

**THE DUNLOP MANCHESTER & DISTRICT
LAWN TENNIS LEAGUE
RULES 2026**

1. The name of the League shall be “THE DUNLOP MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS LEAGUE”.
2. The League shall be confined to, and consist of, clubs affiliated to the Lancashire or Cheshire Lawn Tennis Association.
3. The League shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of a President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Match Secretary as ex officio members, and five other members all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Excluding ex officio members, no club shall be entitled to more than one member on this Committee. Four to form a quorum.
- 3a. The President shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected at the AGM for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The President is an ex officio member of the Executive Committee.
4. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the last day of February. The Hon. Secretary shall give fourteen days’ notice to all clubs. Each club must be represented and is entitled to send delegates to the meeting, one of whom is empowered to vote. Any club not represented will be fined £10.
- 4a. A special meeting shall be held after the conclusion of the season and the Hon. Secretary shall give fourteen days’ notice of this to all clubs. Each club must be represented and any club not represented will be fined £5.
5. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the League and shall be empowered to deal with any offending club or clubs, player or players, and to use the League funds as they think advisable. All officers shall retire at each Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.
6. Any member of the Executive Committee failing to attend three consecutive meetings shall be considered to have vacated his/her seat, and the Committee shall be empowered to fill any such vacancies.
7. The Annual Subscription for all teams for the forthcoming season shall be determined by the Executive Committee at a meeting

previous to the Annual General Meeting each year. Subscriptions and fines shall be paid by each club to the Hon. Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

8. The League shall consist of one or more divisions of an approximately equal number of teams, the composition of which shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting. Clubs in the Men's and Ladies' Divisions will play their home matches on either a Wednesday or a Thursday. If a club has more than three teams in these Divisions, with the exception of the First Team, their home matches can be played on a Friday.
- 8a. The leading team of each division shall be promoted to the next higher division in the following season, and the lowest team in each division shall be relegated to the next lower division. In the event of a relegated team dropping out of the League, the next lower team shall be liable for relegation. In these particular circumstances the Executive Committee may determine that a play off match between the next lower team and the second team in the lower division shall take place. Wherever possible the match shall take place at a neutral venue. In the event of a team, other than a relegated team, dropping out of a higher division, the second team in the lower division shall have precedence over the relegated team.

Where there are more than six teams in each division, the two leading teams shall be promoted to the next higher division in the following season and the two lowest teams in each division shall be relegated to the next lower division.
- 8b. A maximum of two teams only from one club may play in Men's Division One and Ladies' Division One.
9. Each Men's and Ladies' League team shall consist of six players (three pairs) and doubles only to be played.
- 9a. Fixtures, once made, must be adhered to except when postponed owing to bad weather. Should a team not adhere, the club will be subject to **a fine up to a maximum of £25, or a deduction of two points, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.** Aggravating features will determine the penalty awarded. Clubs may change one date throughout the season, providing 14 calendar days' notice is given to the opponents by the club wishing to alter the date. The home club must offer 3 alternative dates, **which must include at least two dates which are not a Saturday or Sunday**

but none of these dates shall all fall on the same day of the week and inform the Match Secretary of this arrangement.

- 9b. Where clubs have both indoor and outdoor courts, League matches should be played on the outdoor courts unless both captains mutually agree otherwise, or weather conditions make play on these outdoor courts unsafe, prior to the match commencing and indoor courts are available for use.
10. Men's League matches shall comprise of one long set to be played against each pair up to a **maximum of sixteen games**. A set is won if a couple wins 8 games and the couple has a 2 game lead over the opponents, eg. 8-6. Should the set reach 7-7, then a further 2 games are played and the set can be won 9-7. Should the set reach **8-8 then a tie-break**, under LTA Rules, will be played. The winner of the tie-break will win the set by a score of 9-8.

Ladies' League matches shall comprise of one long set to be played against each pair up to a **maximum of fourteen games**. A set is won if a couple wins 8 games and the couple has a 2 game lead over the opponents, eg. 8-6. Should the set reach **7-7 then a tie-break**, under LTA Rules, will be played. The winner of the tie-break will win the set by a score of 8-7.

Match courts to be provided with centre tapes. All matches will terminate at the time printed in the League Handbook. Any matches re-arranged for a date or time different from the original fixture shall have an agreed finish time equivalent to the duration of the original fixture. Any game(s) in progress at the finish time shall be completed.

