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## SLAZENGER SUMMER LEAGUE RULES RULES: ALL DIVISIONS

(Note: Special Rules applicable to EAST and WEST Divisions  
are set out at the end of these General Rules)

1. The Competitions shall consist of two separate Leagues, one for Ladies' Doubles and the other for Men's Doubles, run independently of each other and grouped according to playing strength.
2. An entry fee, fixed annually by the League Committee will be charged to clubs for EACH Ladies' and Men's team.
3. All entries or withdrawals must be submitted to the League Organiser by 31st January each year. A form for this purpose will be sent to all affiliated clubs early in January. If a club withdraws a team, it is deemed to be their lowest team unless special circumstances prevail. Additional teams entered by a club will be placed in the lowest division as will teams entered by new clubs. The League Committee may, however, use its discretion by placing a team in a higher group, provided that it does not involve the relegation of another team to a lower group.
4. Fixtures Lists will be available online prior to the Fixtures Meetings, the dates and venues for which are notified on the Entry Application Form. It is the responsibility of Club Match Secretaries to arrange the dates for matches at the Fixtures Meetings. Actual arrangements as to whether matches are played in the evening or at weekends are left to the clubs concerned. In the event of a Club being unable to send a representative to the Fixtures Meeting it becomes the responsibility of that Club's Match Secretary to contact all of the other clubs within 3 weeks of the Fixtures Meeting to arrange their fixtures. If they do not comply then they will forfeit their matches.

5. The home club must provide a minimum of four Slazenger LTA approved balls per court for each match.
6. Once the date for any fixture has been agreed, if either Team fails to fulfil the fixture, it shall forfeit the match, the only reason for postponement being courts unfit or unavailable for play. In the event of a match being postponed, the away team will supply a copy of their fixtures list and the home team must offer three alternative dates, covering a period of up to six weeks from the date of the original fixture. The away team must accept one of the dates offered or forfeit the match. The offered dates shall not include two successive dates. The same rules apply to unfinished matches, except that the team responsible for the failure to complete the match will only forfeit the unfinished rubbers. In the case of unfinished matches, whether or not a result has already been reached, it is only necessary to play off the outstanding rubbers, and these must be resumed at the point at which they were left off. If for any reason 'team X' does agree to arrange a fixture at the request of 'team Y', then in the event of the match not being played by the end of the season for any reason, team X may claim the match.
7. All matches must be the best of three sets with a TIE-BREAK operating at SIX ALL in all sets.
8. All matches must be completed by 31st August. If any match remains unfinished on 31st August, the score existing at that date shall determine the result, unless the League Committee decides otherwise. All results must be notified to the League Organisers by 10th September, and any results received after that date will be declared void.
9. Unless Captains have mutually agreed otherwise before the start of a match, rubbers should be completed without a break.
10. EVENING matches shall start by 6.30 p.m. in all matches if a pair is not ready to commence play within 30 minutes of the start, it shall forfeit the first rubber, and if not ready to commence play within 1 hour and 15 minutes of the start, it shall forfeit the second rubber.
11. Knocking up is permitted in accordance with the present L.T.A. Regulations which are:-  
 "The knock-up must not exceed a maximum of FIVE minutes. Should a match be interrupted for reasons beyond the control of the players, the permitted knock-up time is 6-20 minute delay—3 minutes, over 20 minutes delay—5 minutes."
12. The visitors have the right to stay on the same court for both rubbers of a match. In the event of a match not being completed due to bad light, the match must continue under floodlights, where available, unless this involves a change of court surface when the choice, as to whether to continue or not, is left to the away team.
13. No player may represent more than one Club in this Competition during the season. Competitors must be bona-fide members of the Club for which they play.
14. If the Courts of any Club are unfit for play on the date arranged for a match, the match may be played on some other Courts nominated by the HOME CLUB.
15. The Captain or the Match Secretary is responsible for sending in the official score card signed by the Captains of both teams immediately after the match to the appropriate League Organiser, sending either electronically or by post. Failure to do so may result in the HOME TEAM being deemed to have lost the match 6-0 (4-0 in WEST Divisions).
16. In the event of a Team forfeiting a match the team receiving the walk-over shall be deemed to have won the match 6-0 (4-0 in WEST Divisions).
17. In the fixture lists, the first named team is the HOME team.
18. "Intra Club" matches in the same Division MUST be played in the First Round or before any other match is played. The FIRST MATCH on the fixture list of each club should be an 'A' team match.
19. Clubs must nominate their 'A' team before their first match. If the nomination list is not received by the appropriate League Organiser by the due date the team playing in the first match will be deemed to be the 'A' team. Regular County players shall not play in other than Club 'A' teams, and 'A' team players cannot play for lower ranking teams. Where a Club has more than one Team competing in the League, any vacancies must be filled by promoting players from lower ranking teams, and after playing two matches for any higher team, no player may play for a lower-ranking team. If any team infringes any part of this rule they will forfeit the appropriate rubbers.

