senior League

Players must attain the relevant age category during the calendar year of the commencement date of the Senior League

- 14.2.* All players in a team shall be members of the Club they represent in the league
- 14.3.* A person may only play for one Club in any one league competition.
- 14.4.* The Club for which a player first plays in a league is the only Club for which he/she may play in that league in that year.
- 14.5.* The penalty for breach of this rule shall be loss of all points won by the offending team in all events affected by the breach of this rule and such lost points shall be awarded to the opposing team

15. Tennis Attire

Players must wear recognised tennis attire.

16. Notification of Nominated Teams

- 16.1.* Notification containing the full names of the nominated members of each team in the prescribed format for the specific league, together with a list of substitutes stating the lowest Class for which they are being registered, shall reach the Council not later than three days prior to the commencement of each League.
- 16.2.* Points shall not be awarded to a team in respect of any match played prior to the date of receipt of this notification under rule 16.1

17. Nomination of Teams – Order of Merit

- 17.1.* Each Club shall nominate and play their teams in order of merit. Within each team the members shall also be nominated in order of merit in the prescribed format for each league. This order of merit shall not be changed.
- 17.2.* The penalty for breach of this rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach of this rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team
- 17.3.* Note: In Floodlight League and Junior Under 16 League players within a team need not be listed in order of merit. However teams shall be nominated in order of merit

18. Eligibility to play in Play Off Matches

- 18.1.* A player may not play in the play off matches of any League unless he/she has played at least one match in the specific League competition.
- 18.2.* In the case of the team concerned being a Club's only or lowest team competing, the League sub-committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a player to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made in writing by letter or fax or e-mail in advance of the play off match and shall provide sufficient information to enable the sub-committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.
- 18.3.* The penalty for breach of this rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach of this rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team

19. Allocation of Courts

- 19.1.* All the Club's courts must be available for matches at the time specified by the Council in the fixture list or at any other time specified by the Council.
- 19.2.* The allocation of courts for individual events in a match shall be made by the home team captain.
- 19.3.* The Council may, at its discretion, reschedule a match to another club if it is not satisfied that adequate numbers of courts will be available at the specified time.

20. Fixtures

- 20.1. All matches must be played on the dates and at the times specified on the fixture sheets or other notifications by the Council.
- 20.2. All players of both teams must be ready to play at the specified starting time.
- 20.3. If a walkover is being given players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest point in the order of the team.

21. Tennis Balls

- 21.1. Only approved balls as indicated on the fixture sheets may be used for League matches
- 21.2. The Home Team shall provide new tennis balls as approved by the Council for each match
- 21.3. Three balls must be provided for each event in a match.
- 21.4. The cost of the balls shall be borne equally by the two teams. The Captain of the visiting team shall pay his/her team's share of such cost before leaving the ground.
- 21.5. The balls used shall become the property of the Home Club.

22. Substitutes

- 22.1. In the event of a nominated player being unable to play in any match, a substitute may be played.
- 22.2. Such substitute shall be
 - 22.2.1. A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class
 - 22.2.2. A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class
 - 22.2.3. A registered substitute.
- 22.3. A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.
- 22.4. A player who plays more than one match as a substitute in a higher Class or for a higher team in the same Class shall thereupon cease to be eligible to play in a lower Class or for a lower team in the same Class.
- 22.5. Order of merit must be maintained when substitutes are played
- 22.6. To maintain the order of merit it may be necessary to alter the nominated positions.
- 22.7. A team of the same players that includes the same substitute(s) must play in the same format in all matches
- 22.8. The penalty for breach of this rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team
- 22.9. The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending club a sum not exceeding €300 (€75 Junior League) and/or remove the offending team from the league.

23. Match Result Sheets

- 23.1. Before the start of each match, the Captains of the opposing teams must exchange a list of the names of their respective teams in the prescribed format for the league
- 23.2. With the exception of Floodlight and Junior Under 16 League, players must be listed in order of merit in the format prescribed for the league.

24. Notification of match results – League Section Matches

- 24.1. The Captain of the winning team, shall send in writing, using the prescribed form, the result of each match to the Council, to arrive not later than 12 noon on the third day subsequent to the day on which the match is played, or in the case of an abandoned match, when finished.
- 24.2. The notification shall contain the members of both teams in the order in which they played in each event, the score in each event and signed by the two Captains.
- 24.3. The penalty for breach of this rule shall be the loss of all points won by the winning team.

