



# REGULATIONS FOR HAMPSHIRE & IOW

## SENIORS DOUBLES LEAGUES 2026

### 1. Admin & Rules

The seniors doubles leagues are played in accordance with the regulations drawn up by Hampshire & IOW Tennis, and with the rules contained within the LTA Competition Regulations (<https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/officials/competition-organiser-resources/competition-regulations>).

The League Organiser administers and manages the leagues.

All participating venues must be LTA registered and matches played accordingly at a registered venue. The qualification to play for a club shall be a bona fide link to that club and permission from the Club Committee / Management to participate. Players may only represent one club.

### 2. Eligibility

All players must have an LTA Advantage membership and be linked to their play club.

The leagues have age groups as follows: over 40 and 50 for ladies, and over 45 and 55 for men. Players must have reached the minimum age for a league by 31st December 2026.

No player may play for more than one club in an age group in any one season, but may play for the same or another club in a different age group.

### 3. Fair Play / Discipline

All players, including spectators, must adhere to the LTA Fair Play Policy (for Fair Play Pledges, please see: <https://www.lta.org.uk/4ac44c/siteassets/about-lta/file/lta-fairplay-pledges-2020.pdf>) and all players are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the LTA (including, without limitation, the LTA's Anti-Doping Programme, the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and the Regulations Concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting) and fully and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction and authority of the LTA by competing in the Competition. In the event of match disagreement, complaints should be emailed within 48 hours.

### 4. Entries

Entries are online [fee £25] to be paid at the time of entry and before the closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

### 5. Teams

Teams shall consist of 2 pairs (4 players). If unable to field a full team, clubs are encouraged to field at least one legitimate pair. This would enable the fixture to be completed with two rubbers played which could possibly be a draw.

The total number of teams, including Men's and Ladies', that a Club may enter is detailed in the following table:-



Number of courts at venue	Maximum number of teams that can be entered
2	2 teams
3	3 teams
4	4 teams
5	5 teams
6+	6 teams

Where the number of teams entered equals the number of courts available, if multiple teams are at home during the scheduled week, different evenings must be used.

For clubs entering more than 1 team in a league, once a player has played twice for a given team, that player will not be eligible to play in any lower team from that date onwards, e.g. first team players cannot later play for a second team or third team. Similarly, players who have played once each for the first and second team, cannot play for the third team. Players found to have contravened this rule will concede their rubbers 6-0, 6-0. If a club has 2 teams in the same division, they may not inter-change players at any time and this fixture must be the first fixture played (or played prior to the first fixture date of the season). If played later, the League Organiser may choose not to award points to either team.

No club may have more than two teams in the top division.

## 6. League Divisions

Each division of the league shall be composed of up to seven teams.

Each club shall play each other in its division both home and away during the season.

## 7. Matches

Matches will consist of four doubles rubbers (or in the event of a team fielding one pair then two doubles rubbers). Teams will consist of two pairs arranged in order of merit. Away pairs will stay on the same court where possible.

Matches will be played in two rounds as follows:

Round 1 First pair v First pair	Second pair v Second pair
Round 2 First pair v Second pair	Second pair v First pair

Score format: 2 tie-break sets and a match tie-break for the third set, where required. Third set tie-break is recorded as a set and a game on the scorecard.

**Filling in the match scores online:** the results are to be completed in the following order:

Home team first pair	v	Away team first pair
Home team first pair	v	Away team second pair
Home team second pair	v	Away team first pair
Home team second pair	v	Away team second pair

## 8. Fixtures

The League Organiser designates a different week for each team fixture. Each fixture shall normally be played on a weekday evening, with the home club having the choice of evening. By mutual agreement a match may be played over a weekend at either end of the designated week.



Home teams may offer outdoor or indoor courts, any playing surface, with or without floodlights.

