

RULES

Wilson Surrey Leagues

Winter 2025-2026

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

These regulations are drawn up by the Surrey Competitions Team who may vary them at their discretion. Such regulations will apply in all County Competitions except where amended or superseded by special regulations.

Competitions under these regulations shall be conducted by the Surrey Competitions Team, whose decision on all matters relating thereto shall be final.

Competitions are open only to registered venues of the LTA and Surrey Tennis and to members thereof.

Players in County Competitions must have LTA Advantage Tennis membership as a minimum and be linked to the venue they represent.

Only playing members of a registered venue may play in county competitions.

The Surrey Competitions Team may divide any or all of the competitions into groups and/or divisions at their discretion.

The Surrey Competitions Team has the right to refuse any entry, and to transfer any entry where it deems appropriate.

A player may play for only one club in any one type of event in a season, but a player may play for a different club in a different competition.

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 Team (competitions@surrey.tennis) 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.

Match Day Rules

- 1.) **Play Up Rule:** For the purpose of this ruling, the term 'up' is defined as any team in a higher division than the team a player is originally selected for by their club prior to the season starting.

Note, there is no Play Down Rule. All clubs are expected to select players in a spirit of fair play. We would not expect to see players who have in the current (or recent) season(s) represented a club's higher ranked teams playing for significantly lower division. Cases of this will be considered by League Coordinators and the Surrey Competitions Team on a case-by-case basis and may be treated in a similar way to a team fielding an ineligible player.

- (i) Players are allowed two opportunities to play up during a season above the team they were originally selected for. It is crucial to note if a player plays up for a second time, then it makes them ineligible to play again for their originally selected team. The player must then remain in the same team they played up to for the second time, for the rest of the season.
- (ii) If a club has two or more teams in the same division of a league there must be no interchange of players between these teams.

NOTE: A video is available to watch on our website which talks about this rule in more detail. You can see the video by heading to the 'captain's area' for the Wilson Surrey Leagues and clicking 'video tutorials'.

2.) **Lateness of a team:** 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.

3.) **Player Retirement:** If a player retires during a rubber, the score as stands is entered at the point of cessation. The status of that rubber will be recorded as "retired", selecting the winning team.

They can however return for the 2nd rubber if they wish. If they do not return for the second rubber, then that match is recorded as "walkover" with no score entered.

4.) **Weather Delay:** If a match is postponed due to inclement weather the match is decided as follows: If two or more rubbers have been completed at the point of cessation, the match stands. The remaining rubbers are then halved. If two rubbers have not been completed, the match is replayed from scratch. You will not require

the same players to play if the match is replayed from scratch. Scores for any rubbers unfinished should be recorded as at the point of cessation and status set to "Abandoned", i.e. if the score is 6-2, 1-4 at the point the rubber is stopped, that is what should be entered.

Please note, if both captains are in agreement, then the match can be continued from the point of cessation when the weather permits. If this decision is agreed, then the exact same team of players must return to complete the match.

- (i) If captains are not in agreement on the playability of the courts, then both teams must re-arrange the match using one of the available rain dates or another suitable date carrying on from the point of cessation. If a date cannot be agreed upon then you must contact the your league co-ordinator who will decide the outcome.
- (ii) If the home team deems that the match should not be postponed due to weather prior to the scheduled start time, then the away team must travel to the home venue before any further decision on the match can be made.
- (iii) We would expect captains to wait at least 30 minutes after the scheduled start time to allow the courts to become playable.

6.) Balls/Hospitality:

- (i) Players should bring their own match time drinks / snacks.
- (ii) Home teams must offer access to water and access to toilet facilities.
- (iii) Prior to the match date, home teams to are encouraged to agree with the opposing captain the provision of post-match light refreshments.
- (iv) 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.

7.) **Result entry:** The result must be entered online within 48 hours of match completion by the winning team captain. We urge losing captains to check the result has been entered correctly after 48 hours. If there is an issue, please contact your League Coordinator available on the Surrey Tennis website [Summer Leagues Captains Area | Surrey Tennis](#) – at the bottom of the page

8.) Playing Order:

HOME 1 vs. AWAY 1
HOME 2 vs. AWAY 2
HOME 1 vs. AWAY 2
HOME 2 vs. AWAY 1

9.) Scoring formats:

Men's Doubles:

2 full sets with a championship tie-break (to 10) at 1 set all.

Women's Doubles:

2 full sets with a championship tie-break (to 10) at 1 set all.

Women's / Men's Midweek Doubles:

2 full sets with a championship tie-break (to 10) at 1 set all.

Women's Over 50 and Men's Over 55:

2 full sets with a championship tie-break (to 10) at 1 set all.

10.) How final league standings are calculated:

- (i) Match Points. If tied...
- (ii) Percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played. If tied...
- (iii) Percentage of sets won to sets played. If tied...
- (iv) Percentage of games won to games played.

11.) Final online league positions: At the end of the season, all league standings shown online will be final. In incidents where the table online is shown incorrectly, we will make all Captains aware and issue the correct standings. Please note, we are unable to change the order on the website.

12.) Floodlights: For clubs with a floodlight curfew of 21:30 or earlier, we require home captains to offer the following to the opposition captain:

- Earlier start time between 18:00 and 18:30
- Sudden death deuce, in mixed matches, lady to lady and man to man.
- Championship tie-break to 7 instead of 10
- Short sets (first to 4 games with tie-break at 4-4).