11. All match players must be bona-fide club members and no League team player shall be allowed to play for more than one club connected with this League during the current season with the exception of the Mixed League. A player becomes committed to a club in any competition once he/she has played his/her first event.
12. Any club in the first division of the Men's League with more than one team in the Men's divisions shall submit a list in strict order of merit of their **FOUR** first ranked players to the Match Secretary prior to the season commencing. These players shall only be eligible to play for the first team.

Clubs with more than one team in the Ladies' League shall submit a list in strict order of merit to the Match Secretary prior to the

season commencing. The first **TWO** ranked players shall be eligible for the first team only and the next **TWO** ranked players shall be eligible for the first and second teams only.

These lists will be considered by the Executive Sub Committee who must approve them. The committee reserve the right to vary these ranking lists during the season.

12a. (i) Where there are 8 or 10 scheduled fixtures to be played in the Men's or Ladies' Divisions a player can play six times for a team before being ineligible to play for a team of a lower ranking. Players are always eligible to play for a team of a higher ranking.

(ii) Where there are 15 scheduled fixtures to be played in the Men's First Division a player can play eight times before becoming ineligible to play for a team of a lower ranking. Players are always eligible to play for a team of a higher ranking.

12b. **Loan Players.** In order to field a team in a league match the lowest team of any club in the bottom division may loan registered players from another club with the approval of the loaning club. Loan players must not have played in a division higher for their own club that season unless approval is given by the Executive Sub-Committee. A loaned player must be declared as such on the match card.

12c. Where there are eight or ten matches scheduled to be played in the Men's and Ladies' Divisions no player shall be eligible to play in a team's scheduled final two matches of the season as per the fixture list whenever played if they have not already played twice for that team previously. In the last three scheduled fixture weeks of Division One of the Men's Competition a player must have played for that team in at least three league matches in this competition prior to the last three fixtures scheduled as per the fixture list whenever played. Clubs may apply for an exemption from this rule to the Executive Sub Committee in respect of full time students aged 14 or over living away from home who are bona fide members of the club. This application should be made prior to 1st July. Any team having more than one team in Division One have their second team exempt from this rule.

13. The Results Cards for all League matches, signed by both captains after the match has been completed, shall be sent **ELECTRONICALLY** to the Match Secretary at:

manchestertennisresults@gmail.com by the **HOME CLUB**. Full names of the players involved in the match should be recorded on the card. The Results Card must arrive no later than the **MONDAY** of the week following the week commencing the Sunday in which the match was played. The **AWAY captain should keep a copy of the signed card by photographing it** in the event that any issue arises and be prepared to send the copy to the Match Secretary on request. As the responsibility for providing the result rests with the Home Club, a **FINE of £20** will be imposed on the Home Club if the result is not received within the timescale specified above. The Executive Committee also reserve the right to impose a points deduction instead of a fine when there are aggravating features concerning the completion or submission of the card. The decision of the Executive Committee and any penalty is final.

14. If at the time of cessation less than six sets have been completed the match shall be replayed unless a team has won five sets. Uncompleted sets shall not be taken into account. Should the completed sets be equal, the match result will be a draw.

In the event of no play being possible, due to bad weather or in the event of a replay, the **Home Team Captain** must contact the Away Team Captain **within 7 days** of the original fixture date, offering three alternative dates and the three dates shall not include relevant arranged fixtures for the opposing team.

The **Away Team Captain** must respond and a date must be agreed upon **within the following 7 days**. If the Home Team agrees to the match being replayed on the Away Team's courts, the selection of 3 dates reverts to the Away Team. The Home Team has 7 days to respond. The dates must include at least 2 midweek dates. The **Home Team Captain must notify the Match Secretary** of the fact that the fixture has not been played **within 24 hours**, preferably by email, and shall thereafter also keep the Match Secretary informed of the progress made in fixing a rearranged date. Failure to play a match or keep the Match Secretary informed in accordance with this rule could render a club liable to a fine, to be determined by the Executive Committee, up to a maximum of **£25, or a deduction of 2 points**.

All matches must be completed **by the 31st August**. If the timescale is not adhered to by either side, the opposing team may contact the Match Secretary with a view to claiming the match.