All matches should start by 6.30 pm or earlier unless by prior agreement of both teams. Matches played in the early part of the season at clubs without floodlights / timing restrictions must start at 6 pm so that matches can be completed in daylight. Time should be minimised between rounds where daylight is limited or there are restrictions on floodlighting. If this is not possible, fixtures should be re-arranged to a later date to enable the fixture to be completed in daylight.

## 9. Match Postponement

Matches may only be postponed for bad weather or court unplayability.

Responsibility for the decision to call a match off rests with the captain of the home team, who has the clearest overview of the localised weather situation, as well as the condition of the courts.

Any decision to cancel must be communicated to, and acknowledged by, the away captain, to ensure no unnecessary travel.

Once a match has started, it may only be abandoned due to bad weather or loss of light.

If the first round of matches takes significantly longer than usual to complete, meaning that there is risk of poor light or floodlight restrictions curtailing the fixture, both captains may agree to play the second round with a shortened format, eg FAST4, in order to complete the overall result.

If play is abandoned due to bad weather or loss of light, the match result will be determined by the result of the first round, if completed. If the first round is incomplete, the match is to be re-played.

Matches postponed or uncompleted shall be re-arranged by the clubs concerned and played before 30th September. Both clubs must notify the League Organiser of the revised date and update online.

## 10. Late Arrival / Retirement

If a player is, without good reason, unable to play after 15 minutes from the agreed starting time, that pair shall forfeit their first set to the opposition 6-0. If a player is unable to play after 30 minutes from the agreed starting time without good reason, that pair shall forfeit their first rubber to the opposition 6-0 6-0. If a player is still unable to start playing at the start of the second round of rubbers, that pair shall forfeit both of their remaining 2 rubbers 6-0 6-0. Please communicate with the opposition captain if you are having problems. If a team is running late, please contact the home captain to advise of expected time of arrival.

If a rubber ends due to a retirement, the winning pair shall claim the remaining games needed to complete the result of the rubber. This will include a match tiebreak if drawn at one set all. When a player retires, the remaining rubbers are conceded also. A player who has retired and then subsequently recovers, cannot play again in the fixture.

## 11. Match results

In the event of a rubber score being equal, eg 2 – 2 or 4 – 4, then this will be recorded as a **draw**.

A fully completed match scorecard is to be signed by both captains (or another team member). Both teams must retain a copy or **photograph of that scorecard**. In the event of a query, the League Organiser can request the scorecard from both captains for the match as described above.



The winning captain for a match is to enter the results online within 72 hours of completing the match. The opposing Team Captain is to check online and any discrepancies should be addressed with the winning Team Captain. The League Organiser will adjudicate any score disputes.

## 12. League positions

If two or more teams in a division have gained an equal number of points, then positions will be decided by percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played; should these be equal then the percentage of sets won to sets played shall decide positions, and should these be equal, the percentage of games won to games played shall decide positions.

Promotion and relegation will be to consecutive divisions throughout the league. Two teams will be promoted and two teams relegated from each division. The League Organiser reserves the right to promote or relegate more than two teams from a Division, depending upon entries received in the subsequent year, so as to maintain, as far as possible, balanced numbers in divisions.

New entrants to the league shall generally start in the lowest division. However, at the League Organiser's discretion, a given team may start in a different division.

## 13. Walkovers

Should a club give a walkover to another club; the latter will receive four rubbers, eight sets, forty-eight games and two points.

In the event of a club conceding more than one walkover in one season, the club will be relegated to the next lower Division at the end of the season. The League Organiser may decide not to relegate the club if it is presented with extenuating circumstances which it considers warrants no relegation.

## 14. Dispute

In case of any dispute, or any point arising which is not covered by the foregoing regulations, the decision of the League Organiser shall be final.

**Rules adopted on: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Reviewed and amended: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025**

**Date of next review: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027**

Name – Lois Nash

Role – Chair

Date – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025

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### Approved Version History

Ser	Version	Date	Chair	League Organiser
1	1.0	6th January 2023	Lois Nash	Jenny Sayer
	2.0	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	Lois Nash	Jenny Sayer
	3.0	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2025	Lois Nash	Jenny Sayer