THE DUNLOP YORKSHIRE DOUBLES TENNIS LEAGUE RULES 2025

1. The competition shall be called the " Dunlop Yorkshire Doubles League''.
   Separate competitions shall operate for Ladies' Doubles and Men's Doubles.

2. Membership of the League shall be open to venues registered with the LTA and who are Associate Members of Yorkshire Tennis. Please ask if you require clarification.

3. The League shall be managed by the Yorkshire Tennis Competitions Team and shall include a League Organiser.

4. Application for entry to the League shall be made annually by clubs. Clubs may enter more than one team in the League. Entry fees, as determined by Yorkshire Tennis, shall be due on confirmation of entry. By participating, clubs agree to abide by these Rules.

Qualification of players / tieing of players

5. Teams in all divisions shall consist of 2 pairs (4 players).

6. A player representing a club must be a member of that club. No player may play for more than one club in the same season in the Yorkshire Doubles league.

7. Clubs with multiple teams in the Yorkshire doubles league shall nominate 2 players at the beginning of the season. Nominated players can only play in their top (A or 1st) team, and not play down (any lower team) during that season for any fixtures.

8. Once any player (including non nominated players) has played twice for a team, they are tied to that team and can only play up (for a higher team in their club) not down (any lower team in their club).

9. If tieing rules are breached, the offending team will be deemed to have lost each rubber played by the ineligible player 0-6, 0-6.

Fixture organisation

10. Grouping of competing teams in Divisions shall be determined by the League Organiser.

11. All matches shall be arranged between team captains; fixture dates are to be submitted to the League Organiser by a date advised. If fixtures aren't submitted by the advised date then the league organiser will schedule such matches on a date that seems suitable at the time.

12. If a club has multiple teams in the same division, the fixture against each other must be the first fixture played by both teams, and must be arranged in the first month of the season (May).

13. All matches and re-arranged matches shall be completed by the due dates advised by the League Organiser at the start of the season.

14. If a team wishes to re-arrange the date of a match previously agreed and submitted to the League Organiser, then at least two weeks' notice shall be given to the other team captain, who is urged to view the request sympathetically and offer two revised dates, provided the re-arrangement does not seriously compromise the innocent party. If agreement cannot be reached, then the original date shall stand.

15. If a match is postponed because of bad weather or unplayable conditions, the home team captain shall record this on the LTA competitions website, or with the league organiser within 48 hours; and within 7 days must submit to the away team captain at least two further dates when the match may be played. If within 21 days from the date when the match should have been played no new arrangements have been agreed, then the visiting team captain shall notify the League organiser and the Competitions Team shall arbitrate.

Match procedure

16. Match start times shall be scheduled for no later than 3.00pm for those taking place on Saturdays and Sundays and no later than 6.30pm for those being played on a weekday.

17. Any pair(s) not on court and ready to play within 30 minutes of the agreed start time shall concede the rubber(s) in question and the score(s) recorded as 6-0, 6-0 , for those rubber(s).

18. The LTA Code of Conduct shall apply on match days. The team captain is responsible for the behaviour of their team both on and off the court. Recognised tennis clothing shall be worn for all matches.

19. The home captain shall allocate the courts and be the final arbitrator on whether the courts are fit for play.

20. The home team shall supply new Dunlop match balls for each fixture. Yorkshire Tennis will confirm an arrangement for Dunlop Tennis balls for Yorkshire League matches before the season starts.

21. Matches shall consist of two rounds of two rubbers. It is normal for each of the visiting pairs to remain on the same court. The format of play for each rubber shall be best of three sets. Sets 1&2 will be full sets to 6 games; a tie-break to 7 points (to be won by 2 clear points) shall be played at 6-6 in all sets. Set 3 can be the same as sets 1&2 or by mutual agreement **before the fixture starts** a match tie break to 10 points (2 clear) may be played in place of the third set (the score will be recorded 7-6 to the winning pair)

22. If any match is unfinished, it may be continued by mutual consent within 21 days with the same players. Otherwise, the match shall be replayed from the start at a date mutually agreed upon by the two captains on or before the League completion date.

23. The captain of the home team is to input the score on the competition part of the LTA website within 48 hours of completion of the match, and captain of the away team is to verify within a week of completion of the match.

League positions

24. A team shall score 3 points for a win (3-1 or 4-0) and 0 points for a loss (1-3 or 0-4).

25. In the event of a tie (2-2) a winning draw (based on sets, then games countback on the day) shall score 2 points, a losing draw (based on sets, then games countback on the day) shall score 1 point.

26. In the event that rubbers, sets, and games are equal on the day, 1 doubles match tie break to 10 points (2 clear) between one player from each pair on the day will take place. The winner of the match tiebreak will score a winning draw (2 points) and the loser will score a losing draw (1 point)

27. Teams shall be positioned in each Division according to the number of league points, then number of rubbers won, then sets %, then games %.

28. It is the responsibility of the team captains to fulfil their match commitments. If however a team concedes a match for whatever reasons, then that team shall be deemed to have lost that match and

shall be deducted 3 league points. The team having won by forfeit shall be awarded 4 rubbers and 8 sets. If a pair is absent from a match, the two rubbers conceded shall be forfeited with the score recorded as 6-0, 6-0, in favour of the opponents, for each rubber.

Promotion and relegation

29. In Division 1, the top team shall be declared Champions and the bottom two teams relegated. In all other Divisions, the top two teams shall be promoted, and, except in the lowest Division, the bottom two teams relegated. Anything contrary to this will be communicated before the first match of the season (e.g. if a division has a low number of entries).

30. If a team gains a title or promotion or is able to avoid relegation as a result of a match improperly conceded or not played, then action will be taken by the Competitions Team to penalise the improper conduct.

31. If a team withdraws from the competition before completing its engagements, all the records of matches played by that team shall be expunged.

32. A new team entering the league shall do so in the lowest division except if the Competitions Team and Yorkshire Tennis Board agree otherwise.

Trophies

33. The winners of all League trophies, cups and shields shall be entitled to hold them until the end of the following season. A club holding any trophy, cup or shield shall be responsible for its safe custody and return to Yorkshire Tennis and bear the cost of insuring it against loss.

34. The property in every trophy, cup and shield shall be vested in Yorkshire Tennis, and no other prize or award (other than club colours) shall be given to or accepted by a winning club without the sanction of Yorkshire Tennis.

Refreshments

35. The home team shall provide at minimum something to drink (hot drink if facilities allow) and a snack for every player. Captains should agree before the match to leave refreshments out for the duration of the fixture, or to serve refreshments after the match. Clubs can go 'above expectations' at their own discretion. If your team needs to leave promptly after the match please give prior warning to the home captain to avoid a situation where food / resources are wasted.

Discipline and disputes

36. For any breach of these rules, the Competitions Team may impose such penalties as it may think fit, by points deduction or otherwise.

37. Any appeal or dispute shall be made to Yorkshire Tennis. Short particulars thereof shall be sent in writing to the Competitions Team by the clubs concerned, who may be represented at any meeting convened to deal with the matter. Prior notice of any meeting shall be given in writing. Any decision of Yorkshire Tennis shall be final.

38. Should there be any feedback or comments about the Competitions Team, please direct these in writing to Yorkshire Tennis on secretary@yorkshiretennis.org.uk