

Slazenger League Rules

In 1965 the Council formed a liaison committee to establish whether or not there was a real desire to extend friendly arrangements to a competitive basis in the form of a league. Subsequent events affirmed the need. 1967 brought 208 Men's and Ladies' teams into 27 divisions. For 2011 there are 79 divisions. The divisions are separated into four areas (West, North-West, East and North-East), each having its own divisional structure, each with a secretary and the area having a regional secretary. The four Regional Secretaries and the Honorary League Secretary form a Management Committee.

Honorary League Secretary: Chris Green (Wayfarers).

Regional Secretaries: West: Hilary Watts (Lensbury)

North-West: Mike Walesby (Wayfarers)

North-East: Miss Ro Foley (Brampton)

East: Mrs Brenda Stewart (Our Lady of Muswell)

Regulations for the Middlesex League

1 Competition

The competition will be called the 'Middlesex League' and is open to all clubs and places to play in Middlesex and is for both Men's and Ladies' Teams in League competitions. It shall be run in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the LTA.

2 Middlesex League Management

(1) The Management will be vested in a Committee consisting of a League Secretary and four Regional Secretaries.

(2) The Middlesex League Secretary and the Regional Secretaries will be appointed by the Middlesex Management Board to whom they will be responsible.

(3) Each Region will have its own Management Committee consisting of the Regional League Secretary and the Secretaries of each Division from that particular Region.

(4) Each Division will have a Secretary who will be appointed by the Regional Secretaries for the management of the Division during the following summer.

3 Powers and Duties of League Management

(1) The League Management Committee is empowered to vary the league structure and its decision on any matter arising from the competition will be final.

(2) The League Management Committee may refuse an entry without giving a reason.

(3) The League Management Committee shall determine the entry fee which will be subject to the approval of the Middlesex Management Board.

(4) The League Management Committee will forward entry forms to clubs and prepare the composition of Leagues and Divisions prior to the Fixtures meeting.

4 League Structure

(1) There will be Premier and Intermediate Divisions for both Men's and Ladies' competitions which will be zoned into two areas, each consisting of eight teams.

(2) The League will be divided in four areas as follows:

West Middlesex Area

North-West Middlesex Area

North-East Middlesex Area

East Middlesex Area

Each Area will have as many Divisions as necessary.

(3) Each Region will have its own Management Committee consisting of the Regional League Secretary and the Secretaries of each Division from that particular Region.

(4) Each Division will have a Secretary who will be appointed by the Regional Secretaries for the management of the Division during the following summer.

5 Divisional Structure

(1) Divisions generally will contain eight teams.

(2) In Divisions containing six or more teams, each team will play one match per season against each of the others in its Division.

(3) Where a Division contains five or less teams, each team will play twice per season against each of the other teams on a Home and Away basis.

(4) A club will not necessarily be permitted to have more than one team in the same Division.

Where this occurs the teams must complete their fixture not later than the date set for the completion of round 2 (two).

6 Pre-Season Fixture Meetings

Fixture meetings will be arranged by the regional Secretaries as required and every club in

that Division must send a representative to the meeting at which the complete League Fixture list for the season will be arranged.

7 Competition Period

Matches must take place on the agreed date subject only to mutual agreement to rearrangement and with the prior consent of the Divisional Secretary. (Unavailability of players is not an acceptable reason for requesting a rearrangement of matches.) All matches must be completed within 10 days of the play by date of round 7

– for any matches not completed by this date, points will be allocated by the Regional Secretary.

8 Composition of Teams for Matches

(1) All players must be British Tennis Members.

(2) Players must be bona-fide members of the club (a bona fide member may be deemed to include mid-week members) for whom they are playing and may not represent more than one competing club per season, irrespective of area.

(3) Each team should consist of three pairs. In the event of a team not being able to field three pairs for the match they should field two pairs and concede all eight points for the missing pair.

The two remaining pairs must play as numbers one and two.

(4) Any team fielding 2 pairs or less on more than one occasion in the same season may have points deducted up to a maximum of 24 points.

(5) Pairs must play in strict order of merit.

(6) Any club unable to fulfill a fixture must notify the Match Secretary of the opposing club and the League Divisional Secretary not less than 72 hours before the date agreed on for playing the match. The matter shall be reported to the Regional Secretary and the League Management Committee shall have the power to take such action as they may deem appropriate including the possible deduction of points.

(7) Any team that fails to fulfill two (2) matches in any season shall be withdrawn for that season and any matches they have played be declared void. Any team withdrawn under rule 8(5) may not necessarily be accepted for the following season but if they are accepted may be relegated more than one division at the discretion of the management committee.

9 Form of Match

(1) A match will consist of nine rubbers as described in Regulation 12 and no finishing time should be set. Points will be awarded in accordance with Regulation 13.

(2) Play should be continuous and commencement of any round should not be delayed until all the matches in the previous round are completed.

10 Uncompleted Match

(1) If a match is not started or less than two rounds have been completed the match must be replayed on a mutually agreed date before the completion date of the following round.

(Unplayed matches in the final round must be played within 10 days of the play by date for the last round)

(2) If all three pairs have played at least one set in round three and the match cannot be completed, the standard allocation of points (Regulation 11 shall apply).

(3) If two rounds have been completed but not two rounds and one set by each pair (rule 10(2)) then either or both teams may concede up to 6 points in round three in order to complete two rounds and three sets and then apply the standard allocation of points (rule 11).

(4) In the event of a club not fielding a team in accordance with Regulation 8.2, the opposing team has the option of offering a new date for the match to be played, by the completion date for the following round.