The opposition can choose whether or not to accept any of these options to ensure the match gets completed, but they are not obliged to. Regardless, if the floodlights turn off during the match, then the 'Weather Delay' ruling will apply (see point 4.)

13.) Match Times:

- (i) Men's/Women's Weekend: Although it is common for matches to start at 10:00, clubs are entitled to offer alternative times with a start time no later than 16:00.
- (ii) Mixed: It is expected that mixed league matches start at 19:00 Mon-Fri. If a club has a floodlight curfew then please see point 12 above.
- (iii) Men's/Women's/Vets Midweek: It is expected that matches start no later than 16:00 unless otherwise agreed by both captains.

14.) Walkover Claims: If a team pulls out of a match within 72 hours of the arranged start time, then they may concede the walkover. We would still encourage captains to mutually agree another date to play. Walkovers **CAN ONLY** be sanctioned/entered by the League Coordinator. Depending on the circumstances, the League Coordinator may also impose a penalty point.

15.) **Two player teams:** To ensure matches are played, clubs are entitled to field two player teams for a league match in cases where raising a full team is not possible. They would therefore begin the match by conceding the two rubbers for which they have no players and begin 0-2 down. Those 2 rubbers to be recorded as not played). The team with two players is then able to achieve a draw at best. We do ask that out of courtesy, the team fielding two players ensures they warn the opposition captain in advance of the start time, that they will be only fielding two players.

16.) **Court Surface/Indoor:** Any surface is permitted to be played on, it is the decision of the home team. However once a match starts on a chosen surface, unless weather intervenes, then the match must NOT be moved to another surface during the rubber unless captains mutually agree. Matches are permitted to take place indoors if the home venue has the option.

17.) Fixed/Play By/Week Commencing Dates:

i) Fixed Dates: The dates for fixed matches are set. A team not able to make a commitment to a fixed date will be risking a walkover and possible penalty point. It is extremely important that teams commit to these dates.

Applies to: Men's and Women's OPEN Divisions

- Fixed Dates Summer: Divisions 1-4
- Fixed Dates Winter: Divisions 1-12

ii.) Play by Dates: The club drawn at home shall be responsible for making arrangements, offering to the opposing club at least three dates, one of which shall be the round date; the others to be prior to the round date.

Applies to:

- Men's/Women's OPEN, Mixed, Midweek and Veteran Divisions

18.) Promotion/Relegation:

Men's and Women's Doubles:

Division 1:

- 1st place – Winner
- 5th place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th place – Relegated 1 Division

Divisions 2-3:

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 1 Division

Division 4:

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th & 6th Place – Relegated to 5 East or 5 West

Division 5 East/5 West:

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 4th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 2 Divisions

Division 6 East/6 West:

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 2 Divisions

Division 7 East/7 West ONWARDS....

- 1st Place – Promoted 2 Divisions
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 2 Divisions

Mixed Doubles (SUMMER):**Division 1:**

- 1st place – Winner
- 5th place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th place – Relegated 1 Division

Divisions 2-3:

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 1 Division

Division 4:

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th & 6th Place – Relegated to 5 East or 5 West

Division 5 East/5 West:

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 1 Division

Division 6 East/6 West ONWARDS....

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 1 Division

Ladies'/Men's Midweek Doubles:**Division 1:**

- 1st place – Winner
- 5th place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th place – Relegated 1 Division



Division 2 ONWARDS....

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 1 Division

Men's O45, Men's O55, Ladies' O50 Doubles:

Division 1:

- 1st place – Winner
- 5th place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th place – Relegated 1 Division

Division 2 ONWARDS....

- 1st Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 2nd Place – Promoted 1 Division
- 5th Place – Relegated 1 Division
- 6th Place – Relegated 1 Division

In Divisions with greater or fewer than 6 teams, the top 2 finishers will be promoted and the bottom 2 relegated (with the exception of Divisions 5 in the Men's and Women's Open divisions where the East / West divisions are introduced.)

19.) **League Deadline:** In a traditional season the summer league matches must be completed by 29th September at the latest and winter matches by 29th March at the latest. In extenuating circumstances the county will allow matches to be played after this deadline.

- i) If an insufficient number of matches have been played by a team in a division, then the Surrey Competition Team will investigate the reasoning behind the un-played matches and will take necessary action as the Team deems appropriate.

20.) **Multiple Clubs:** Players are only able to represent one club in each event. Any example of players representing a second club in the same event will result in all rubbers containing the ineligible player for that subsequent club being conceded, to be entered as a walkover by League Coordinator. The results for the first club they represented will not be affected. Players may represent multiple clubs across different events. For the purpose of this rule, events are grouped as followed:

- Men's/Women's East/West Open Divisions
- Men's /Women's Midweek Divisions
- Mixed East/West Divisions
- Veteran Divisions (Men's Over 45/55 & Women's Over 50)

21.) Age Restrictions:

- i.) All age groups are aligned with the LTA's age group system which is based on a player's year of birth. More information on this can be found [here](#).

ii.) There are no minimum age requirements for competing in the Wilson Surrey Leagues, however we would ask that junior players only compete if their captain feels they are emotionally and physically able to compete with adults.

22.) **All White Clothing:** We are aware that some clubs competing in The Surrey Competitions Team 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.

23.) **Transgender:** 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