

AVON LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION RULES & REGULATIONS

All references to 'County of Avon' refer to County boundaries in existence prior to April 1996.

1. NAME

The Association shall be called 'Avon Lawn Tennis Association', hereinafter called the 'Association', and shall be affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association.

2. COMPOSITION

The Association shall consist of:

- i) Clubs situated within the County of Avon, the object of which, or one of the objects of which is lawn tennis.
- ii) Other clubs, having the same object or objects, but situated outside the County, shall, at the Executive Committee's discretion, be eligible for affiliation to the Association.
- iii) Other suitable organisations shall at the Executive Committee's discretion be eligible to become Associate organisations.
- iv) Honorary Life Members, Life Members and Associate Members.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership of the Association must be made in writing, addressed to the Honorary Secretary, for the time being, of the Association. The granting or refusal of any such membership shall be at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee of the Association which may refuse to grant an application without giving any reason therefore or may grant an application on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit. A copy of the Rules of the Association shall be sent to each member by the Honorary Secretary when that member joins the Association.

4. OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be:

- i) To promote and advance the interests of the game and uphold the Rules and Regulations of the Lawn Tennis Association throughout the County of Avon.
- ii) To appoint representatives for the County of Avon to the Council of the Lawn Tennis Association.
- iii) To arrange and regulate Inter-county matches, County Championships, Tournaments, Inter-club and County competitions and Junior activities including training.
- iv) To select teams for Inter-county matches and competitions.
- v) To raise and employ the funds of the Association in such a manner as to be deemed in the best interests of the game.
- vi) To arrange the purchase and distribution of Wimbledon tickets allocated to the County of Avon.
- vii) To encourage and support coach education.
- viii) To carry out other activities considered necessary or desirable in connection with tennis in the County of Avon.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members of the Association shall pay an annual subscription or fee which shall be payable in advance not later than the first day of January each year. Each club shall pay to the Association an amount equal to the subscription so determined multiplied by the number of its playing members of all categories, at that date. The minimum per capita subscription shall be determined by the Lawn Tennis Association and any additional per capita subscription shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and ratified at each Annual General Meeting. The subscription for all Associate

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Organisations, minimum fee determined by the Lawn Tennis Association, shall be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified at each Annual General Meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers shall be the President, the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, one representative of each Operating Committee and two members selected from affiliated clubs, to represent them jointly. All officers and club representatives shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for one year. Officers shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they are elected and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting. Those retiring shall be eligible for re-election. All officers must be bona fide members of affiliated clubs. Executive Committee meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman or, in his absence, by a member elected at the meeting. Any casual vacancy occurring, with reference to officers of the Association and to club representatives may be filled by the Executive Committee at its discretion.

7. MANAGEMENT

The Management of the Association shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee which shall have full power to conduct all the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Rules. The Executive Committee may appoint Operating Committees and sub-committees, and delegate to them all or any of the Executive Committee's powers and may co-opt, from time to time, other persons to serve on the Executive Committee, Operating Committees or sub-committees until the next Annual General Meeting. Such co-opted persons shall be entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Executive Committee but shall not be entitled to propose or vote on resolutions of the Executive Committee. All such Operating or other sub-committees shall, at all times, be under the jurisdiction and control of the Executive Committee.

8. POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Except as otherwise provided for in these Rules, and not requiring an amendment to these Rules, the entire management of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee.

In particular, the Executive Committee shall decide:

- i) All questions and disputes between members of the Association sent to it for decision.
- ii) The qualification of bodies desiring to become members of the Association.

The Executive Committee shall have the power:

- a) To appoint Trustees of the Association (see appendix A).
- b) To borrow money and obtain grants in respect of past or future expenditure.
- c) To lend such monies as are necessary to Avon Lawn Tennis Ltd. whose shares shall be held by the Trustees of the Association for the purpose of ensuring the smooth running and administration of the County Centre such sums to be recorded as loans to the Company.
- d) To nominate the Directors of the said Company three of which should be officers of the Association and one of which should be a Trustee.
- e) To appoint Representatives for the County of Avon to the Council of the Lawn Tennis Association.
- f) To appoint the Men's Captain, Ladies' Captain and Captains of Men's and Ladies' Veterans' teams as required.

