

## **RULES OF THE WHARFEDALE TENNIS LEAGUE**

As of 9 February 2025

### **Rule 1**

The name of the League shall be "The Wharfedale Tennis League".

### **Rule 2**

The League shall be managed by a Committee of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other Committee members as are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Rule 3**

General Meeting of the League shall be held annually in February or March.

### **Rule 4**

Voting powers at the Annual General Meeting shall be on the following basis:

- Each club gets one vote
- Voting shall be restricted to those Clubs represented at the meeting; proxy voting shall not be permitted.

### **Rule 5**

An Affiliation Fee of £15 per team shall be payable by May 1 each year.

### **Rule 6**

The Rules of Lawn Tennis, as approved by the International Lawn Tennis Federation, shall be adopted as the Laws of the Game in all League matches.

### **Rule 7**

The League shall consist of teams of three mixed couples.

### **Rule 8**

New balls approved by LTA Standard shall be provided for each match by the home team. Three balls per court are required.

### **Rule 9a**

Matches will be played on three courts.

Matches shall be decided on three rounds of three rubbers each, each rubber consisting of two short sets.

Tie-break shall operate at 5-5; the couple that wins the first seven points shall win the game provided they lead by two points. If the score reaches six points all the game shall be extended until a two-point margin has been achieved.

Rounds shall be played in the following order:

ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	COURT
Home 1 v Away 1	Home 2 v Away 1	Home 3 v Away 1	1 1

Home 2 v Away 2 Home 3 v Away 2 Home 1 v Away 2 2  
Home 3 v Away 3 Home 1 v Away 3 Home 2 v Away 3 3

In the event of bad light affecting a match in progress, the final round to be played may be decided on rubbers on one set only; in this case, if the game score reaches 5-5, the tiebreak shall not operate, and two more games must be played, the rubber score being recorded as 7-5 or 6-6.

### **Rule 9b**

Regarding matches played on two courts.

Matches shall be decided on three rounds of three rubbers each.

Round 1 - Each rubber shall consist of two short sets. Tiebreak shall operate at 5-5 in each set as per rule 9a.

Rounds 2 & 3 - Each rubber may with joint captain's approval consist of one short set. If the game score reaches 5-5, the tiebreak shall not operate, and two more games must be played, the rubber score being recorded as 7-5 or 6-6.

Matches shall be played in the following order:

#### **COURT 1**

#### **COURT 2**

Round 1 - Home 1 v Away 1 Round 1 - Home 2 v Away 2

Round 1 - Home 3 v Away 3 Round 2 - Home 2 v Away 1

Round 3 - Home 1 v Away 2

Round 2 - Home 3 v Away 2 Round 2 - Home 1 v Away 3

Round 3 - Home 2 v Away 3 Round 3 - Home 3 v Away 1

### **Rule 9c**

Applicable to all matches

To achieve a match result the competing teams shall have completed at least one full round.

In the event of bad weather or bad light curtailing a match in progress:

Both captains must agree to continue play.

If the first round is not completed, the match shall be re-arranged as under Rule 15.

A team consisting of 2/1 couples must concede 3/6 rubbers at the commencement of play but may continue to play rubbers available and score accordingly.

In the situation of a match cut short, any rubbers fully completed do count towards a match score, whereas incomplete rubbers must be halved.

### **Rule 10**

Except by prior arrangement of both captains or nominated representatives, all matches shall commence at the time stated in the League Fixture List. Should any couple not be ready to start play within 11 minutes of the agreed starting time, they shall forfeit the first set and if not ready to start play within 30 minutes of the agreed starting time, they shall forfeit the first rubber.

### **Rule 11**

The match result shall be scored on the number of rubbers won.

Thus = 1 rubber equals 1 point, with up to 9 points available

Rubbers halved shall count as one half point to each team.  
In addition, the winning team will gain one extra point.  
If any result is in dispute, the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee, via the League Secretary for adjudication.

#### **Rule 12**

Match results should be entered on the website with 3 days of the match

#### **Rule 13**

Teams finishing on accumulated equal points shall be placed accordingly to rubber aggregate i.e. rubbers won as a percentage of rubbers lost.

If 2 teams are tied on the same points and rubber aggregate, then the results of the Home & Away fixtures against each other, shall determine their placings. If they are still tied a 'Play Off' match will be implemented or the Committee must arbitrate.

#### **Rule 14**

If a team withdraws from the League without completing its fixture programme, then all records of matches played by the team shall be expunged.

