



Suggestions for rule changes

AGM 11th February 2020

There are 5 proposed rule changes for the meeting to consider.

The following 2 rule changes are proposed by the Management Committee:

1. Proposed New Bye-Law 25. Rowlinson Cup

Current Wording:

Teams shall consist of three men and three ladies. Matches shall consist of two men's doubles, two ladies' doubles and three mixed doubles. Where a club enters more than one team in the competition any player from that club may only represent one team. Team captains shall declare in writing the order of play of the team and exchange such declaration with the opposing team captain immediately before the commencement of the match. Each team shall nominate one lady and one man who will play in all three rubbers. The Management Committee will nominate dates for all matches. However, if both teams agree, matches other than the final may be played prior to the nominated date, otherwise the match must be played on the nominated date. The final will be played on a nominated Sunday. For matches played in an evening with a six o'clock start, any couple not on court ready to play by 6:15p.m. will forfeit the first rubber. The second rubber to be conceded if not on court ready to play by 7:00p.m. and all three rubbers by 7:45p.m. All Rowlinson matches scheduled to be played on a Sunday shall commence at 1:00 p.m. Any couple not on court to play by 1:15 p.m. will forfeit the first rubber. The second rubber to be conceded if not on court ready to play by 2:00 p.m. and all three rubbers by 2:45 p.m. All matches shall comprise one set with a winning pair being the first to ten games. The Official LTA Tie Break shall be played in all sets at 9-all. To be eligible for the final a player must have played for that club in either the League or Rowlinson Cup in the current summer season.

ORDER OF PLAY

ORDER OF PLAY									
	Court 1			Court 2			Court 3		
	H	V		H	V		H	V	
Round 1	Ladies 1	v	Ladies 1	Men's 1	v	Men's 1			
Round 2	Mixed 1	v	Mixed 1	Mixed 2	v	Mixed 2	Mixed 3	v	Mixed 3
Round 3	Ladies 2	v	Ladies 2	Men's 2	v	Men's 2			

New wording:

Teams shall consist of three men and three ladies. Matches shall consist of a total of 9 mixed doubles matches with 3 mixed doubles pairs. Where a club enters more than one team in the competition any player from that club may only represent one team. Pairs shall be numbered 1, 2 and 3. The Management Committee will nominate dates for all matches. However, if both teams agree, matches other than the final may be played prior to the nominated date, otherwise the match must be played on the nominated date. The final will be played on a nominated Sunday. For matches played in an evening with a six o'clock start, any couple not on court ready to play by 6:15p.m. will forfeit the first rubber. The second rubber to be conceded if not on court ready to play by 7:00p.m. and all three rubbers by 7:45p.m. All Rowlinson

matches scheduled to be played on a Sunday shall commence at 1:00 p.m. Any couple not on court to play by 1:15 p.m. will forfeit the first rubber. The second rubber to be conceded if not on court ready to play by 2:00 p.m. and all three rubbers by 2:45 p.m. All matches shall comprise of one set with a winning pair being the first to ten games. The Official LTA Tie Break shall be played in all sets at 9-all. To be eligible for the final a player must have played for that club in either the League or Rowlinson Cup in the current summer season.

ORDER OF PLAY

	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3
	H	V H	V H V
Round 1	1 v 1	2 v 2	3 v 3
Round 2	3 v 1	1 v 2	2 v 3
Round 3	2 v 1	3 v 2	1 v 3

2. Proposed New Bye-law 27. Withdrawal of teams from the Summer Leagues

- a) Clubs wishing to withdraw a team from the league must inform the General Secretary before the AGM Meeting in February.
- b) The withdrawal of a team must commence with the lowest ranked team.
- c) Clubs withdrawing a team before the start of the season will incur one of the following fines:
 - 1. Withdrawal up to 2 weeks before the start of the season £20.
 - 2. Withdrawal less than 2 weeks before the start of the season £50.

The following 2 rule changes are proposed by Graves Tennis Club:

3. Proposed amendment to Bye-law 4. Promotion and Relegation

Current Wording:

Promotion and Relegation in the various divisions for Men, Ladies and Mixed shall be normally as follows:

- a. The first and second teams in each division shall be promoted and the last two teams relegated.
- b. However, no more than two teams from the same club shall be permitted to play in the First division of any of the leagues.
- c. In the case where two teams from the same club play in the same division they will play each other in the opening match of the season.

Proposed Wording:

Promotion and Relegation in the various divisions for Men, Ladies and Mixed shall be normally as follows:

- a. The first and second teams in each division shall be promoted and the last two teams relegated.
- b. However, no more than two teams from the same club shall be permitted to play in the First division of any of the leagues.
- c. In the case where two teams from the same club play in the same division they will play each other in the opening match of the season.
- d. In the case where two teams from the same club play in the same division and there are home and away fixtures the second match should be scheduled no later than the middle fixture of the season.

4. Proposed amendment to Bye-law 15a. Inclement weather

Current Wording:

If the captains of both teams agree that it is unfit or not safe to play, either before commencement of the match i.e postponed, or before it has finished i.e. abandoned, the Match Secretary for each

club must, within 7 days, agree a replay date if necessary under bye-law 15d). The agreed date must be no later than three weeks after the date for the last match of the season for the appropriate league and notified to the League Secretary by the home club's Match Secretary within 10 days of the original date for the match. Once a date has been agreed and notified to the League Secretary, there shall be no further rearrangement of the date other than for inclement weather.

Proposed Wording:

If the captains of both teams agree that it is unfit or not safe to play, either before commencement of the match i.e postponed, or before it has finished i.e. abandoned, the Match Secretary for each club must, within 7 days, agree a replay date if necessary under bye-law 15d). The agreed date must be no later than three weeks after the date for the last match of the season for the appropriate league and notified to the League Secretary by the home club's Match Secretary within 10 days of the original date for the match. **If the league secretary is not notified of a replay date within the 10 day limit and is satisfied that there has not been enough of an attempt from either or both teams to rearrange the match then the league secretary will re-schedule the match to be played on a date which they consider to be most appropriate for both teams.** Once a date has been agreed and notified to the League Secretary, there shall be no further rearrangement of the date other than for inclement weather.

The following rule change are proposed by Stocksbridge Tennis Club:

5. Proposed amendment to Bye-law 13. Eligibility of players

Current Wording:

- a. No player may play in a team's last two matches of the season if he or she has already played three or more matches for the club's higher team(s), unless he or she has already played at least two matches for the team in question or lower team(s). This to be construed as the last two matches actually to be played and not the last two matches printed in the fixture list.
- b. If a club fails to field a team in a higher division whilst fielding a team, or teams, in a lower division(s) all rubbers, sets and games won by the lower team(s) will be forfeited.
- c. In the event of a club fielding an incomplete higher team or teams whilst fielding a lower team or teams, complete or otherwise, on the same day, the rubbers, sets and games won by the most successful couple in each of the lower team or teams (or couples in the event of more than one incomplete higher team being fielded) shall be forfeited.
- d. In the event of re-arranged matches, only members of the team in question, or lower team(s), may be selected. Players who clearly would be recognized as members of a higher team must not be selected.
- e. Teams should be selected on merit and in the true spirit of "Fair play". Where in the opinion of the committee any club fails to adhere to this then the committee may take whatever action it sees fit.

Proposed Wording:

- a. A player who has played two or more matches for a higher level team may not subsequently play for a lower level team in the same league that season.**
- b. Teams should be selected on merit and in the true spirit of "Fair play". Where in the opinion of the committee any club fails to adhere to this then the committee may take whatever action it sees fit.