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The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the respective captains, shall award full County Colours to any player who has represented the County of Avon in three Lawn Tennis Association Inter-county events.

The Executive Committee shall have power to impose disciplinary procedures in accordance with Guidelines issued by the Lawn Tennis Association.

9. ACCOUNTS

The financial year of the Association shall end on 30th. September in each year.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in the County of Avon in November each year at which the following business shall be transacted:
 - i) To receive the accounts and the report of the Association for the past year and to appoint the auditors.
 - ii) To ratify the subscription of members for the next ensuing year.
 - iii) To elect the Officers and club representatives to the Executive Committee.
 - iv) To transact any other relevant business.
- b) Written notice of the meeting, stating the business to be transacted, shall be supplied to each affiliated club or organisation and to all Honorary Life Members, Life and Associate Members at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The Chairman, for the time being, of the Executive Committee shall also be the Chairman for the General meeting. No individual shall have more than one vote, save that in the event of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Save as otherwise specified in these Rules, all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting.
- c) Any nomination for office or for the Executive Committee and notice of any Resolution to be proposed shall be supplied in writing to the Honorary Secretary not later than the first day of October with, in each case, the names of the proposer and seconder.
- d) The following shall be entitled to attend and vote at a General meeting:
 - i) The officers and other members of the Executive Committee.
 - ii) One representative member of each affiliated club, (in addition to any member of such who is a serving member of the Executive Committee) or two representative members in the case of a club having 51 to 150 members, or three representatives in the case of a club having over 150 members, who have reached the age of 18 years and are liable to pay a subscription under Rule 5.
 - iii) One representative from each Associate Organisation.
 - iv) One representative from all affiliated schools to represent them jointly.

Honorary Life Members, Life Members, Associate Members and all paid up members, for the time being, of affiliated clubs and other Associate Organisations shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting but they shall not be entitled to vote thereat.

11. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Honorary Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting following a resolution of the Executive Committee or upon the receipt of a request in writing from 10 members eligible to vote at a General meeting asking him to do so and stating the purpose for which it is to be called. A

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meeting, called upon the receipt of such a request, shall be held within 28 days of the receipt of the request. The Honorary Secretary shall give 14 days notice of such a meeting to the honorary secretaries of all affiliated clubs and Associate Organisations and to all Honorary Life Members, Life Members and Associate Members and shall specify the reason for which it is called. No other business shall be transacted at the Meeting.

12. QUORA

At General Meetings and Executive Committee meetings, a quorum shall be constituted by the following numbers of those present in person who are entitled to attend and vote at the respective meetings:

a) At a General Meeting: 20 persons.

b) At an Executive Committee meeting: two thirds of Executive Committee members as defined in Rule 6.

In the event of a quorum not being formed within 15 minutes of the time stated in the notice of Meeting or otherwise, the meeting shall stand adjourned to such place, date and time within the ensuing 14 days as the chairman of the meeting shall decide and the members at such an adjourned meeting shall form a quorum.

13. ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

No alteration or amendment shall be made to these rules save by a Resolution passed by two thirds, at least, of those present and voting at a General meeting. The wording of any such Resolution proposed shall be included in the Notice of the Meeting supplied under Rule 11.

14. RESIGNATIONS

Any club or organisation wishing to resign from the Association shall give written notice to the Honorary Secretary on or before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting, otherwise the subscription payable for the ensuing year shall be payable notwithstanding the resignation.

15. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

All complaints regarding the conduct of an affiliated club, individual or patron or an infringement, inter alia, of the Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the Association or the Rules of the Lawn Tennis Association shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary of the Association in writing within 14 days of the occurrence of the event. The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend for any period, or to expel from the Association, any club or organisation refusing to comply with these Rules or guilty of conduct, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, injurious to the Association or to any of the activities arranged, conducted or organised by the Association. All matters will be dealt with in accordance with LTA Disciplinary Procedures and Guidelines.

