

SOUTHAMPTON LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

WINTER LEAGUE RULES

Rules as amended at the Southampton LTA Winter Fixtures Meeting on **2 September 2026**

1. The Winter League will be open to all Clubs affiliated to Southampton LTA; they must conform to the rules of the Association and have LTA Registered Venues status.
2. The league shall be formed into divisions of seven teams except for the lowest two divisions, which may be adjusted on a season-by-season basis to accommodate any alteration in the total number of teams in the league, to give an appropriate number of matches.
Teams will generally meet once a year, alternating home and away, which will be determined by the League Secretary.
3. The top two teams of each division (except Division 1) shall be promoted to the next higher division, and the lowest two teams in any division shall be relegated, except when a team or teams withdraw from the League, when these numbers may be increased or decreased by the League Secretary, to rebalance the division numbers. If the lowest division is split into 'a' & 'b' divisions, then usually only the Champions will be promoted.
If two or more teams complete their fixtures with equal points, the team winning the most events shall occupy the higher position. If points and events won are equal, the highest position shall be decided on the superior sets average or, if necessary, superior games average; if the teams are still equal and Championship, Promotion or Relegation is affected, then it will be decided on the result of the match (or matches) between the teams concerned, using the same criterion as above.
4. No club shall have more than 2 teams in Division 1 of the Southampton Winter Leagues.
5. Two teams playing from the same club in the same division of the Southampton Winter Leagues must play each other before 1 November; otherwise, the match will become Void.
6. If any team or teams withdraw from the League for any reason and wish to re-enter the League, they must enter the bottom division.
7. Players must be bona fide members of a club affiliated to the Southampton LTA. No player shall play for more than one club in a season. Any team violating this rule will have 2 points deducted at the end of the season for each match in which the infringement occurred.
(The Mixed League will be considered as a separate league, so players may play for one club in the Mixed League and another club in the Men's or Ladies' Leagues.)
8. Fixtures will be arranged by the Match Secretaries at the Fixtures Meeting of the Winter League, and fixture lists must be sent to the person nominated at the meeting immediately.
9. Each club will have 1 vote at the meeting of the Southampton Winter League.
10. If a team concedes a match, there will be a 2-point deduction for each occurrence during the season, from their points totals in the League Tables.
11. a) Inclement weather will be the only cause accepted for rearrangements. Responsibility for the decision to call off a match rests with the home team's captain. Once play has started, the decision to continue playing or to curtail the match should be made by mutual agreement between the captains to safeguard against potential injury and damage to the courts.

b) If a match is curtailed due to inclement weather, it will be **terminated** or replayed according to the following formulas:

i) If 2 events have been completed before the captains agreed to the curtailment of the match, the match result will be determined by the result of the completed first round rubbers, i.e. 2-0, 1-1 or 0-2.

ii) If 2 events have not been completed, the match will be rearranged to be played in full at a later date at the same venue, when the teams may be chosen without any reference to the teams selected for the original match.

The League Secretary is to be advised of the revised date by both clubs within 14 days of the match being curtailed or postponed.

12. A team will consist of 2 pairs of the stipulated gender for the Men's & Ladies' Leagues, and for the Mixed League, it will consist of two mixed pairs.
Each event will consist of 2 sets, with a tie-break being played at 6 games all in both sets. If the event is tied at one set each, a 10-point "Match Tie-Break" will be played.
The overall match can be drawn if the events are tied at 2 - 2 all.
2 points will be awarded for a win and 1 point for a draw.
Captains must exchange completed team sheets before the commencement of the match, with no amendments being made thereafter.
If any player is absent when called upon to play 15 minutes after the agreed start time, the opposing team will be awarded the event with a score of 6-0, 6-0.
13. The order of play will be: - 1st round: 1 v 2, 2 v 1 & 2nd round: 1 v 1, 2 v 2.
14. Matches will be arranged between the last 2 weekends in September and the first weekend in March, both dates inclusive. All rearranged matches will be played by 31st March.
Play is to commence at an agreed time between the Captains.
The Men's & Ladies' matches will be arranged for Sunday, although the Mixed matches can be arranged for either Saturday or Sunday.
The Home team is to provide 8 uniform LTA-approved new balls per match, and centre bands are to be supplied.
15. A Player who has played 2 times for a club's higher team(s) may not play in a club's lower team(s). If a transgression is found, the events of the transgressor(s) will be awarded to the opposition 6-0 6-0
16. Before teams depart the match location, a fully completed match card is to be signed by both captains or another team member, and this copy is to be sent to the League Secretary within 7 days. Both teams must retain a copy or photograph of that scorecard, or a second fully completed and signed scorecard.
17. The captain or another person from the HOME club is to enter the results online within 7 days. If the result has not been entered by that time, the AWAY team captain is then to enter the result, within a further 7 days. The other captain must verify the result and highlight any discrepancies within 2 weeks of the posting.
18. If more than two match scorecards are not received by the League Secretary or the match details have not been entered online, one point can be deducted for each incident occurring.