

Weald Lawn Tennis League

Founded in 1968 – Affiliated to the Sussex County LTA

Rules

Name

1. The league shall be known as the Weald Lawn Tennis League.

Management

2. The League shall be managed by a Chairman, Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary, all of whom shall hold office for 1 year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Membership

3. Lawn Tennis Clubs located within a distance of 15 miles by road from the centre of East Grinstead are eligible to join the League. All applications to join must be approved by the Annual General Meeting.
4. The membership of a Club may be terminated at any time by the Club and by the Chairman and Fixtures Secretary if the Club's behaviour on or off the courts is deemed to be detrimental to the League. In the latter case, the termination must be endorsed by the following Annual General Meeting

Finance

5. The Annual General Meeting shall approve the annual fees to be paid by the Clubs. All League fees due from the Clubs for the following year shall be paid to the Treasurer by 1 November each year. The Treasurer shall maintain proper accounts showing the financial state of the League and shall present an annual statement for adoption to the Annual General Meeting. The financial year of the League shall end on 30 November.
6. For 2001, the fees are £5 per club plus £3 per team entered in the summer leagues (or winter leagues if the club does not enter the summer leagues).

General Meetings

7. An Annual General Meeting of all the member clubs shall be held in December each year for the purpose of adopting the accounts, electing the Chairman, Fixtures Secretary and Treasurer, presenting the trophies to the winners of each division and any other competent business.
8. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at the request of one third or more of the member clubs. At such meetings, only items on the Agenda may be deemed competent business.
9. Member clubs shall be given 14 days notice of all general meetings. Each member club shall be entitled to be represented by at least one of its members at all general meetings, but only one representative shall be entitled to vote on competent resolutions. No proxy or postal voting shall be valid.

Divisions

10. The League shall run both summer and winter competitions composed of Ladies, Men's and Mixed divisions. Each division shall have no more than 7 teams and each team shall play the other teams in the division once during the season, unless the Annual General Meeting agrees otherwise.

11. Clubs may enter 'A' and 'B' teams in the summer and winter competitions.
12. The final league tables will decide promotion and relegation at the end of the season. Normally 2 teams will be promoted and 2 relegated from each division, where feasible. In special circumstances, the Fixtures Secretary can vary this rule, but any variations will need to be endorsed at the next Annual General Meeting.
13. The winning team in each division will be the team with the highest number of points. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the winning team will be the team with the highest number of matches won, or failing this, the team with the highest number of matches drawn, or failing this the highest set difference (i.e. sets won minus sets lost), or lastly the highest game difference. Failing this, the Chairman and Fixtures Secretary will decide the winning team.

Fixtures

14. Summer fixtures may be played on Saturday mornings or afternoons, or Sunday mornings, and winter fixtures may be played on Saturday or Sunday mornings. All Clubs shall inform the Fixture Secretary of their choice for home fixtures, when requested. All morning fixtures shall start at 10am, and afternoon fixtures at 2pm. Clubs may agree other starting times with the opposing team on an informal basis.
15. If a Club has 'A' and 'B' teams in the same competition, the Fixtures Secretary shall arrange that they play against each other on the first available fixture date for that competition.
16. The Fixtures Secretary shall circulate the lists of summer and winter fixtures at least 4 weeks before the first matches are to be played.
17. Matches shall be played on the day, and at the times stated on the fixture list, subject to the following: -
 - a. Before the start of the season, a fixture can be re-arranged when the fixture clashes with a home or away club function.
 - b. Up to 48 hours prior to the fixture, a match can be re-arranged by **mutual consent** when a club finds it is unable to make up a team: if the opposing club does not agree, the original fixture will stand, but may be played with only 1 pair from the defaulting club.
 - c. Within 48 hours of the fixture, no re-arranging is permitted, and the match must be played, with only 1 pair from the defaulting club if necessary, or the match conceded.
 - d. If the home Club does not have suitable courts available, or considers their courts will not be in a satisfactory condition, they should contact the away team at least 48 hours before the start time to agree a satisfactory solution. The fixture may be played at the away club's courts by mutual consent, or the fixture may be re-arranged. (See also Clause 22)
 - e. If bad weather prevents a fixture being played or completed (see clause 28), the Clubs shall make arrangements for it to be played, or replayed, at the original venue on a mutually agreed date.
 - f. The Clubs must agree within the next 4 weeks any re-arranged dates and **inform the Fixtures Secretary as soon as it has been agreed.**
18. If bad weather prevents a Club's 'A' versus 'B' fixture being played or completed (see Clause 28), the Club shall contact the Fixtures Secretary for a revised date.
19. All summer fixtures shall be played by the end of October and winter fixtures by the end of March. If this is not achieved, no points shall be allocated for the fixture.

