

Indoor Winter League Playing Rules

Last Updated 05-12-2025

1. Teams

1.1 Teams shall comprise of two ladies and two men.

2. Fixtures

2.1 All matches shall be played on the dates and times stipulated in the Fixture List.

2.2 Any team wishing to concede a match, or are unable to field a full team, must speak to the opposing team at least 24 hours prior to the match; they will also be liable for payment of the whole of the court fee for the scheduled match.

Failure to contact the team within this time will result in the deduction of 3 points. Text and Voicemail are not acceptable; if contact cannot be made with the opposing team please ring the Chairman, Secretary or President.

2.3 Any club with more than one team in a Division, and concedes a match, must withdraw the lower team.

3. Matches

3.1 The first round of matches shall be a men's doubles and a ladies doubles followed by two mixed doubles. Captains should exchange team lists showing players' names and their respective mixed pairings before the start of the first round.

3.2 Head LTA Official tennis balls must be used for all matches.

3.3 The Tennisdome clocks shall time each round at 40 minutes exactly.

3.4 All matches must start promptly.

3.5 A ten minute knock-up period will be allowed at the start of the first rubber; no knock-up is allowed before the second round.

3.6 Any player(s) arriving during or after the knock-up period will forfeit part or the whole of the knock-up.

3.7 If a player(s) arrives more than 5 but no more than 15 minutes late, the offending team shall forfeit one game for every 5 minutes elapsed after the designated start time of the first rubber.

3.8 If a player(s) arrives more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, that pair will forfeit the rubber 8-0.

3.9 In the event of a rubber not being completed or played (e.g. through injury) that pair will forfeit the rubber 8-0.

3.10 Players should vacate the court immediately at the end of the second rubbers to allow a prompt start for the next match.

3.11 Captains must inform the League Organiser of any conceded matches and the resulting changes to the club's end of season invoice. It is the club's responsibility to check the

final amount before payment.

4. Results

4.1 At the end of each rubber the pair with the most completed games won shall be deemed the winner. If the games won are equal the point shall be shared (0.5 each).

4.2 One point will be awarded for each rubber won and a bonus point to the team winning the most rubbers. In event of rubbers being equal, the team with the highest games total will be awarded the bonus point. In the event of the games totals being equal, the bonus point will be shared.

4.3 In the event of a team conceding a match, 5 points will be awarded to the opposing team. Within 48 hours of the scheduled date of the conceded match, the opposing team should enter the names of their intended team players on the League Website. For any starred players, this will count as a played match.

4.4 In the event of the 'away' team disagreeing or disputing the result entered, the result should be amended. The 'home' team will receive an automated email requesting that the Website is accessed again and the amended result verified. Any disputed result should be resolved between both team captains. If unresolved, both captains must inform the Winter League Administrator.

5. Eligibility and Starred Players

5.1 Clubs with 2 or more teams in the League must star 2 ladies and 2 men for each team other than the lowest ranked team. Each starred player must play a minimum of 4 matches during the indoor season. Teams will receive a 2 point penalty for each unplayed match by a starred player. Requests to amend starred players can be made to the Winter League Administrator. The Administrator will review participation during the Christmas break. Clubs whose players have not played 2 matches for their nominated team will be asked to consider amending such starred players. A list of starred players is to be displayed on the Tennisdome notice board.

5.2 No player may play for more than one club during the season and must be a member of that club.

5.3 No player may play for more than one team each week.

6. League Placing, Promotion and Relegation

6.1 In event of points being equal, the team with the highest games difference will be placed higher. If equal, the team with highest games 'for' will be placed higher.

6.2 The team placed highest in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1.

6.3 The team placed lowest in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2.

7. New Clubs

7.1 Applications by non-Head East Lancashire League Clubs to enter a team(s) in the Indoor League will be decided and approved by the League Committee. Both the League Committee and the club concerned must accept the Terms and Conditions.

7.2 New teams will normally be placed in the lowest division; however, the composition of each division shall be at the discretion of the League Committee.