APPENDIX A

Any property of the Association other than cash shall be vested in not more than four Trustees who shall have power to invest money in property in securities or in any other manner whatsoever and howsoever arising and adopt such measures in relation to such investments and property as may appear to them necessary in the interests of the Association and in accordance with the provisions of these Rules subject to the approval of the Executive Committee by Resolution (of which an entry in a Minute shall be conclusive evidence) and the Trustees shall be indemnified against any risk and expense out of the Association property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a Resolution of the Executive Committee who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of them present and voting at any meeting remove any Trustee or Trustees from the Office of Trustee. If by any reason of any such death, resignation or removal it should appear necessary to the Executive Committee that a new Trustee or Trustees shall be appointed or an additional Trustee the Executive Committee shall by Resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or

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Trustees for the purpose of giving effect to such nomination. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is hereby nominated as a person to appoint new Trustees of the Association within the meaning of the Trustee Act 1925 and he shall by Deed duly appoint a person or persons so nominated by the Executive Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Association and the provisions of the Trustee Act 1925 or any subsequent legislation shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such Deed of Appointment in favour of a person dealing bona fide and for value with the Association shall be conclusive evidence of the facts as stated.

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SUMMER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

1.a) The authority to manage Avon Lawn Tennis League (hereinafter referred to as 'the League') shall be vested in a sub-committee of the Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the 'League Committee') of Avon Lawn Tennis Association (hereinafter referred to as 'the Association') as provided for in paragraph 7 of the Rules & Regulations of the Association.

b) The League Committee shall consist of a minimum of 7 members of clubs affiliated to the Association (hereinafter referred to as 'Affiliated Clubs') and such other persons as may be appointed by the Executive Committee.

c) Affiliated clubs shall be invited annually to submit to the Executive Committee the names of persons willing to serve on the League Committee and, from this number, the Executive Committee shall appoint the members of the League Committee for the ensuing year provided that not more than one member of an Affiliated Club shall at any time be a club representative member of the League Committee.

Such submissions shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Association not later than 7 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Association. All names so submitted shall be made known at such a Meeting and recorded in the relevant minutes. The submissions shall contain a statement of willingness of the person or persons named to serve, if appointed i) as an ordinary member of the League Committee or ii) as an honorary officer. If an insufficient number of names is submitted in this way by the Affiliated Clubs, the League Committee may either appoint further club representative members of the League Committee of its own choosing or determine that the number of submissions received is sufficient for the purposes of managing and operating the League for the ensuing year only. In this case the proviso of one representative per Affiliated Club may be waived.

d) Unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee, the League Committee for the ensuing year shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at its next meeting following each Annual General Meeting of the Association and shall hold office with effect from the close of such Meeting of the Executive Committee.

2. At the first meeting of the League Committee after appointment, the members of the League Committee shall elect from among their number, by simple majority, the following honorary officers: Chairman, Secretary, Results Officer, Inter-club Officer.

3. The Chairman, or a deputy appointed by the League Committee, shall act as the representative of the League Committee at the Executive Committee as provided in paragraph 6 of the Rules & Regulations of the Association.

4. All members of the League Committee shall be eligible for reappointment by the Executive Committee.

5. The League Committee may invite, for any special purpose, any person not a member of the League Committee to attend a meeting of the League Committee provided that any person so invited shall not be entitled to vote or propose or second a motion at such a meeting.

6. The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy on the League Committee. Such an appointment shall have effect until the next occasion on which the appointment of the whole League Committee by the Executive Committee falls due.

7. The quorum of the League Committee shall consist of 4 members, two of whom must be honorary officers.

8. The League Committee shall be empowered as follows:

a) to hold meetings as and when the business of the League may demand.

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- b) to manage and operate the League in accordance with the direction of the Executive Committee and, in particular, to arrange the allocation of teams to divisions and groups, to record and collate the results of League matches and to determine the final order of teams in each group and division at the end of each playing season.
- c) to consider and approve or reject the written applications for League membership received from Affiliated Clubs wishing to take part in the League competitions, including those involving teams which have not yet taken part in the League or which are required to apply for re-election by virtue of Rule 16 below. The League Committee may reject any application without giving any reason thereof.
- d) to ensure that clubs applying for membership, renewal of membership or re-election have access to an adequate number of courts of suitable standard or to decide on the suitability of the courts of any member club.
- e) to adjudicate, in the first place, upon any protest or dispute arising between member clubs in relation to the League competitions and to interpret these Rules & Regulations as modified or amended from time to time by the Executive Committee. If any club or clubs are unwilling to accept the decision of the League Committee, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.
- f) to engage in any other activity incidental to the management and operation of the League or the promotion of the interests of the League or its member clubs.