20. The winning Team in a division is that which has scored the most points. At the end of a season, if two or more teams in any division have scored an equal number of points, the order of precedence shall be determined by the team which has the most wins, if still equal, by the number of rubbers won. Should the numbers of rubbers be equal, the percentage of sets won to sets played shall decide and should the teams still be equal, the percentage of games won to games played shall decide.
21. The winning team in Division 1 (Ladies and Men) will be the champion team and will hold the championship shield for one year. The top two teams in Divisions 2 and 3 (Ladies and Men) will be promoted to Divisions 1 and 2 respectively, and the bottom two teams in Divisions 1 and 2 will be relegated to Divisions 2 and 3 respectively. The top team in Divisions 4 East and 4 West (Ladies and Men) will be promoted to Division 3 and the bottom two teams in Division 3 will be relegated to Divisions 4 East and 4 West respectively and two teams will be promoted and relegated from Division 5 onwards. If there are fewer than six teams in any division, only one team may be promoted and relegated from that division.
22. Scoring of points per fixture is as follows:  
2 points for winning the fixture and 2 points for each rubber won. No points are awarded for incomplete rubbers. If completed rubbers are equal the winner of the fixture shall be determined by reference to the number of sets won. If the number of sets won is equal, then the winner of the match shall be determined by reference to the number of games won. If the number of games won is also equal, each team will receive a point.
23. Failure to fulfil a fixture, by conceding a match will result in six points (divisions 1, 2, 3 and all East divisions) and four points (all West divisions) being deducted from the total number of points won at the end of the season. A second conceded match will result in automatic relegation but all other points, for and against, relating to that team will stand. The team to whom the match is conceded will be awarded fourteen points (divisions 1, 2, 3 and all East divisions) and ten points (all West divisions). If a third match is conceded (as well as automatic relegation) all points relating to that team, for and against will be null and void. For clubs who do not field a complete team on more than one occasion, the team will lose 2 points in addition to the 4 points lost by conceding 2 matches. If this happens on a 3rd occasion, the team will lose 4 points in addition to the 4 points lost by conceding 2 matches.
24. Should any point arise from these Rules, or otherwise, the League Committee's or League Organiser's decision shall be final. In this context "Rules" includes special rules applying to East Divisions or West Divisions only.
25. The Management Committee of the Association have delegated all other decisions relating to the Summer Leagues to the Clubs. Any changes in the Rules must be approved by a meeting of Club Representatives. This meeting shall be held when required in September each year, and shall be convened by the League Organiser or at the request of not less than two clubs. All decisions taken at such a meeting shall be ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. For the purpose of a meeting of Club Representatives, all Clubs who play in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Slazenger Leagues are entitled to vote on any issues and changes to the League rules, one vote per Club.

#### SPECIAL RULES applying to Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and all EAST Divisions ONLY

1. Each Division, except for the bottom one, will normally contain eight teams playing each other once. If a division contains 5 teams or fewer they will play both home and away fixtures.
2. Each Team will consist of three pairs, with each playing only two rubbers as follows: Each 1st Pair plays the opposing 1st and 2nd Pairs, each 2nd Pair plays the opposing 1st and 3rd Pairs and each 3rd Pair plays the opposing 2nd and 3rd Pairs.

#### SPECIAL RULES applying to WEST Divisions only

1. Each Division, except for the bottom one, will normally contain five teams playing both home and away fixtures. If a division contains more than six teams they will play each other once.
2. Each team will consist of two pairs, each playing two rubbers as follows:  
1st pair plays opposing 1st pair and 2nd against 2nd, followed by 1st against 2nd and 2nd against 1st.