



## SLAZENGER WINTER LEAGUE RULES



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1. The Leagues are for Ladies' and Men's doubles and run independently of each other.
2. Fixtures lists will be available at the Fixtures Meeting the date and venue 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 Meeting. If two clubs cannot agree on the day of the week for a match, it must be played on a Sunday morning in the case of the men's doubles and on a Sunday afternoon in the case of the ladies' doubles.
3. The winning team of Division 1 (Ladies and Men) will be the champion team and will hold the championship shield for one year. The top two teams in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1 and the bottom two teams in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2. The top team in Divisions 3 East and West will be promoted to Division 2 and the bottom two teams in Division 2 will be relegated. Two teams will be relegated from Division 3 East and Division 3 West respectively and two teams will be promoted and relegated from Division 4 onwards (Ladies and Men). If there are fewer than six teams in any division, only one team will be promoted or relegated from that Division. Each Division, except the bottom one, will normally consist of seven teams playing each other once.
4. Scoring of points per fixture is as follows: 1 point for winning the fixture and 1 point 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 half a point.
5. The winning team in a division is that which has scored the most points. If two or more teams finish equal on points, the order of precedence will be determined first by the team which has the most wins followed by the number of rubbers won, then on the percentage of sets won to sets played and if necessary on the percentage of games won to games played.
6. In the event of a match being unfinished, 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.
7. 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 fixture list and the home team must offer 3 alternative dates, covering a period of up to 6 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.
8. The visitors have the choice of staying on the same court for the 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.

9. The home club must provide a minimum of four Slazenger LTA approved balls per court for each match.

10. Each team will consist of two pairs each playing a best of three sets rubber against the opposing pairs. The first round rubbers will be 1st pair against 1st pair and the 2nd pair against the 2nd pair. A TIE-BREAK will operate at SIX ALL in all sets.

11. No player may represent more than one club in this competition during the season. Competitors must also be bona fide members of the club for which they play.

12. Where a club has more than one team competing in the league intra-club matches in the same division MUST be played before any other match is played. Otherwise the first match on its fixture list must be an 'A' team match. Clubs must nominate their 'A' team by 1<sup>st</sup> October and if the nomination list is not received by the appropriate league secretary by the due date the players 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.

Any vacancies in a team for a match 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.

13. It is the responsibility of the Captains or Match Secretaries of the home club to send in the match card to the appropriate League Organiser. Failure to do so may result in the away team being awarded a walk-over.

14. All matches must be completed by 14th April. If any match remains unfinished on 14th April, 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 30th April and any results received after that date will be declared void.

15. An entry fee fixed annually by the League Committee will be charged to clubs for EACH Ladies' and Men's team.

16. A new club or team entering the league will normally commence in the lowest division. The League Committee may, however, use its discretion by placing it in a higher division, provided that this does not involve the relegation of another team to a lower division.

17. The first rubber may be forfeited by any couple not ready to commence play within 30 minutes of the scheduled start of the match.

18. 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."

19. Should any points arise from these Rules, or otherwise the League Committee's or the League Organiser's decision shall be final.

20. Any changes in these Rules must be approved at a meeting of Club Representatives. This meeting shall be held, if 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.

21. Failure to fulfil a fixture, by conceding the match, will result in two points being deducted from the total number of points at the end of the season. A second conceded match will result in automatic relegation but all points, for and against, relating to that team will stand. The team to whom the match is conceded will be awarded five points. 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 1 point in addition to the 2 points lost by conceding 2 matches. If this happens on a 3rd occasion, the team will lose 2 points in addition to the 2 points lost by conceding 2 matches.