9. The League Committee shall be empowered to make such use of the funds of the Association allocated to it as is required for the proper conduct of the League and the activities of the League Committee here laid down. Any income accruing from the operation of the League or other activities arranged by the League Committee shall be paid to the account of the Association.

All income and expenditure for and on behalf of the League Committee shall be included in the annual audited accounts of the Association and shall be identified as such.

10. If any dispute arises between any member club or clubs and the League Committee, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

11. No alteration shall be made in the Rules & Regulations adopted for the management and operation of the League other than by resolution of the Executive Committee.

12.a) The competitions of the League are open to clubs affiliated to a Lawn Tennis Association and having access to at least two courts. Should any complaint be received concerning the conditions of the court(s), it will be referred to the League Committee as provided in Rule 8d above and the League Committee shall make such direction as it thinks fit, including direction that the relevant team or teams shall not take part in any competition of the League unless or until the home court or courts on which such team or teams play League matches are brought up to standard acceptable to the League Committee.

b) The competitions shall be held annually in accordance with these Rules & Regulations and with the Rules of Lawn Tennis and the Regulations, for the time being, of the Lawn Tennis Association. In the event of a conflict between any such rules, the latter Rules & Regulations shall prevail.

13. A club whose teams or team wish(es) to take part in the competitions during the next ensuing year shall give notice, in writing, to the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee (or its nominee) of its intention, on or before 1st. January in each year. An annual entrance fee of an amount to be settled by the Executive Committee shall be paid for each team to the Honorary Treasurer of the Association not later than 1st. January of the year in which the competition is to take place.

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14. The Men's and Ladies' competitions shall be organised in divisions of not more than six teams. Teams joining or rejoining the League shall be placed in the lowest division(s). If applications for League membership are received on behalf of teams who are not League members in the season immediately preceding application, such applications shall be considered in date order.

15. The Men's and Ladies' competitions shall be conducted in leagues consisting of one First Division, fed by two divisions numbered 2A & 2B, fed by two divisions numbered 3A & 3B which, in turn, are fed by Divisions 4A & 4B. Divisions 4A & 4B are fed by four divisions numbered 5A, 5AA, 5B, 5BB, etc. All divisions with the same initial number shall be deemed to be of equal status. The A groups and B groups in the various divisions shall be selected by the League Committee before the start of each playing season.

- 16.a) After completion of all League fixtures in any one season, the last two teams in Division 1 are to be relegated to Divisions 2A & 2B.
- b) The top team in each of Divisions 2A & 2B are to be promoted to Division 1.
- c) The last two teams in each of Divisions 2A & 2B are to be relegated to Divisions 3A & 3B.
- d) The top two teams in each of Divisions 3A & 3B will be promoted to Divisions 2A & 2B.
- e) The last two teams in each of Divisions 3A & 3B will be relegated to Divisions 4A & 4B.
- f) The top two teams in each of Divisions 4A & 4B will be promoted to Divisions 3A & 3B.
- g) The last two teams in each of Divisions 4A & 4B will be relegated to Divisions 5A & 5B.
- h) The top two teams in each of divisions 5A & 5B will be promoted to Divisions 4A & 4B.
- i) The last two teams in each of Divisions 5A & 5B will be relegated to Divisions 6A & 6B.
- j) The top two teams in each of divisions 6A & 6B will be promoted to Divisions 5A & 5B.

In the Men's League:

- k) The last two teams in each of Divisions 6A & 6B will be relegated to Divisions 7A & 7B.
- l) The top two teams in each of divisions 7A & 7B will be promoted to Divisions 6A & 6B.
- m) The last two teams in each of Divisions 7A & 7B will be relegated to Divisions 8A, 8B, 8C & 8D.
- n) The top team in each of divisions 8A, 8B, 8C & 8D will be promoted to Divisions 7A & 7B.
- o) The last two teams in each of Divisions 8A, 8B, 8C & 8D will be relegated to Divisions 9A, 9B, 9C & 9D.
- p) In any remaining divisions, the last two teams will be relegated and the first two teams promoted in the appropriate groupings, subject to there being sufficient number of teams.

