

# Stock Winter Floodlit League

## LEAGUE RULES

### 1. The Competition

The Competition shall be called the Stock Winter Floodlit League and will be open to Clubs affiliated to the Chelmsford and Brentwood Summer Leagues or as agreed at the annual meeting. The season shall be 6 months commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> October and finishing on the 31<sup>st</sup> March the following year. The cut off date to play matches will be 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### 2. League officials

The league shall be managed by the League Secretary and the Treasurer, who shall be appointed annually by the clubs represented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

### 3. Annual General Meeting

The League Secretary will call a meeting annually of representatives of competing clubs to arrange fixture dates, payment of fees and carry out any other business. This will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the League. Any club not represented at the AGM the onus is on that club to arrange its matches.

### 4. Membership and Fees

New clubs seeking membership and those clubs who wish to add to, and/or reduce their number of teams in the League must inform the League Secretary 1 week before the AGM in each year. New clubs applying to join the league will need approval of acceptance from league members at the AGM.

The annual fees payable shall be as agreed at the AGM and payable immediately to the League Treasurer. Fees shall be doubled if not paid at the AGM. Any club not represented at an AGM shall be liable to a fine equivalent to double the sum of the offending clubs' affiliation and league fees.

### 5. League membership requirements

All clubs must provide two floodlit tennis courts or as agreed at the AGM. Home clubs must provide a minimum of four new LTA approved balls per court.

### 6. Composition of the League

The league shall consist of a Mixed Doubles section, a Men's Doubles section and a Ladies' Doubles section. Each section shall comprise divisions having a maximum of eight teams, or as agreed at the AGM. In each division, each club will play each other club both home and away.

### 7. Eligibility of players

Each player shall (i) nominate and (ii) be a bona fide playing member of an affiliated club. A player may represent two clubs during a season providing that he or she is a bona fide playing member of both clubs. In this case, the player must nominate at the start of the season which clubs he or she will be representing in each of the two sections he or she may play in (i.e. Mixed and Ladies or Mixed and Men's).

When a player has played three times for a team that player cannot play for a lower team in that section.

If a club plays an ineligible player, the player and partner will be considered to have lost both sets of the match by the maximum score.

### 8. Composition of Matches

In all sections each competing team shall consist of two pairs and each pair shall play a match against each pair of the opposing team. Each match will consist of two sets. The LTA tie break shall apply at six games all in each set unless both teams agree to score the final set as a championship (10 point) tie-break. Matches will be played according to LTA tennis rules.

### 9. Match start times

All matches shall commence at 7pm or as mutually agreed between clubs but with a minimum of 3 hours play available.

Teams should be ready to start the match at the agreed time. This is particularly important where clubs have a restriction on availability of floodlights. Warm up time should be a maximum of 5 minutes.

If a player is absent for more than 30 minutes after the time arranged for the start of play in a match, the player and partner will be considered to have lost the first set to their opponents by the maximum score. If a player is absent more than one hour after the time arranged for the start of play in a match, the player and partner will be considered to have lost both sets of the match by the maximum score.

#### 10. Points

Each match will consist of 8 sets, one point will be awarded for each set won. Points awarded for a walkover shall be calculated at the end of the season by the League Secretary on the basis of the better average of the team's results or the average sets lost by the conceding team. The conceding team receives nil points for the fixture. Points awarded for unplayed matches shall be calculated at the end of the season by the League Secretary. Both teams will receive the better average of the team's results or the average sets lost by the opposing team. Clubs cannot agree to share the points.

#### 11. Promotion/relegation

Promotion and regulation between divisions shall be on the basis of two up, two down (except between division 1 and 2 where only one team will move up or down), or as may be decided at the AGM.

In the event of an equal number of points being gained by two or more clubs at the end of the season, the position in the league table will be decided on the number of matches won and if these are equal, the team with the highest games difference in their favour will be placed above the team with a lesser difference.

#### 12. Match cancellation/abandonment

After the AGM all clubs have until 1<sup>st</sup> September to rearrange fixtures and clubs are obliged to rearrange a match if requested. After 1<sup>st</sup> September if a team cancels a match, except when cancellation is necessitated by inclement weather, their opponents may, at their discretion, claim a walkover or agree to rearrange the match. It is expected that every effort shall be made to rearrange cancelled matches.

All matches started but abandoned before the end of the first round shall be re-arranged and the result will not stand. Thereafter the result shall stand and any uncompleted sets shall be divided equally.

Matches not commenced or matches abandoned shall be played on the next available date provided that no match is played after the cut-off date. Any matches not played by the season cut off date will result in both clubs receiving no points.

#### 13. Result sheets

For each match both the home and away teams must send fully completed result sheets to the League Secretary as soon as possible after the completion of the match. In the event of a club claiming a walkover a result sheet should be submitted by the claiming club. In the event of an unplayed match a result sheet should be submitted by the home club. Incomplete result sheets will not be counted. Results sheets that do not reach the League Secretary by the 21<sup>st</sup> April will not be counted and both teams will receive nil points.

#### 14. Disputes

All questions of eligibility of players, interpretation of regulations or any other queries or disputes in relation to these competitions must be referred in writing to the League Secretary, whose decision is final.

**Last Updated: March 2010**