(5) In the event of the match being unplayed, the defaulting club will receive 0 points and, at the discretion of the League Management Committee, may have points deducted. A defaulting club will receive 0 (nil) points. The other club will receive a proportional award of up to 24 points. The award of points takes into account the points gained by the receiving club in their other matches and the points other teams have gained against the defaulting club in their other matches. In any other case other where a match is unplayed the Regional Secretary has the power to award points as he considers appropriate up to a maximum of 24 points

(6) In the event of bad weather, matches may only be postponed with the agreement of both Captains. If no agreement between Captains is reached or no contact made, then the match is deemed to be still on and players are expected to be ready to play at the agreed start time.

11 Standard Allocation of Points in Uncompleted Matches

2 rounds & 3 sets	2 rounds & 4 sets	2 rounds & 5 sets
18-0 Becomes 24-0	20-0 Becomes 24-0	22-0 Becomes 24-0
16-2 Becomes 21-3	18-2 Becomes 22-2	20-2 Becomes 22-2
14-4 Becomes 18-6	16-4 Becomes 19-5	18-4 Becomes 20-4
12-6 Becomes 16-8	14-6 Becomes 17-7	16-6 Becomes 18-6

10-8 Becomes 13-11	12-8 Becomes 14-10	14-8 Becomes 15-9
10-10 Becomes 12-12	12-10 Becomes 13-11	

12 Order of Play

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

Visitors remain on the same court

13 Form of Rubber

- (1) In rounds one and two each rubber will consist of one set.
- (2) In the third round each rubber will consist of two sets.
- (3) If the score of six games all is reached then a standard tie-break will be played.

14 Points Scoring System

Each team's league position will be determined by the aggregate of the number of points it has obtained in each match during the season plus any points it has been awarded under Regulation 10.5.

The total number of points awarded for a match shall be 24. The scoring system will be:

- (1) In Rounds 1 and 2:
To win a rubber by one set to love: 2 points
To lose a rubber by one set to love: 0 points
- (2) In Round 3:
To win a rubber by two sets to love: 4 points
To draw a rubber one set all: 2 points
To lose a rubber by two sets to love: 0 points

15 Time of Play - Late Arrival

- (1) All matches must start by 6.30pm and unless mutually agreed otherwise, be played mid-week. **Any 'knock-up' period must be completed by the start time.**
- (2) If a pair is incomplete 15 minutes after the starting time and the opposing pair in correct order is complete, the incomplete pair will forfeit a love set in the first round.
- (3) If the previously incomplete pair is on court ready to play by the completion of the matches in the first round, the second and third rounds are played to the rules.
- (4) If a pair is not on court ready to play by the completion of the matches in the first round, the incomplete pair will forfeit a love set in the second round.
- (5) If the previously incomplete pair is on court ready to play by the completion of the matches in the second round, the third round is played to the rules.
- (6) If a pair is not on court ready to play by the completion of the matches in the second round, both rubbers in the round are forfeited as love sets.
- (7) If neither opposing pair is complete at the starting time the first round is drawn 0/0.
- (8) If a second round rubber is not played due to neither pair being complete the score is 0/0.
- (9) If a third round rubber is not played due to neither pair being complete the score is 0/0, 0/0. It is permissible for a team to substitute a reserve for the second and third rounds provided the reserve is ready to play before the commencement of the previous round.
- (10) Substitutes are only permitted for non-appearance and not because of injuries sustained during play.
- (11) For a pair to be complete both players must be on court, changed and ready to play.
- (12) All sets forfeited in accordance with 15.2, 15.4 or 15.6 above must be indicated on tournament software using the "match abandoned option and then adding a comment as to why the sets were forfeited

16 Player Restriction - Clubs with two teams or more

- (1) Clubs with two teams in the competition must nominate five players who will form the basis of the Club's first team and not play below the first team. Clubs with more than two teams in the competition must nominate a further five players who will not play below the club's second team. If a club has its first and second team in the same division then six players must be nominated for the first team. **Nominations must reach the Regional Secretary by the date of the first match or by 30th April at the latest**
- (2) If a club has not nominated its players by the date of their first match, then the first five (or six as appropriate) players on the first match card shall be the nominated players and any penalties under Rule 16(4) shall be applied.
- (3) If for any reason a nominated player is unable to play for the Club during the current season, the Regional Secretary must be informed immediately and a replacement player nominated. (failure to comply could result in points being deducted).

(4) If a club has two or more teams in the competition a player who plays twice for any higher team or teams, be it in the same or different Division, may not subsequently play for a lower team in that season.

17 Choice of Court

(1) The home team shall have the choice of the surface, and this must preferably be three courts of a like surface.

(2) Matches must start and finish on the same courts unless agreed by both teams before the start of the match

(3) Floodlights, if available, should be used to complete the match.

18 Balls

The balls must be new and ITF approved.

19 Results

All results should be entered on line by the winning team within 72 hours of the match being played. The losing team must confirm these results within 7 days and if they are not happy should contact their divisional secretary immediately. Team Captains should keep the signed scoresheet for reference in case of a query

20 Divisional Winners, Promotions and Relegations

(1) The Divisional Champion will be the team with the most points after all matches are complete and checks have been made by divisional secretaries for ineligible players

(2) In each of the East and West Premier Divisions, the lowest two clubs will be relegated.

(3) In each Division One, normally only one team will be promoted. All other divisions will normally have two promotions and two relegations per season except in Nine Team Divisions where up to three teams may be relegated.

(4) In the event of a tie the percentage of games won to those actually played shall decide Divisional Winners, promotions and relegations.

21 Injuries

If a player is injured during play he is allowed a FIVE minute recovery time. If after five minutes he is unable to continue then he shall concede that match. In case of injury in the first set of the two set match in round three, both sets shall be conceded irrespective of whether the match is completed. A player injured in an earlier round may return for a later round provided he is available to play at the start of the later round.