20. Teams shall consist of two pairs. If a Club cannot make up a full team, one pair may be used and the Club will forfeit 2 points and 4 sets to the other team. If a Club fails to play a fixture other than under Rule 17, the Club will forfeit 4 points and 8 sets to the other team.

Playing Surfaces

21. Matches shall be played normally on asphalt courts. Where the home Club wishes to use another playing surface, the visiting team shall be informed and given the option of selecting the court surface for the match. (See also Clause 17)
22. Playing surfaces must be safe, fit for purpose and reasonably clear of leaves and other debris at the agreed starting time of the match.

Matches

23. The away Club shall confirm the match with the home Club at least 5 days before the match is due to be played.
24. Matches shall start at the scheduled or mutually agreed time. Players or teams arriving more than 20 minutes after the match is due to start shall forfeit the sets that cannot be started: if arriving more than 45 minutes late, they shall forfeit the 1st rubber/s.
25. Each team pair shall play both the opposing team's pairs. Each such rubber shall consist of the best of 3 sets; the first 2 sets to be played as a tie break at 6 games all, using the LTA definition and procedures. The 3rd set shall normally be played as an advantage set, but by **mutual agreement** between the teams at the end of the 2nd set, may be played as a tie-break (LTA definition at 6 games all) or as a champions tie-break, first to 10 points with a 2 point lead.
26. The order of play shall be 1st pair v 1st pair and 2nd pair v 2nd pair, followed by 1st pair v 2nd pair etc.
27. 1 point shall be awarded for each rubber won.
28. All matches shall be finished on the day, unless bad weather prevents further play (see clause 17 for rearranging the match). However, provided at least 2 rubbers have been completed, the remaining rubbers may be conceded or halved by mutual agreement at the time. When rubbers are conceded or halved, the opposing team shall be deemed to have won the sets 6-0.
29. If a team or players are unable to complete the match on the day, the opposing team shall be deemed to have won the uncompleted sets by 6-0.
30. For all matches, the home team shall provide:
- 8 new balls approved by the International Tennis Federation.
 - Liquid and solid refreshments during and after the match
31. Both home and away Clubs shall return match results cards, or their electronic equivalent, to the Fixtures Secretary within 1 week of a match being completed.
32. All Clubs shall keep records of match results until the league tables are finalised, and shall make them available to the Fixtures Secretary if requested.

Team Players

33. All Club players shall be bona-fide members of the Club, and shall wear recognised tennis clothing when playing in matches.

34. All Club players shall show courtesy and respect to their opponents in league matches. Any player, whose on or off court behaviour leads to complaints to the League, may be banned from future League matches.
35. Clubs with 'A' and 'B' teams shall inform the Fixtures Secretary of their 'A' team players, or pool of players, for the particular league at the start of the season. These players will not be eligible to play for the 'B' team in that league for the rest of the season.
36. Any player who has played more than twice for an A team, may not play in the Club's B team in that competition for the rest of the season
37. A player may represent only one Club in the same competition, but may represent another club in a different competition; i.e. a player may play for one Club in the Mixed Doubles competition and another Club in the Mens Doubles competition.

Liability

38. The League accepts no liability for any injury, damage or loss of any description sustained by a Club or Club member in matches, or in the operation of the League.

Rules

39. Any questions arising on the interpretation of these Rules shall be referred to the Chairman for resolution. Proposed alterations to these rules shall be submitted to a General Meeting and shall only become effective if approved by the Meeting.

GRL

9 December 2009