

Tennis MK League Rules

1. Entry to the Tennis MK League and Knockout Cup events shall be open to all Clubs in membership of 'Tennis MK' with playing facilities that are acceptable to the Management Committee. The minimum requirement is for two courts, lined to LTA tournament standards (multi-lined courts will not be acceptable for adult matches), adequate nets with net bands, access to toilets and a shelter, and, where evening play is required, court lighting that meets an acceptable standard. The Management Committee may inspect the facilities at any time.
2. Teams shall meet only once in all Divisions unless a Division has less than six teams, when they may be required to play home and away. Matches and Tournament rounds shall be played as published in fixture lists.
3. Teams shall consist of four players and may contain any proportions of men or ladies except in the Ladies or Mixed Divisions. For the winter Medley leagues, teams shall consist of two men and two ladies and the mixed pair rubbers shall always be played first. Variations may be considered for junior matches in both summer and winter leagues
4. Teams shall consist of two pairs. Each pair will play the opposing two pairs, making a total of four rubbers. Each rubber shall consist of two sets, with a tie-break at six games all, thereby making a match total of eight sets.

[NB. The Management Committee of 'Tennis MK' strongly advise that the captains of both teams involved in any match contact each other to confirm the match and start time at least 24 hours in advance of the proposed match date and start time.]
5. A team shall be awarded two points for a win on sets. One point shall be awarded to each team when sets are equal.
6. The Home Team shall provide the match balls of acceptable standard to both Captains.
7. If a fixture is rained or frozen off, the Home Club shall be responsible for re-arranging the match. If a result has been obtained (one team has won five sets), the score shall stand without the remaining sets being played. However, un-played sets may need to be played later at the discretion of the Committee.
8. **a)** If, after the arrival of the visiting team, a match is abandoned because of the state of the ground, or due to poor weather or light, then it shall be played on a later date at the visiting team's choice of venue.
b) If, after a match is started and with no result having been obtained, the match is abandoned because of the state of the ground or due to poor weather or light, then it shall be played in its entirety on a later date at the visiting team's choice of venue.
9. All summer matches must be completed by 31st August and winter matches by 31st March. Matches not played before these dates will be declared void.
10. In the event of a team conceding a match, two points, eight sets, forty eight games will be awarded to their opponents.
11. At the end of the season the team with the most points shall be considered the winner. In the event of a tie on points, number of sets, and then the number of games won, shall be taken into consideration.
12. Any dispute shall be decided by the Committee.
13. Promotion and relegation shall be conducted on a two up, two down basis in principle.
a) For reasons of clarity and simplicity clubs must ensure that their teams are numbered/named logically. For example if a club has an A team in a Division and a C team in the same division then C team must be renamed logically, in this instance the C team would become the B team. Unless the club want to change the numbering structure for example rename their teams 1, 2, 3 etc. If a club fails to do this the TennisMK committee shall make the change. Except following a team being relegated/promoted at the end of a season, then the club must not change or alter that team name/number in the following season.
14. **a)** If a Club has more than one team in any Section of the League, (i.e. Open, Ladies, Mixed), a player who has played in higher ranking team(s) more than once is not allowed, in that season, to play in any lower team in the same Section. Juniors playing in senior leagues are subject to the

same rule. League and Knock-out cup matches are regarded as separate for this rule.

In the case of the Knock-out, the rule shall read **b)** Any team entering into a Knock-out cup competition may only qualify to do so if it is competing in one of the summer league divisions.

c) Any player who has played in a higher division in the knock-out cup may not then play in a lower division in the knock-out cup. For players to be eligible to play in the semi-final or final of the Knock-out cup, they must have played at least twice for their registered club, in that particular season, in the Milton Keynes Tennis League or Knock-out cup. The penalty for any team fielding an ineligible player should be, on the first occurrence to deduct all the sets played by the ineligible player and the TennisMK Committee to send a warning to the Club concerned. On the second occurrence to deduct the sets played by the ineligible player and deduct 2 points from the team score.