In the Ladies' League:

- q) The last two teams in Divisions 6A & 6B, 6C will be relegated if sufficient lower divisions exist in the current season.
- r) In any remaining divisions, the last two teams will be relegated and the first two teams promoted in the appropriate groupings, subject to there being sufficient number of teams.

In both the Men's & Ladies' Leagues:

- s) The last two teams in the lowest divisions at the end of each season must apply for re-election. Such applications will be considered by the League Committee together with those from any new team or teams rejoining the League

17. Clubs may enter teams in either the Men's or Ladies' competitions or both provided they have access to such number of courts as the League Committee determines to be adequate. Where a club has more than one team competing in either competition, the higher team must always complete its matches, even

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if the regular players are unable to play. Teams must be ranked in order of strength, so that other players move up according to strength. A player who has taken part in 4 matches in any one season for a higher-ranking team may not subsequently play for a lower ranking team in the same season.

18. Only bona fide members of Affiliated Clubs who have paid the appropriate full subscription at least fourteen days prior to the match shall be allowed to play, provided they have not taken part in the League competition for another club in the same season.

19. The first round in each season shall commence, for the Men's and Ladies competitions, on the first Friday following the May Day Bank Holiday and the remaining rounds shall be played on the Friday of each succeeding week, except the late Spring Bank Holiday week-end, which will be a vacant week-end.

20. Each competing team shall be represented by four players who shall be arranged in pairs and each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team. The visiting players shall play, throughout the match, on the courts of their choice from those allocated by the home club. All rubbers are to be the best of three sets with the tie-break to be played at six games all in each set. Each team shall play one Home and one Away match against each other team in the division in each season.

21. Umpires are not required but the game score in each set shall be called clearly by the server prior to the commencement of each game. In the event of bad weather, or because the courts are unfit for play, the match will only start with the mutual consent of both captains. In the event of an appeal against playing conditions when a match is in progress, the match can only continue with the agreement of both captains.

22. For each match, a minimum of three new LTA authorised balls shall be provided for each court by the home team. If dated, the balls must be for the current season.

23. All matches shall commence at 6.15 p.m. and, if a pair be not ready to start by 6.45 p.m., the opponents of that pair in the first round shall be entitled to a walk-over in that rubber.

If that pair is still not ready for their second rubber when called upon, a walk-over may be claimed.

The captain should declare before the beginning of the second rubber that his/her team has claimed the first rubber/s.

24. If both pairs of one team are unable to start by 6.45 p.m., each opposing pair in the first round shall be entitled to a walk-over. Likewise any pair then not ready by 7.15 p.m. will concede a walk-over in the second round.

25. The match will have been deemed to start after the first serve takes place. The courts will have been allocated at the start of the warm-up and the courts can only be then changed by agreement of both captains.

26. If a match is started but not finished due to bad light or weather conditions, with the mutual agreement of both captains it can be completed on the same night on alternative courts, under lights if necessary, otherwise Rule 27 applies.

27. If a match is not started or not completed on Friday through bad light or weather conditions, it must be completed during the following seven days at the mutual agreement of both team captains. League matches shall take precedence over club play and friendly matches.

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28. When a match is completed on another day under Rule 27, the previous scores shall hold good and the match shall continue from the position where it was left. If a member of a team is genuinely unavailable for a rearranged match, the player can be replaced by another player providing he/she has not already taken part in a match scheduled for that week.

29. Should the courts be unplayable for a whole week, a match arranged for that week may be completed at any time agreed by the team captains and sanctioned by the League Committee, and shall, in any case, be completed by one week after the end of the final Friday of the season. (Rule 28 also applies in this case.)

30. In the case of accidental injury after the start of play there will be allowed a maximum 5 minute suspension of play and if the player is not then recovered, the rubber will be forfeited.

31. a) Points shall be awarded as follows:

In each match, the team winning most rubbers (or where the number of rubbers won is equal, most sets, or when the number of rubbers and sets is equal, the most games) shall receive 2 points with a further 2 points for each rubber won.

One point shall be awarded to each team in the event of a tie (number of rubbers, sets & games all equal) with 2 points to the winning pair in each rubber.

The losing team shall receive 2 points for each rubber won so that the total of 10 points shall be awarded for each match.

