



REGULATIONS FOR HAMPSHIRE & IOW

SUMMER DOUBLES LEAGUES - 2026

1. Admin & Rules

The leagues shall be played annually 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>) and the LTA Code of Conduct (<https://www.lta.org.uk/siteassets/about-lta/file/lta-code-of-conduct-jan-2025.pdf>).

The League Organiser administers and manages the leagues.

The leagues shall be open to all venues registered to the LTA. 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 participating venues must be LTA registered and matches played accordingly at a registered venue.

Players must be born on or before 31st December 2014 and must be LTA Advantage members and linked to their playing venue. Younger yellow ball players may be permitted at the discretion of the League Organiser.

Before submitting team entries, Clubs must ensure they have an adequate number of players to field those team(s).

Clubs may change their home venue to another facility due to court availability but the substitute venue **MUST** be LTA registered.

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

Online entry and payment [£25.00 per team], must be made by the closing date 6th February 2026. New entrants to the league shall compete initially in the lowest division but additional teams may be considered higher if entries permit.

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 on a given scheduled weekend, matches must have either staggered start times or be split over the Saturday and Sunday of the allocated weekend.

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). 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 team shall play each other in its division only once 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.

The order of play will be 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 arranges the league fixture lists, with each team having, where possible, a balanced number of home and away matches, subject to a club's court availability.

Home teams may offer outdoor or indoor courts on any playing surface.

As a rule, all matches should start by 1 pm, but this is flexible to meet court availability and fixtures of the home team. For instance if a 2-court club has entered 2 teams which are both at home on the same date, they will have to have staggered start times (eg match 1 is played 12 – 2.30 pm, match 2 is played 2.30 – 5.00 pm) Alternatively, one match could be played on the Saturday and the other on the Sunday of the same weekend. It is important that matches are kept on the allocated weekend.

9. Match postponement

Matches may only be postponed for bad weather or court unplayability. This means that matches must be played on the allocated weekend in all other circumstances.

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.

Matches cannot be postponed due to player availability (remember – it is possible to travel and compete for a draw with just one pair).

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 the league online.

If a visiting team has arrived, but play cannot commence due to bad weather, poor light or the condition of the courts not being fit for play, the visiting team shall have choice of venue when the match is re-played.. Both clubs must notify the League Organiser of the revised date and receive agreement from the League Organiser.

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 rubbers, if completed. If the first round is incomplete, the match is to be re-played at a future date. In other words, if half the rubbers are completed, the result stands based upon completed rubbers.

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.

Two teams shall be promoted from each division and two teams relegated, apart from divisions 3a and 3b where only one team will be promoted to Division 2 from each. For the lower divisions that are also split into A and B, two teams will be relegated and promoted from each. The makeup of each A and B division will be Teams may be placed in their new divisions after promotion or relegation at the discretion of the League Organiser.

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.

15. Safeguarding

Hampshire & IOW Tennis (HIOWT) recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children (anyone under 18) and adults at risk. We are committed to ensuring our safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and meets LTA standards. All participant venues must be LTA Registered.



HIOWT is committed to prioritising the well-being of children and adults at risk by ensuring that all participating venues provide a safe and welcoming environment where they are respected and valued. Participant venues commit to being alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and to following HIOWT procedures to ensure that children and adults at risk receive effective support and protection - <https://hampshireiow.tennis/roles-and-venues/safeguarding/>.

If a participating venue or player has any Safeguarding concerns, or wishes to report anything, the LTA's online reporting form can be used - <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/>.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure appropriate transport arrangements are in place for their children when travelling to and from any match. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the adult at risk (or their carer) to ensure transport arrangements are in place.

Other adult players are not responsible for transporting children or adults at risk to and from a match (except if it is an emergency), unless it is as part of a pre-arranged trip, in which case the following measures must be in place:

- the adult at risk or child's parents are informed of the destination venue, who the driver will be, and are given the contact details for the driver
- the adult at risk or child's parents provide their explicit consent for the journey (e.g. via a consent form, email, etc.)
- the driver will have a copy of this and emergency contact details during the journey
- there will be two adults in the front of the car, irrespective of the number of children or adults at risk being transported
- children or adults at risk are always seated in the back of the vehicle
- if there is a mixture of female and male children or adults at risk, venues should seek to have adults of matching gender in the vehicle where possible
- there is an established procedure in the event of a breakdown / emergency
- the driver has a valid UK driving license, correct insurance, MOT certificate and complies with laws on the use of seatbelts and restraints

Rules adopted on: 12th May 2023

Reviewed and amended: 1st November 2025

Date of next review: 1st January 2027

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois Nash".

Name – Lois Nash

Role – Chair

Date – 1st November 2025



Approved Version History

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