25. Notification of match results – Play off Matches

- 25.1. In the case of a play off match, the result sheet must be received by the Council no later than 12 noon on the day following the play off or by any other time notified by the Council to the Club
- 25.2. The Captain of the winning team shall send, in writing using the prescribed form, the result of the play off match. The notification shall contain the members of both teams in the order in which they played in each event, the score in each event and signed by the two Captains.
- 25.3. At the discretion of the Council, the penalty for breach of this rule shall be the loss of all points won by the winning team and such points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

26. Postponed Matches

- 26.1. The only circumstances in which a match may be re-arranged, postponed or abandoned are as follows:

26.1.1. Postponed by Agreement:

A match may only be postponed due to adverse weather or for other exceptional causes. The postponement must be notified in writing/fax/e-mail to the Council's Hon. Secretary by both Captains and the rearranged match must be played before the date fixed for the next match.

26.1.2. Abandoned by Agreement:

A match may only be abandoned with the agreement of the two Captains, by reason of adverse weather conditions or other exceptional causes. The abandonment must be notified within 48 hours in writing by letter or fax or e-mail to the Council's Hon. Secretary by both Captains. The match shall be finished before the date fixed for the next League match.

The scores in all events at the time of abandonment shall stand and play in the unfinished events shall be resumed from the point at which they ceased.

26.1.3. Postponed/Abandoned without Agreement:

In the event of a match being abandoned/postponed without the agreement of the two Captains, the circumstances shall be reported within 48 hours in writing by letter or fax or e-mail to the Hon. Secretary of the Council by the Hon. Secretary of each Club.

The Council shall have the power to:

- Order the match be replayed in its entirety or
- Order the match be resumed from the point at which play ceased or
- Award any unfinished event or events to either team.

27. Deciding the Winning Team in a Class

- 27.1. One point shall be awarded for each event within each match.

27.2. Class with one section.

The teams competing in each Class, or in a Section where a Class is divided into Sections, shall play one match against each other. In Premier Class and Class 1 of Summer League, the two teams gaining the highest number of points shall meet in a final, to decide the winner and runner-up of Premier Class and Class 1.

27.3. Class with two sections.

Where there are two Sections in a Class, the winner of each Section shall play the runner up in the other Section and the winners of these matches shall meet in a final to decide the winner of the Class.

27.4. Class with more than two Sections:

- 27.4.1. Where there are more than two Sections in a Class the winner and runner up in each section shall partake in a Knock-Out-Series to decide the winner of the Class.

- 27.4.2. The draw for the Knock-Out-Series shall be made in such a manner as to ensure that the two teams from any one Section shall not meet each other in the First Round.

28. Deciding the Winner and Runner-Up in a Section:

- 28.1. The Winner and the Runner-up in a Section shall be determined as follows:
- 28.1.1. The Winner in a Section (except Premier Class and Class 1 of Summer League) shall be the team completing its matches with the highest number of points. One point shall be awarded for each event within each match.
 - 28.1.2. The Runner-Up in a Section (except Premier Class and Class 1 of Summer League) shall be the team with the second highest number of points.
 - 28.1.3. When *two teams* for either the Winner or Runner-Up position in a Section finish on level points the Winner or Runner-Up as the case may be, shall be the Winner when the two teams concerned met in the Section.
- 28.2. Where *more than two teams* for either Winner or Runner-Up position in a Section finish on level points the Winner or Runner-Up as the case may be, shall be determined as follows:
- 28.2.1. The team that defeated all other teams that were level on points shall be the winner or runner up.
 - 28.2.2. If above does not decide, the team that won the highest number of matches in the Section shall be the Winner or Runner-Up.
 - 28.2.3. Should the number of *matches won* be equal, the Winner or Runner-Up shall be the team that won its matches by the highest *margin of sets*.
 - 28.2.4. Should the *margin of sets* be equal, the Winner or Runner-Up shall be the team that won its matches by the highest *margin of games*.

29. Promotion:

- 29.1. **Senior, Winter, Floodlight, Junior Leagues**
The finalists in class 2 and the four semi-finalists in all lower classes shall be promoted to the Class immediately above for the next year.
- 29.2. **Summer League**
The winner of Class 1 shall be promoted to Premier Class. The finalists in Class 2 the four semi-finalists in Class 3 and 4 and the eight quarter finalists in all lower classes shall be promoted to the Class immediately above.
- 29.3. **Mixed League**
There is no promotion in Mixed League

30. Relegation

- 30.1. The teams to be relegated will be those that have the least number of points.
- 30.2. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams with the least number of matches won shall be relegated.
- 30.3. Should the number of matches won be equal, the team, which has lost its matches by the highest margin of sets, shall be relegated.
- 30.4. Should the margin of sets won be equal, the team, which has lost its matches by the highest margin of games, shall be relegated.
- 30.5. Where a section(s) contain less than six teams the number of points won by teams will be adjusted proportionately as if they were in a six team section.
- 30.6. **Senior, Winter, Floodlight, Junior Leagues**
Two teams in Class 1 and four teams in all lower Classes shall be relegated each year to the Class immediately below.
- 30.7. **Summer League**
One team in Premier Class, two teams in Class 1, four teams in Class 2 and 3 and eight teams in all lower classes shall be relegated to the Class immediately below.
- 30.8. **Mixed League**
There is no relegation in Mixed League