At the conclusion of each season, the order of all teams shall be determined by the number of points gained in all matches (whether played or by default) and the teams scoring the highest number of points in Division 1 shall be adjudged the Champions of the Men's and Ladies' competitions for that year. If two or more teams in any one division shall score an equal number of points, the order of precedence in the division shall be determined by the majority of the matches won. Should the number of the matches be equal, the better percentage of sets won to sets played shall decide and where this does not resolve the issue, the percentage of games won to games played shall decide. This will exclude any matches where walk-overs are awarded. Should two or more teams in the same division still be equal and should it prove necessary to promote or relegate one of these, a match or matches shall be played as appointed by the League Committee in order to determine the final order of teams in that division.

32. a) In the event of a walk-over, the defaulting team must notify the Results Secretary of a valid reason within 7 days of the default.

b) Any team giving three or more walk-overs will be relegated and have their results declared null and void, and their opponents will forfeit the points for those matches also.

c) If a higher ranked team within a club, without just reason, gives a walk-over whilst its lower ranked team/s play, it will suffer the following penalties: the higher ranked team giving the walk-over will have 10 points deducted and the lower ranked team/s will lose any points gained in that round of matches.

d) The League Committee retains the right to take appropriate action (see Rule 36) when a walk-over may be prejudicial to the promotion or relegation prospects of other teams.

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33. Protests concerning play must be lodged with the Honorary Secretary of the League Committee in writing within 3 working days of the match to which they refer. After considering statements from all teams involved in the protest(s), the League Committee shall cause its decision to be notified by post to the complainant and the alleged offender. If the League Committee's decision is disputed the matter shall be dealt with under Rule 8e and 10 above.
34. The home team shall send results of each match, stating the numbers of rubbers, sets and games won and the names of the players, to the Honorary Results Officer of the League within seven working days of the match on the official form supplied, signed and countersigned by a representative of each team competing. In the case of a postponement of a fixture in accordance with Rule 27 above, the secretary of the home club shall notify the Results Officer, in writing, of such postponement not later than the day following that on which the match should have been played.
35. Trophies awarded for any League competition shall remain the property of the Avon Lawn Tennis Association.
36. Teams failing to comply with any of the above regulations will render themselves liable to a penalty involving the deduction of points or any other action the League Committee considers appropriate.
37. Avon LTA adopts the LTA's Rules & Regulations with regard to unumpired matches; please refer to the LTA website and / or LTA Handbook.

VETERANS' SUMMER LEAGUE RULES

The Rules & Regulations of the Veterans' League are the same as the Winter League except for amendments detailed below:

- a) For the words 'Summer League' read 'Veterans' League'.
- b) Rule 17 to be amended to read:
'Clubs may enter teams in either the Men's or Ladies' competitions or both provided they have access to such number of courts as the League Committee determines to be adequate. Where a club has more than one team competing in either competition, the higher team must always complete its matches, even if the regular players are unable to play. Teams must be ranked in order of strength, so that other players move up according to strength.' N.B. Still play only 10 matches.
- c) Rule 18 will have an additional statement as to the eligibility of players, namely: 'Men and Lady players will become eligible to take part in the competition on reaching the age of 40.'
- d) Rule 16 to read:
 - i) After completion of all League fixtures in any one season, the last two teams to be relegated from each division.
 - ii) The top two teams in each division to be promoted, except Division 1.

