

Rules

Surrey Knockouts

Winter 2024/25

For clarity, changes in wording since the previous rules are highlighted in red.

Events Available:

- Singles – Men (OPEN,35,45,55,65)
- Singles – Women (OPEN, 35,40,50,60)
- Doubles – Men (OPEN,45,55,65)
- Doubles – Women (OPEN,40,50,60)
- Doubles – Mixed (OPEN,45)

Age Restrictions: All age groups are aligned with the LTA's age group system which is based on a player's year of birth. Your eligibility is based on your 2025 playing age. Find an age calculator [HERE](#).

Eligibility: Players **MUST** be a member of a Surrey registered venue to compete. Please note the following rule changes:

- Doubles pairs are **NOT** required to be a member of the same Surrey venue. They **MUST** however still be a member of a Surrey registered venue. If a pair is from different clubs, then 1 of their venues must be nominated as the pair's HOME venue. This then must remain the same for the remainder of the event.
- For David Lloyd Club members, your 'HOME' club must be within Surrey.

Entry Fees:

- Singles events: £15.00
- Doubles events: £10.00 per player (**players CANNOT enter for their partner. Each player must enter themselves.**)

Scoring format:

- Open and 35+ events – best of 3 sets with a tie break at 6 games all in all 3 sets.
- Senior (Veteran) Over 40 events –2 tie break sets followed by a match tie break (to 10pts) at 1 set all.
- FINALS – The referee reserves the right on finals day to run all age groups with a format of 2 tie break sets followed by a match tie break (to 10pts) at 1 set all.

Contact information: At the beginning of each season, players will receive an e-mail containing a link to their draw and contact details for their first opponent/s. It is the responsibility of the home player/pair to make the necessary arrangements to play their match. As the season progresses you will receive information for each match.

Home advantage: When the draw is first published, home advantage for each match is determined by which player or pair is positioned higher in the draw. After the first round, each age group **Coordinator** will advise the player or pair whether or not they will have home advantage for their next round. For the purpose of deciding home advantage, a walk-over or bye is regarded as a home match.

Home players or pairs must provide at least three new yellow balls to be used for the match.

Home players or pairs must offer their opposition at least 3 dates, at least a week apart before the round play by date.

Results: Results must be told to the relevant age group **Coordinator** by the winning player or pair within 24 hours of the match completion.

Coordinators: Each age event will have a named **Coordinator** who is tasked with ensuring the draws adhere to the round dates, take results from players and advise on home advantage and next opponents. The **Coordinators** are volunteers and must be the first port of call for any queries. The **Coordinators** will then liaise with the county office where necessary.

Seedings: The seedings for all events are decided prior to the season starting by the 'Seedings Committee' using a criteria based on rating, past performance and tennis knowledge. All seedings that are put in place are final and will not be changed unless the Competitions Committee deems it necessary.

Court surfaces: Any surface is permitted to be played on, it is the decision of the home player. However once a match starts on a chosen surface, unless weather intervenes, then the match must NOT be moved to another surface during the match unless players mutually agree.

Player absence:

If a player is absent without good cause when called upon to play at the expiration of thirty minutes from the time agreed for the commencement of the match, his opponent or opponents shall be entitled immediately to one love set, and at the expiration of sixty minutes to a further love set.

Walkover:

Any player withdrawing within **72 hours** of an agreed match will risk conceding a walkover. Situations of this must be immediately raised to the relevant event **Coordinator**.

Verbal Abuse, Harassment, Intimidation & Threatening Behaviour:

If a parent, member of staff, consultant, coach, official or volunteer acts in an abusive way toward their child or a player then you should report the concern to the LTA Safeguarding team via: <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/>. If you believe the child/player is in immediate danger please call the Police on 999 or if it is not deemed an emergency, please report via 101. For additional advice, you can also contact the NSPCC and/or other Surrey local authority children services:

- *Local Authority Children's Social Care Services*
- *Local Authority Adult Social Care Services*

If there is an incident where no referee is present, then any complaint about the conduct of a player and/or their entourage should be made to the Surrey Competitions Manager by the Captain of the team (in team competitions) or individual players (in knockout matches). All complaints must be made within 2 days of the alleged incident occurring.

The complaint must be made in writing (which includes e-mail) and shall set out full details of the incident giving rise to the complaint and identifying all the players involved. Any supporting evidence must be submitted with the complaint.

Coordinator Respect: All of our **Coordinators** are volunteers and we expect them to be treated with respect. Be aware that if we deem that a player has displayed any abusive, threatening or intimidating behaviour towards one of our **Coordinators**, we reserve the right to withdraw them from the draw.

Clothing: We are aware that some clubs competing in Surrey competitions have regulations in place that state that dress on their courts should be predominantly white. Although clubs are allowed to request the opposition team adhere to this rule, they cannot insist on it. For any questions relating to this, please contact the Surrey office.

Additional Entries: It is at the counties discretion to add additional entries into any draw following the entry deadline. This may result in already published draws having to be altered. If that is the case, all affected players will be contacted.

Balls/Hospitality:

- Home teams must provide a minimum of 3 brand new balls for rubbers D1 vs D1 and D2 vs D2. The same balls can then be used for the following 2 rubbers. Clubs are allowed to provide new balls if they wish after the first two rubbers are completed, however both captains must be in agreement. Players should bring their own drinks / snacks to matches.
- Home players must offer access to water and access to toilet facilities.
- Prior to the match date, home teams to are encouraged to agree with the opposing captain the provision of light refreshments.

Trans-Gender: Surrey Tennis sanctions trans males and females wishing to take part in any Surrey Tennis competition. We recognise, however, that there may be some concerns about fairness in the women's and mixed game. Our policy assumes that trans women (male-to-female trans person) wishing to compete in mixed or female sanctioned tennis competitions do so with the best of intentions and with no intent to deceive about their status to gain any competitive advantage. Accordingly, you should accept people in the gender they present and verification of their identity should be no more than that expected of any other player. If you need more information regarding our policy on trans players or if you would like to discuss a concern about competing against a trans player, then please contact competitions@surrey.tennis

Finals Day

- Saturday, 22nd March 2025 venue TBC
- If a player knows in advance that they cannot compete on finals day, then they MUST not enter. Players who discover they cannot compete on the finals day during the event must concede at match point at quarter finals.