



TENNIS

2009 RULES

04/03/09

Team Requirements

- There will be one age group: School Years 6, 7 & 8
- A team shall consist of 6 players: 3 boys and 3 girls
- Two boys and two girls will play singles. One boy and one girl will team up to make a mixed doubles pair.
- Five 'separate' or 'individual' matches called 'rubbers' will comprise a 'match'.
- Players may only play for one team.
- The Team Manager and players should be familiar with the tie-break scoring format.

Team Eligibility

- Players must have no rating or a rating no better than 9.2.
- The LTA database of the ratings, which go live on 20th April 2009, will determine a player's rating and therefore their eligibility.
- Players who have represented the County from 1st March 2008 and up to 1st April 2009 will not be eligible.
- Players must be ranked in LTA rating order and if no rating is available or ratings of players are the same then Team Managers must rank their team in ability order, i.e. numbers 1 & 2 play singles and number 3 will play mixed doubles in all cases.

Competition Format

- Normal tennis balls will be used and games will be played on a full size tennis court.
- The events will be run using a timed format and will therefore be relatively short and sharp.
- The events will be run as round robin group formats followed by play-offs to determine final team placings.
- Where possible the previous year's finalists will be seeded into separate groups.
- Each team match will comprise 2 boys singles, 2 girls singles and 1 mixed doubles played against opposing numbers.

Sports Rules

The competition will be played to LTA Rules with the following modifications:

- The length of each individual match will be set by the Event Co-ordinator, and will be determined by the number of teams entered.
- The individual match format is an 'extended tie break', i.e. play a tie break for a specified period of time. E.g. at the end of the specified time, the score could be 10–6. The player with the most points is the winner.

- Players will be expected, and must be encouraged to play as many points as possible within the time span.
- An air horn will be sounded to mark the start and end of each match. When the air horn sounds only the point currently in play may be finished. Where the match score is level a sudden death point should be played - there is no requirement for the match to be won by two clear points. If the air horn sounds in between the first and second serves, the point will be deemed to have started and the players must complete the point.
- The key rules of the tie break are as follows:
 - i) The player or team serving first serves for one point.
 - ii) Thereafter each player or team serves in two point rotations.
 - iii) Players will change ends after every 6 points

Group Placings

- Teams will be ranked within their group according to the number of wins gained and where a two-way tie occurs the result between the individual teams will decide the result. In a three-way tie the number of 'rubbers' won will decide the result.
- In the case of a further tie, (E.g. if three or more teams are still tied), the number of tie-break points won will decide the result. If after this, two teams are still tied, the result between these two teams will decide the result.

Conceded Matches

- Where a team can only field a team of only 2 boys or 2 girls then those 2 players must be Boy 1 and Boy 2 (same for the girls). However this is not the case should the player become injured after having played in a match or matches. In this situation the original player's numbers shall stand for the remaining matches.
- A zero score shall be recorded for the team unable to field a player whilst the opposition shall receive the win, and the rubber score will be recorded as 15-0.
- In the event of a player being unable to complete a started match they shall concede the match to the opposition with the score of the player in question recorded at the stage the match was stopped. The opposition shall receive the win and a 'rubber' score of 15 unless their score was higher than at the stage the match stopped.

Official's Decision

- In all matters relating to the competition the Event Co-ordinators decision shall be final and binding.