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WINTER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The authority to manage the Avon Lawn Tennis Winter League (hereinafter referred to as the 'Winter League') shall be vested in the League Committee of the Avon Lawn Tennis Association.
- 2.a) No alteration shall be made in the Rules & Regulations adopted for the management and operation of the Winter League other than by resolution of the Executive Committee.
- e) The competition shall be held annually in accordance with these Rules & Regulations and with the Rules of Lawn Tennis and the Regulations, for the time being, sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association. In the event of a conflict between any such rules, the latter Rules and Regulations shall prevail.
3. The League Committee will invite Affiliated Clubs to enter teams to take part in the competition. An annual entrance fee of an amount to be settled by the Executive Committee shall be paid for each participating team and no team will be allowed to take part unless the fees are paid by the date specified in the application form.
4. The competition shall be organised in divisions of 6 teams unless otherwise decided by the League Committee. Teams joining or rejoining the League shall be placed in the lowest division. If written applications for League membership are received on behalf of teams which are not participating in the Winter League in the season immediately preceding application, such applications shall be considered in date order.
5. The Winter League competition will comprise one first division fed by two divisions numbered 2A & 2B, fed by two divisions numbered 3A & 3B which, in turn, are fed by four divisions numbered 4A, 4AA, 4B, 4BB, etc. All divisions with the same initial number shall be deemed to be of equal status. The composition of the various divisions shall be selected by the League Committee before the start of each playing season.
6. a) When a club has more than one team competing in the competition, teams must be ranked in order of strength. A player who has taken part in 4 matches in any one season for a higher ranking team may not subsequently play for a lower ranking team in that season. No player may play in more than 10 matches in any one season.
b) Should two teams from the same Club be competing in the same division, both matches between the two teams must be played by the 31st January of that season.
7. Only bona fide members of Affiliated Clubs who have paid the appropriate full subscriptions at least 14 days prior to the match shall be allowed to play, provided they have not taken part in the Winter League competition for another club in the same season.
8. Teams shall arrange their own fixtures by mutual consent by 15th. November and these are to be played between 1st. October and 31st. March. These may only be rearranged as a result of adverse weather conditions or exceptional circumstances. In the latter the League Committee shall be notified.
9. Each team shall consist of two men and two ladies who will play one Men's doubles, one Ladies' doubles and all players will play one mixed doubles thus making four rubbers in all. Each rubber shall be the best of three sets with a tie-break to be played at 6 games all in each set. The order of play to be decided by the home captain.

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10. Clubs will declare their mixed pairs in order of strength before the match begins.

11. Umpires are not required but the game score in each set shall be called clearly by the server prior to the commencement of each game. In the event of bad weather, or because the courts are unfit for play, the match will only start with the mutual consent of both captains.

12. In the event of an appeal against adverse weather conditions when the match is in progress, the match can only continue with the mutual agreement of both captains who can agree to complete the match at another time when all possible efforts must be made to keep the same players in the team or, if not possible, a similar standard replacement.

13. For each match, a minimum of three new LTA authorised balls shall be provided for each court by the home team.

14. All matches shall commence at the agreed time and if any pair is not ready to play within half an hour of that time, the opponents of that pair shall be entitled to a walk-over in that rubber and if that pair be not ready to play their second rubber when called upon, likewise a walk-over may be claimed scoring 2 sets and 12 games for each rubber.

15. Any team giving three or more walk-overs will be relegated and have their results declared null and void, and their opponents will forfeit the points for those matches also.

16. The home team shall send results of each match, stating the numbers of rubbers, sets and games won and the names of the players, to the Honorary Results Officer of the League to arrive within 7 days of the match on the official form supplied, signed and countersigned by a representative of each team competing.

17. Protests concerning play must be lodged with the Honorary Secretary of the League Committee in writing within 3 working days of the match to which they refer. After considering statements from all teams involved in the protest(s), the League Committee shall cause its decision to be notified by post to the complainant and the alleged offender. If the League Committee's decision is disputed the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision will be final and binding on all the clubs concerned.

18. Points shall be awarded as follows:

In each match, the team winning most rubbers (or where the number of rubbers won is equal, most sets, or when the number of rubbers and sets is equal, the most games) shall receive 2 points with a further 2 points for each rubber won.

One point shall be awarded to each team in the event of a tie (number of rubbers, sets & games all equal) with 2 points to the winning pair in each rubber. The losing team shall receive 2 points for each rubber won so that the total of 10 points shall be awarded for each match.

19. At the conclusion of each season, the order of all teams shall be determined by the number of points gained in all matches (whether played or by default) and the teams scoring the highest number of points in Division 1 shall be adjudged the Champions for that year. If two or more teams in any one division shall score an equal number of points, the order of precedence in the division shall be determined by the majority of the matches won. Should the number of the matches be equal, the better percentage of sets won to sets played shall decide and where this does not resolve the issue, the percentage of games won to games played shall decide. Should two or more teams in the same division still be equal and should it prove necessary to promote or relegate one of these, a match or matches shall be played as appointed by the League Committee in order to determine the final order of teams in that division.

