

REGULATIONS OF THE INTER-CLUB SUMMER CUP COMPETITIONS

The Competitions shall be called the “ESSEX TENNIS INTER-CLUB SUMMER CUP COMPETITIONS”. The Competitions Committee may divide any or all of the competitions into classes, and it shall have the power to determine in which class any Club shall compete. The Competitions shall be competed for annually in accordance with these Rules and with the Laws and Regulations of Lawn Tennis for the time being sanctioned by the LTA so far as they may be applicable. The Competitions Committee wishes to make it clear that clubs should be discouraged from bringing in players primarily to play in this competition.

1. These competitions shall be confined to Advantage Essex Member clubs (free entry) and those Proprietary clubs directly affiliated to the LTA (which will pay an additional fee, determined by the Competitions Committee). The winning Club of each division shall be entitled to hold the cup provided by Essex Tennis until the commencement of the competitions the following season.
2. A Club may enter more than one team in the same season’s competitions, when following provisions shall apply:
 - a. A Club with two teams in one division shall nominate the players comprising each team with the first team containing the recognised stronger players, see (e) below. Any member of one team so nominated shall not be eligible to play for the other team. Any player not so nominated may act as a substitute but, having played for one team, shall not be eligible to play for the other team.
 - b. A Club with two teams in different divisions shall nominate the players comprising its first team, the players of which shall be the recognised stronger players, see (e) below. Any player so nominated shall not be eligible to play in the second team. Any player not so nominated may act as a substitute once only without being debarred from playing or continuing to play in the lower division.
 - c. A Club with three teams each in a different division shall nominate the players comprising its first and second teams with these teams containing the recognised stronger players, see (e) below. Any player nominated for the first or second team shall not be eligible to play in a lower division than that for which nominated. Any player nominated for the second team may act as a substitute for a first team player once only without being debarred from playing or continuing to play in the second team. Any player not so nominated may act as a substitute for either the first or second team once only without being debarred from playing or continuing to play in a lower division.

A Club with two teams in one division and one team in a lower division shall nominate the players comprising its first and second teams with these teams containing the recognised stronger players, see (e) below, and the provisions of paragraph (a) shall apply thereto. A player not so nominated may act as a substitute once only for one of the teams in the higher division without being debarred from playing or continuing to play in the lower division but, having played for one of the teams in the higher division, shall not be entitled to play for the other team in the higher division. Any player nominated to play in the higher division is not eligible to play for the team in the lower division.
 - d. A Club with a team in one division and two teams in a lower division shall nominate the players comprising all three teams, with these teams containing the recognised stronger players, see (e) below. Any player so nominated for the team in the higher division shall not be eligible to play in the lower division and, subject to this, paragraph (a) above shall apply to the two teams in the lower division. Any player not so nominated for the first team may act as a substitute therein once only without being debarred from playing or continuing to play in the lower division.
 - e. “Stronger Players”, where clubs enter more than one team, the first team nomination shall comprise the four strongest players the club intend to play in the competition, the second team nomination shall comprise the next four strongest players (i.e. number 5 to 8), the third team nomination shall comprise the next four strongest players (i.e. numbers 9 to 12) and so on. In order to determine “Stronger Players” clubs should use the LTA rating system where possible.
 - f. The Competition Secretary must receive nominations in writing before the first match is played. In the event of failure to nominate players the Competitions Committee shall be empowered to either treat the players who play in the first match for each team as the team nomination or disqualify any teams entered by that club in any Division of the Cup Competitions who in their opinion have been fielded in contravention of the intent of sub-sections (a) to (e) above.
 - g. Any team fielding an ineligible player or players shall be struck out of the competition.