#### **Rule 15**

After publication of the official fixture list, for a period of three weeks (from date on list) fixtures may be rearranged subject to agreement with opponents, any change must be confirmed by the Home team to the fixtures secretary within seven days of the change. Thereafter, matches can only be re-arranged because of adverse weather conditions prevailing on the date of the fixture. In this case, the match must be re-arranged, and the date of the re-arranged match must be communicated to the League Fixture Secretary by the home Club within 21 days of the original date of the fixture.

For clubs having grass courts and having at least two hard or all-weather courts the non-grass courts should be made available for play in the event of the natural grass being unsuitable for play. In the event of outside play on grass, hard or all-weather courts being impossible, the opportunity when offered by a host team to play indoors must be accepted.

If a match has to be cancelled for any other reason, then at least 24 hours' notice shall be given to the opposing team, who shall be credited with victory, rubber score 9-0.

Any team not fulfilling a fixture without due reason, as assessed by the Management Committee, shall have two points deducted from their total and fined £10.00.

Any match still outstanding at the end of the Season shall be subject to consideration by the Management Committee, who may require the match to be played, or may award points at its discretion.

Teams finishing a season as champions and runners-up shall be promoted to the division immediately above and conversely teams placed last and second last shall be relegated to the division immediately below.

A team has the option of waiving some/all of the points received from a conceded match, if it feels that the receipt of these points would put the team in a false

position in the league. A team receiving points from a conceded match is under no obligation to waive the points received. The other side in the fixture does not receive any points waived. A team that wishes to waive conceded points might finish in a different position in the league table as a result of the concession. A team is only able to waive points if any other team that would move into or out of a promotion or relegation spot as a result of the concession also agrees.

#### **Rule 16**

No player shall be eligible to play any League match for more than one club in any one season, except by discretion of the Management Committee.

#### **Rule 17**

Players who have played four or more times for a particular team in the Wharfedale Tennis League are deemed to be regular players of that team and shall be restricted to "playing down" on three occasions only and "playing up" restricted to three matches per team. This rule also applies to teams having more than one team in the same division and for all teams in whatever division the suffixes determine team status.

'A' = 1st team, 'B' = 2nd team, 'C' = 3rd team.

In any match, teams may only include a maximum of one lady and one gentleman "playing down" but they are not permitted to play as a couple. However, there shall be no restriction of numbers of players "playing up" and they shall be permitted to play as couples.

#### **Rule 18**

Alterations to these Rules shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting. Notice of any proposed alteration shall be submitted in writing to the League Secretary at least 3 weeks prior to the AGM

#### **Rule 19**

All potential new team entrants must apply to join the league prior to the AGM.

### **MOLLY FAWCETT TROPHY COMPETITION RULES**

#### **Rule 1**

Apart from the handicap and scoring system, the Rules of the Wharfedale Tennis League apply. The handicap is based upon each team's final league placing of the previous season, with the second division team having a handicap multiplier of 1.5 and third division team multiplier of 2.

#### **Rule 2**

Each couple will play three rubbers, each rubber being one set of 12 games.

#### **Rule 3**

Match result being the total of games won by each team plus application of handicap.

**Example (Team 'A' v Team 'B')**

Team 'A' (handicap + 4) games won  $60 + 4 = 64$

Team 'B' (handicap +22) games won  $48 + 22 = 70$ . Team 'B' are the match winners.

In the event of both teams being tied, after handicap applied, team having the higher handicap figure shall be awarded the match i.e. team 'B' in example. Uncompleted rubbers shall be scored 6 – 6 and included in the total game score.

**Rule 4a**

Teams should consist of regular Wharfedale League players with the semi-final and finals consisting of players who have played in at least three league matches and may play up or down in accordance with rule 17.

**Rule 4b**

If a team includes a player that is not eligible to play in the cup, the rubbers involving that player will be recorded as a 12-0 win to their opponents

**Rule 4c**

A player is only allowed to play for 1 team in the cup competition. If the rule is broken the team is disqualified from the competition.

If there are special circumstances in which a club thinks it's appropriate to field an ineligible player, then this would be acceptable if agreed by the opposition captain in advance of the match.

**Rule 5**

Final tie to be drawn with the 'home' team hosting the final on the second Sunday in September at 11am (grass courts) or 10am (non-grass surfaces).

**Rule 6**

Apart from the first round and final tie home teams must offer their opponents a minimum of two dates.