15. in the event of no play being possible:
 - (i) If the Secretaries of both clubs are able personally to communicate with each other on the day of play and shall mutually agree that play is impossible due to bad weather, the match may be postponed subject to Rule 14.
 - (ii) If the Secretaries are unable to communicate, both teams shall present themselves on the ground at which the match should be played.

If a team fails to be present, unless under condition (i) above, the match shall be awarded to the team present and the score read: 3 points for the win, 9 sets to 0. The default will come before the Executive Committee who may deduct 2 points from the defaulting team.

16. All cases of dispute shall be brought before the Executive Committee. If a member of that committee is connected with one of the clubs in dispute, then the member concerned must automatically withdraw from the committee on this occasion.
17. In the event of not less than four players presenting themselves for a match, then 6 sets shall be played and 3 sets and 24 games shall be forfeited.
18. In the event of a player receiving such injury as to make it necessary for the pair to withdraw from further play, then the opponents shall be awarded the necessary number of games to complete the set. Any sets already completed to stand and any remaining sets to be awarded to the opponents, each set to count 8-0.
19. All matches shall commence by 6.45pm. If a player is not ready to play the first point by 7.00pm, then the set shall be forfeited 8-0. If neither pair is ready at 6.45pm then the set is void. **Once the first round of matches is fully completed** by all pairs present, then any player(s) arriving after this point will forfeit their events in the second round. **Once the second round of matches is fully completed** by all pairs present, then any player(s) arriving after this point will forfeit their events in the third round.
20. Players must await the Captain's decision with regard to the possibility of play before leaving the ground.
21. **Three points** shall be given for each match won and **two points** for a draw. Matches shall be decided on sets. A losing team shall be awarded **one point** if they win a minimum of 3 sets. In the event of

two or more clubs finishing the season with equal points, then final positions to be decided by **head to head results** against one another. For the purpose of this calculation sets, and if need be games, will be taken into consideration. In the event that the teams still remain tied then the final position will be decided on the difference between the total number of sets won and the total number of sets lost.

22. Where trophies are provided for the winners of each competition promoted by the League, these shall be held by the winners for one year. The holders shall be responsible for the loss or damage to the trophies, which shall remain at all times the property of the League. The trophies shall be returned to the League Secretary or a League Committee member, **cleaned**, by the **1st of September** each year. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine.
- 22a. Additional competition(s), generally on a knockout basis, will normally be held each season at the discretion of the Executive Committee, subject to separate Sets of Rules as issued. The trophy for such competitions to be the property of the League and cannot be won outright.
23. Any club guilty of inducing or attempting to induce a bona-fide member of another League club to leave the club of which he/she is a member shall be liable to a fine or expulsion from the League.
24. Any matter not dealt with in these Rules may be dealt with by the Executive Committee, including the power to fine clubs or deduct points as and when appropriate, up to a maximum of £25. Aggravating features will determine the penalty to be imposed which is not subject to any appeal.
25. No alterations or additions shall be made to these Rules except at the Annual General Meeting and **14 days' notice** must be given to the Hon. Secretary of any proposed alterations or additions which shall be forwarded to the clubs at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. Such alterations and additions shall not be deemed carried unless supported by a two-thirds majority of members present.
26. The Hon. Secretary shall be empowered to summon an Extraordinary General Meeting upon the written request of seven clubs or more.

27. Clubs intending to resign membership must notify the Hon. Secretary to that effect on or before 1st February.
- 28a. All players must show respect for their opponents. Conduct which may reasonably be interpreted as intended to offend, insult, humiliate, ridicule or cause harm or fear to another will render a player liable to disciplinary action by the league.
- 28b. Players must also refrain from using audible obscenities and obscene gestures even when meant towards themselves. A racquet, ball, or other object must never be hit, kicked, or thrown in anger. If an individual player feels aggrieved at such type of conduct they are entitled to complain to the opposing club or captain. The club should investigate the complaint and notify the complaining player or club within 14 days of the result and any action taken. If a club is not satisfied with the outcome they may refer the matter to the Executive Committee who will adjudicate on the matter.
- 28c. A justified complaint falling within rule 28a or 28b can result in the withdrawal of the player's eligibility to play in the league permanently or for a number of matches. Clubs may also be subject to a points deduction. The decision of the Executive Committee and any penalty is final.