3. Clubs desirous of competing (See Rule 1) shall give notice in writing to the Competition Secretary of Essex Tennis on or before the 1st October of the previous year. Entry forms shall be sent to Secretaries of all Member Clubs.
4. The qualification to play for a club in the cup competitions is covered by Essex Tennis Leagues Regulation 10. Players are not entitled to play for more than one Club during the same season, or to take part in these competitions if they have already played during the same season in a similar competition promoted by any other County. However, playing in these competitions does not debar a player from representing a different Club in other Club competitions organised by the ESSEX TENNIS, namely the Open Leagues, the Seniors Leagues and the County Winter Cups.
5. The balls shall be supplied and paid for by the home Club. The balls shall be top grade balls manufactured by the current ESSEX TENNIS Sponsors (if applicable).
6. The draw shall be on a system approved by the LTA, and to take place on or before the 1st November. The Competitions Committee of Essex Tennis shall intimate the result of the draw to the Secretary/Match Secretary or Team contact of all Clubs concerned, together with the date by which each round must be played. Dates shall be fixed at the time the draw is made, and the first round shall be played on or before that date. From the second round onwards there will be fixed weekends to play the ties as determined by the Competitions Committee and specified in the draw sheet. In the event that a tie has to be abandoned due to inclement weather, and one round not completed subject to Regulation 12 below, the next following weekend shall become the fixed weekend and the tie must be played at that time. The fixed weekend regulation does not preclude the tie being played on any date prior to the fixed weekend date provided both clubs agree; otherwise the tie must be played during the specified fixed weekend. An Essex League match may be postponed to give precedence to an Essex Summer Cup match.
7. Choice of ground shall be determined in general by priority in the original draw, but where one Club shall have been entitled to choice of ground a fewer number of times than its opponent, the former shall have the choice. For the purposes of this Regulation a bye or a walkover shall be regarded as equivalent to the choice of ground. **The home team is responsible for arranging a tie with their opponents without undue delay. This does not prevent the away team from making first contact if so desired.** Matches can be played at any time during the weekend, provided they start no earlier than 9.30am and before 8pm. Matches may mutually be arranged during weekday evenings. (Playing under floodlights or indoors is permitted). If the courts used for a match are not of a uniform type of surface or if 1 or more courts is an indoor court(s) the visiting club shall have the choice as to which of their pairs shall play on which courts. This decision shall be taken before play commences.
8. The Captain of the winning team shall send the scorecard to the organiser of the competition within 48 hours of the tie being played. This can be done either by first class post or by email with the copy of the completed score card attached. Teams failing to comply with this Regulation will automatically forfeit the right to a home match in the next round or where persistent abuse of this rule or sending in the result so late that arranging the next round is delayed, shall be struck out of the competition.
9. Each competing team shall consist of four players, who shall be arranged in pairs by their respective captains. Each pair shall play against each pair of the opposing team the best of three advantage sets. The LTA tie-break shall apply in the first two sets at six games all. The third set shall be determined by a Championship tie-break i.e. the first pair to reach ten points. If level at ten all, then two points clear wins the tie-break. The order of play for the first round shall be decided by lot; for the second round the reverse doubles shall be played.
10. The team, which shall win the majority of the rubbers or where the number of rubbers won is equal, the team winning the majority of sets shall be declared the winner of the tie. Should the number of rubbers and sets be equal, one player from each pair shall be selected to play one additional Championship tie-break set to decide the tie. In the event of neither team having at the time of cessation of play won sufficient rubbers/sets to arrive at a definite result, then all rubbers and sets played in the uncompleted second round shall be ignored and the match shall be decided on the completed first round by taking into account the number of rubbers/sets won. The captains of each side may concede rubbers or sets to the opposing side for

the purpose of completing any round, but the captains may mutually agree on some alternative method of deciding the result of the match.

11. The time of cessation of play shall be fixed prior to the commencement of play by the captains of the opposing teams. Play shall be stopped when that time arrives unless the captains agree to extend such time.
12. If, at the time of cessation of play, less than one round shall have been completed, or neither team shall have won sufficient matches to render victory certain, the circumstances shall be reported to the Competitions Committee who shall have power (a) to fix a date for completion of the match, (b) to order a replay and to fix a date for the same, or (c) to strike out of the competition one or both of the Clubs concerned.
13. A Club is not bound to play the same team throughout the competition, but no changes shall be made in the compositions of the teams engaged in a tie after the start of play, except where a replay is ordered under Rule 12.
14. If any player be absent from court and not ready to play after the time fixed for the commencement of play the opposing pairs(s) shall be entitled to claim sets/rubbers as follows:
 - 30 minutes absent: first set
 - 45 minutes absent: second set and thus first rubber
 - 60 minutes absent: second rubber.
15. Any Club intending to scratch shall give information of its intention to do so to the Match Secretary of the opposing Club not later than three days before the date agreed upon to play, or shall be reported to the Competitions Committee, who shall have power to take such action as it may deem expedient including debarring the scratched team from entering the competition in the following year.
16. All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors, interpretation of the regulations or otherwise in relation to these competitions shall be referred to the Competitions Committee, whose decisions shall be final.
17. Any disputes between Clubs in these competitions shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the Competitions Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding upon both Clubs. Should either of the two Clubs in connection with any dispute or protest have a member or members on the Competitions Committee, the said member or members shall be ineligible to sit on the Competitions Committee, while such dispute or protest is being considered.
18. Light refreshments should be provided by the home club. If the away team does not require refreshments they should, at least 48 hours prior to the match, advise the home club to this effect.