31. Penalties

- 31.1.** In the event of a Club withdrawing a team after the draw has been made, the Council may fine that Club a sum not exceeding €300 (€150 Junior League)
- 31.2.** In the event of a Club failing to fulfill a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150 (€75 Junior League)
- 31.3.** In addition to above the Council shall have the power to remove a team from a competition if it fails to fulfill any or all its fixtures

The Following rules apply to the specific League as indicated

32. Summer League

32.1. Match Formats

- 32.1.1. In Premier Class and Class 1 each match shall consist of 6 singles and 3 doubles events.
- 32.1.2. In all other Classes each match shall consist of 3 singles and 2 doubles events.

32.2. Team Format:

- 32.2.1. In Premier Class and Class 1 a team shall consist of 6 players, each of whom shall play one singles and one doubles event.
- 32.2.2. In all other Classes a team shall consist of 7 players, each of whom shall play one singles or one doubles event.

32.3. Nomination of Team

- 32.3.1. Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as singles players and as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.
- 32.3.2. Registered substitutes or players substituting from a lower team may substitute in either singles or doubles
- 32.3.3. Where substitutes are used, nominated players may move from singles to doubles or from doubles to singles.

- 32.4. The penalty for breach of this rule (32.3) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team

33. Floodlight League

33.1. Match Format.

Each match shall consist of 2 singles events and 1 doubles event.

33.2. Team Format

A team shall consist of 4 players each of whom shall play a singles or doubles event

33.3. Nomination of Team

- 33.3.1. Before the start of each match, the opposing Captains shall place the names of their team members in a container.
- 33.3.2. Each Captain shall draw the name of one opponent. These two players shall play a singles event.
- 33.3.3. A further two names will be drawn by this method, and these two players shall also play a singles event.
- 33.3.4. The remaining players shall play a doubles event.

34.Senior League

34.1. League Format

- 34.1.1.** The League shall consist of age categories as defined by the Council.
- 34.1.2.** Each age category shall be divided into classes.

34.2. Match Format

Each match shall consist of 3 doubles events

34.3. Team Formats

All teams in this league shall consist of 6 players each of whom shall play in a doubles event

34.4. Eligibility

- 34.4.1.** Nominated team members shall only play in the age category for which they are nominated.
- 34.4.2.** Registered substitutes may play in any age category for which they are eligible by age.

34.5. Nomination of Team

Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.

- 34.6.** The penalty for breach of this rule (34.4 and 34.5) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team

35.Mixed League

35.1. Match Format

Each match shall consist of 3 mixed doubles events

35.2. Team Format

A team shall consist of 6 players, three men and three ladies each of whom shall play a mixed doubles event

35.3. Nomination of Team

Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as mixed doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.

35.4. Eligibility

- 35.4.1.** Class 1 is for players who have not played higher than *Class 3 in Summer League in the year of the league or in the preceding year.*
- 35.4.2.** Class 2 is for players who have not played higher than *Class 5 in Summer League in the year of the league or in the preceding year.*
- 35.4.3.** Class 3 is for players who have not played higher than *Class 7 in Summer League in the year of the league or in the preceding year.*
- 35.4.4.** Penalty for breach of this rule (35.4.1 – 35.4.3) shall be loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach. Such lost points shall be awarded to the opposing team

36. Junior League

36.1. League Format:

36.1.1. In *Under 14 League*, each match shall consist of 3 doubles events.

36.1.2. In *Under 16 League* each match shall consist of 2 singles events and 1 doubles event

36.2. Nomination of Team - Under 14 League

36.2.1. Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed

36.3. Nomination of Team - Under 16 League

36.3.1. Before the start of each match, the opposing Captains shall place the names of their team members in a container.

36.3.2. Each Captain shall draw the name of one opponent. These two players will play a singles event.

36.3.3. A further two names will be drawn by this method, and these two players will also play a singles event.

36.3.4. The remaining players shall play a doubles event

36.4. Eligibility:

36.4.1. The League shall consist of age categories as defined by the Council.

36.4.2. Nominated team members may only play in the age category for which they are nominated.

36.4.3. Registered substitutes may play in any age category for which they are eligible by age

36.4.4. Penalty for breach of this rule (36.4.1 – 36.4.3) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach. Such lost points shall be awarded to the opposing team

37. Winter League

37.1. Match Format

Each match shall consist of 3 doubles events

37.2. Team Formats

All teams in this league shall consist of 6 players each of whom shall play in a doubles event

37.3. Nomination of Team

Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.

37.4. The penalty for breach of this rule (37.1 – 37.3) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in events affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team