- 15 **a)** No player may compete for more than one Club in the same section in any one season except with the prior approval of the Committee.
b) A player is eligible to play for a club if he/she is a fully paid up, full paying member of that club. The club must fall within the recognized/designated Milton Keynes League area.
- 16 A valid team shall normally be composed of two pairs, however, rather than concede a match a team can consist of 1 pair. in the Open, Ladies, and Mixed leagues, (in the Winter Medley leagues, 3 players would be required, 2 men 1 lady or 2 ladies 1 man) The sets of the missing pair shall be recorded as 6-0 6-0 to the opposing team. A team will only be allowed to do this twice in a season.

If a club cannot field a team for a fixture and no alternative dates can be agreed and where it does not impact promotion/relegation matters, then the team will forfeit the match 8-0. If the 8-0 result will impact promotion/relegation, then the TMK committee may order the match rearranged during the off season or make a decision as to the outcome. If the same team does this twice in one season, then all fixtures played by that team will be void and that team relegated by one Division.

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- 17 Times of play for all matches must be specified by the home Club at the start of the season. Changes to the start time can only be agreed by mutual consent between the team captains prior to the specified start time. If a pair is more than fifteen minutes late on court they forfeit one set. If a pair is more than one hour late on court, two sets shall be forfeited. If a pair is more than one and a quarter hours late, four sets shall be awarded to the opposing team. If both pairs of a team fail to turn up after 30 minutes of the scheduled start time the team that arrives shall be awarded the points. These forfeits are at the discretion of the home captain and the Committee of Tennis MK expresses the hope that common sense will prevail.
- 18 In Knock-Out competitions, in the event of a draw on sets, games shall be taken into account. In the event of a draw on games, one pair from each four shall play one 'Championship tiebreak' (first pair to 10 points) immediately to decide the winning team. The order of service continues. The order of serving and receiving within the team may be altered as in the beginning of each set. If bad light stops play of the extra tiebreak, it shall be played within seven days by two of the original four players from each team.
- 19 Where two teams from the same Club are playing in the same Division of the League, the match between them shall be the first fixture. If postponed by bad weather, it must be played within four weeks of the original date and other fixtures meanwhile should be fulfilled.
- 20 The captain of the winning team shall be responsible for inserting the result of the match on the Tennis MK website within 48 hours of completion of the match. In the event of a tie the home team should enter the results. There will be no requirement to send completed result cards to the League Secretary. The losing team captain shall verify the result via the Tennis MK website within one week of completion of the match. The home captain will be expected to retain the signed

match card to the end of the season in case of any dispute. [NB. Generic match cards will be available to download from the 'Tennis MK' website.]

- 21 All trophies that are perpetual shall be played for annually. Holders of trophies will be responsible for their safe custody and their return in a clean condition to the League Secretary by Finals weekend.
- 22 The Tennis MK Committee shall, as and when required, establish a disciplinary and complaints sub-committee empowered to take appropriate action against any player, team or Club if the sub-committee is satisfied that the standard of conduct has fallen below the level of acceptable behaviour, or a team or club has deliberately contravened the Rules of the competition.
- 23 The disciplinary and complaints sub-committee will operate within the spirit of the LTA Disciplinary Code and shall be made up of any three Tennis MK Committee members who are not members of the club raising a complaint or subject to the discipline or complaint investigation.
- 24 The disciplinary and complaints sub-committee shall investigate complaints raised by participating clubs in relation to:
 - (i) facilities
 - (ii) compliance with rules (Tennis MK and rules of the game)
 - (iii) on-court conductTennis MK shall have powers to invoke the disciplinary procedure of its own volition if it identifies a potential breach of competition rules.
- 25 The disciplinary and complaints sub-committee's powers in respect of Tennis MK competitions shall be unlimited and will include the power to issue warnings and to impose a ban on a player, team or club found to be in violation of Tennis MK rules or the rules and spirit of the game generally. Any appeal will be decided by the full management committee of Tennis MK and will be final.

Revised March 2020