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20. a) After completion of all League fixtures in any one season, the last two teams in Division 1 are to be relegated to Divisions 2A & 2B.
 - b) The top team in each of Divisions 2A & 2B are to be promoted to Division 1.
 - c) The last two teams in each of Divisions 2A & 2B are to be relegated to Divisions 3A & 3B.
 - d) The top two teams in each of Divisions 3A & 3B are to be promoted to Divisions 2A & 2B.
 - e) The last two teams in each of Divisions 3A & 3B are to be relegated to Divisions 4A, 4AA, 4B & 4BB.
 - f) The top team in each of Divisions 4A, 4AA, 4B & 4BB are to be promoted to Divisions 3A & 3B.
 - g) The last two teams in each of Divisions 4A, 4AA, 4B & 4BB are to be relegated to Divisions 5A, 5AA, 5B & 5BB.
 - h) In any remaining divisions, the last two teams are to be relegated and the first two teams promoted in the appropriate groupings.
 - i) The last two teams in the lowest division at the end of each season must apply for re-election. Such applications will be considered by the League Committee together with those from any new team or teams rejoining the League.
21. Trophies awarded for any League competition shall remain the property of the Avon Lawn Tennis Association.
22. Teams failing to comply with any of the above Regulations will render themselves liable to a penalty involving the deduction of points or any other action the League Committee considers appropriate.

VETERANS' WINTER LEAGUE RULES

The Rules & Regulations of the Veterans' League are the same as the Winter League except for amendments detailed below:

- a) For the words 'Winter League' read 'Veterans' League'.
- b) Rule 5 to be amended to read:
'The Veterans' League will comprise one first division and such additional divisions as the league sub-committee will decide prior to the start of the season'.
- c) Rule 6 to be amended to read:
'When a club has more than one team competing in the competition, teams must be ranked in order of strength. No player may play in more than 10 matches in any one season.'
- d) Rule 7 will have an additional statement as to the eligibility of players, namely: 'Men and Lady players will become eligible to take part in the competition on reaching the age of 40.'
- e) Rule 20 to read:
 - iii) After completion of all League fixtures in any one season, the last two teams to be relegated from each division.
 - iv) The top two teams in each division to be promoted, except Division 1.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES

1. Only bona fide Junior members of a club may enter the League, with each player only allowed to represent one club during one season.
2. The League is open to Affiliated clubs and Affiliated Organisations of Avon County LTA.
3. Provided the minimum age is not exceeded, players may enter any, or all, of the 16 & Under, 14 and Under and 12 & Under Leagues.
4. It is recommended that the Ratings levels recommended for each League are adhered to in order to make the League competitive.
5. Provided team members meet the age limits, clubs may enter more than one team in any League.
6. A player may NOT play in more than one team within the League.
7. There will be a minimum of one division in each League provided the minimum quota of five per League is met. If there are not enough teams to form further divisions then a waiting list will be started.
8. Matches will be played on a Home / Away basis, the venues being chosen by each team. Matches may not be scheduled to finish after 8 p.m. on any day.
9. Play days and times will be provided by each club at the start of the season.
10. Each League is independent of any other.
11. Scoring will be as follows for each League:
 - One Point for each Game won (ALL LEAGUES)
 - Six Points for an Overall Win, on Sets, for 16 & Under.
 - Three Points for a Draw, Sets equal, for 16 & Under.
 - Eight Points for an Overall Win, on Sets, for 14 & Under.
 - Four Points for a Draw, Sets equal, for 14 & Under.
 - Four Points for an Overall Win, on Sets, for 12 & Under.
 - Two Points for a Draw, Sets equal, for 12 & Under.
12. Matches will be played within the week stipulated. Each week commences on a Monday and finishes on a Sunday.
13. The home team must supply a minimum of three Good Quality tennis balls for each Home Match.
14. An adult must be in attendance at matches AT ALL TIMES and must travel with their team playing Away Matches.

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15. Home Teams must send, by first class post, to the Junior League Secretary an official score card fully completed and signed by a representative from each team.
16. The League will commence on the second Monday in April each year.
17. The match playing rules will be those of the Lawn Tennis Association.
18. League positions will be sent to each club after four matches.
19. 14 & Under and 12 & Under Leagues are, provisionally, for two boys and two girls.
20. There are two 16 & Under Leagues, one for 3 boys and one for 3 girls only.
21. The last League matches will finish by the second Sunday in July.