

**RULES OF IPSWICH & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS SUMMER LEAGUE – valid 2026 [last change 2025 shown in bold]**

**Those in RED are either new rules or of significance to match players, please read carefully.**

1. CONSTITUTION

- a) To be known as Ipswich & District Lawn Tennis League
- b) **New Club application/entry to be approved by committee.**
- c) Clubs must be members of Suffolk LTA.
- d) Controlled by President, Hon. League Administrator, Hon. Treasurer plus Committee of seven members from different Clubs all elected at AGM. An officer can be from the same club as the committee, however in the event of a committee vote, only 1 vote per club allowed.
- e) Annual General Meeting to be held in April, attended by anyone but each member Club allowed only 1 vote.
- f) Rules alter only at AGM. An amendment to a previously approved rule (existing or new), where the subject is substantially the same, cannot be made for 3 years after approval.
- g) Written proposals of alterations to rules or resolutions to be given to League Administrator by 31 December.
- h) Committee to have full jurisdiction over any matter not covered by rules and its decision will be final.
- i) League trophies to be held for one year by winners who are responsible for their safekeeping and returned to the League.

2. COMPOSITION

- a) Mens, Ladies & Mixed doubles sections arranged in divisions.
- b) Division to contain five teams where possible.
- c) Teams to play home & away matches against each other team in division.
- d) Teams to consist of three pairs who will play 1 set against each of the opposing pairs.
- e) Number of sets won to decide result of match, two points awarded for a win.
- f) Position of teams with equal points at end of season decided by calculating percentage of sets won. If still equal, then percentage of games won will apply.
- g) All promotions & relegations subject to the requirements of league entries & division numbers.
- h) Clubs to enter teams by date **requested by League Admin.**
- i) Committee to prepare composition of sections and divisions as recommendation to Annual General Meeting for approval or amendment. **To be advised to Club Fixture Secretaries to enable fixture making after Spring Committee meeting.**
- j) Late entries accepted up to **notified committee meeting date** only to fill vacancies.

3. FIXTURES

- a) Will be made by the Annual General Meeting.
- b) Will be arranged to take place between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> July on any day of the week **(or earlier or later if mutually agreed).**
- c) Each club to send fixture list to League Administrator by **date requested to allow for cross checking.**
- d) Matches to be played on or before fixture date.
- e) Fixture dates may be altered only in special circumstances if both clubs agree, **the League Admin must be advised.**
- f) Permission is not required for postponement caused by weather.

4. MATCHES

- a) All matches shall be played according to LTA rules. **This includes complying with Code of Conduct.**
- b) The home club to provide new "Official" or "Authorised" balls for each match.
- c) **Match start time to be agreed when the fixture is made.**
- d) **"Knocking up" is not allowed after the first round has been played. Players waiting for their next opponents should knock up (if wanted) on their court, in order to be ready for their next set to start promptly.**
- e) Any pair responsible for play not starting on any court within 15 minutes of starting time shall forfeit 4 games and if not within 30 minutes shall forfeit one set.
- f) A match shall have started on playing of first point by any one pair.
- g) If play is suspended the score and occupancy of court will hold good on resumption unless both captains agree otherwise.
- h) The visiting captain, upon court inspection, shall decide whether or not conditions are suitable for play so long as the home club deems the court surface playable.
- i) Play shall not be resumed or completed on any date after that on which a result is obtained for the match.
- j) **In case of dispute, any player, who decides to leave before a set result is agreed, should be deemed to have conceded affected set/s.**
- k) In 3 court matches, the visiting pairs play all their sets on same courts.
- l) Any team conceding 2 or more matches shall be automatically relegated to the next lower division and any match results discounted.

cont. overleaf

5. RESULTS

- a) Shall be emailed as photo/image of signed score sheet to League Administrator by Home Club including full player names & both signatures, **within 5 days of match**. If match not played on scheduled date, League Administrator must be advised & reason given.
- b) Closing date for receipt of any result, claim or statement on any match shall be **23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025**
- c) Committee to adjudicate on information received about any unresolved matches.
- d) Committee to prepare final league tables **at Autumn committee meeting & notified to clubs**.

6. PLAYERS

- a) Shall not play for more than one club in the same section during a season.
- b) Shall not play in a lower team after playing three times in a higher team in a section during a season (i.e. may play up twice) including when a club has teams in the same division.
- c) Clubs with two teams in a section must nominate 4 players who will play in their first team only. Clubs with three teams in a section must nominate a further 4 players who will play in the first or second teams only. **All nominated players must play minimum of 1 match for nominated or higher team. Should it become apparent a nominated player will not be able to play, clubs must give new nomination. League Admin to monitor.**  
Failure to submit nominations by 1<sup>st</sup> May or by date of 1<sup>st</sup> match, may result in their being declared null and void.
- d) Every effort must be made to complete unfinished matches (**i.e. no team has won 5 sets**) with the original players. If this proves impossible a maximum of 2 substitutes are allowed in a team provided that they are:-
  - 1. of a reasonable comparable standard to original player.
  - 2. acceptable to opponents
  - 3. approved by League Representative if any dispute arises.
- e) A player who is unable to continue playing shall concede the unfinished games of that set. Subsequent sets shall also be conceded, when they are due to be played, if the player or a substitute as defined in 6(d) is unable to contest them.
- f) All players must be substantive, fully paid up members of the club they are playing for or representing in the Competition. Any team defaulting shall forfeit the match.

7. SETS

- a) A set to be completed when one pair has won 8 games with a clear margin of 2 games.
- b) If a score of 7 games each is reached, then a deciding tie-breaker game shall be played in accordance with LTA rules.
- c) A Tie breaker game shall be won by the pair who first obtains 7 points or a clear margin of 2 points after a score of 6 points each has been reached.

8. WINTER LEAGUE

- a) Rules 1(a) to (i) are to apply.
- b) Clubs to enter teams **by date requested by League Administrator (usually by mid August) having checked all current teams wish to be re entered**.
- c) Committee to prepare composition of divisions.
- d) Rules of play to be as on separate sheet circulated to all teams.
- e) League positions based on points obtained i.e. sets won with tied positions decided on matches won. All promotions & relegations subject to the requirements of league entries & division numbers.