

RULES

Surrey Knockouts

Winter 2025/26

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.

Eligibility: Players **MUST** be an LTA registered member and a member of a Surrey registered venue to compete and all matches must take place at a Surrey registered venue.

- i.) 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. Matches may be played at either home venue.
- ii.) For David Lloyd Club members, your 'HOME' club must be within Surrey.

Prices:

- 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 championship 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 championship 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 from your League Coordinator. It is both opponent's responsibility to make necessary arrangements to play the matches as soon as possible after receiving the match details.

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 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.

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

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

Results: must be reported to your coordinator by the winning player or pair within 24 hours of the match being completed.

Coordinators: Each age event will have a specific 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 liaise with the county office whenever 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 all players mutually agree.

Finals day: **Saturday 21st March** at a venue to be confirmed.

Please ensure you keep this date in your diary. A reminder that if you know you are unable to make the finals day, you must concede on match point at Quarter Final stage. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from future events.

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 the match is conceded and a walkover will be given.

Walkover: Any player withdrawing within 72 hours of an agreed match will risk conceding a walkover. Situations of this must be immediately raised to your coordinator.

Aggressive Behavior: 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 Administrator by the individual players. 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 behavior 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 players must provide a minimum of 3 brand new yellow balls for their match.
- 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 players are encouraged to agree with the opposition the provision of light refreshments.

Trans-Gender:

New 2025 Rule:

In line with the LTA's Transgender and Non-Binary Policy December 2024, as the Surrey Knockouts are classified as a "Specified Competition", trans women and non-binary individuals assigned male at birth are restricted from playing in the women's events. This policy helps ensure there is a common national standard with the purpose of providing fair competitive opportunities.

The policy will come into effect on 25th January 2025 and will be kept under review in light of any new scientific or other information. We recognise the diversity of opinion around this matter and would like to assure the tennis community that the LTA will continue to listen to all views and keep the Policy under review in response to emerging research and data, and further guidance from other relevant bodies."

The full LTA Policy can be accessed here: [lta-trans-and-non-binary-policy.pdf](#)

We hope you have an enjoyable season. Surrey Tennis Competition Team.