

# **RULES OF THE RIBBLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

## **Adult Divisions**

1. The League shall be known as The Ribble Tennis League.
2. The Annual subscription for each team in the League shall be paid to the Treasurer on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> April.
3. The Affairs of the League shall be governed by an Executive Council to consist of the Chairman, Secretary / Treasurer and Match / Press Secretary to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Office of Chairman shall be filled by a nominated member of each of the League Clubs in turn in alphabetical order. Each Chairman shall serve for a minimum period of two years.
4. In addition to the above named Officers of the Executive Council, an Auditor shall also be elected at the AGM but shall not serve on the Executive Council.
5. All applications for membership of the League shall be received before February 1<sup>st</sup>. An application shall be considered by the Executive Council at the next meeting after receipt of the application and to be elected to the League, a Club shall receive two-thirds of the votes cast at the meeting. All existing members of the League shall give notice of their intent to the Match Secretary before February 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. (a) Any motion for the agenda or complaint shall be addressed to the Secretary, and a meeting will be convened at his/her discretion. All nominations for the AGM shall be received by the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.  
  
(b) At any General Meeting each team will nominate two representatives who will be allowed to vote. No other persons shall be permitted to vote.
7. One copy of a list of members of Clubs who have joined the League shall reach the Match Secretary seven days before the date of the first match of the Leagues current season. Names of late members shall reach the Match Secretary 7 days before they play in a match otherwise the sets in which unregistered players take part shall be forfeit.
8. No player may register as a Ribble League player with another Club after half the games have been played in any given season.
9. Seven shall constitute a quorum for General Meetings.
10. Teams in the League shall play home and away matches each season on date to be arranged by the Match Secretary. The Match Secretary must be notified of each individual team's match night by 15<sup>th</sup> February. Venues cannot be changed without the express permission of the Match Secretary or the League Chairman. Failure to obtain this permission will result in the fixture being considered void and no points awarded.
11. Teams playing in a League match shall comprise four ladies and four men. They will play ladies and men's doubles. Each couple shall play each of the opposing couples. In addition there shall be four mixed doubles. The captains shall nominate their couples in number order before the commencement of the match. Number one couple shall play number one etc. There will be twelve sets in all. Clubs having two teams shall send to the Match Secretary the names of their first two men and first two ladies before the first match and they shall not play in the second team. Clubs having three or more teams must similarly nominate their first six men and first six ladies none of whom may play in the third or lower

team. The first two men and ladies may not play in the second team and so on. Each Starred player shall play at least five matches during the season.

(b) Clubs may apply to the Match Secretary for permission to change the status of a registered first team player once in a current season.

12. Each set shall be played as a long set but if the score reaches six games all the set shall be decided by the Twelve Point Tie Break system.
13. The result of a match shall be decided by the number of sets won by each team. Each set won will be awarded one point. In the event of two or more Clubs in the same division, having the same number of points at the end of the season, the first means of differentiation between them shall be the number of matches won. If matches won are the same, the championship, promotion and relegation shall be decided by play-offs at neutral Clubs. If a play-off results in a 6 – 6 score, the match shall be decided on games. Teams involved in play-offs shall only include players who have played five or more times for that team.
14. League matches shall commence at 6.30pm, except that for the first two weeks of the season and for all matches in August, the start time shall be 6.15pm. Play shall be continuous from the start time. Two minutes shall be allowed for knocking up before each set. Sets shall be played in the order shown on the official League score card and the first two sets shall commence no later than 15 minutes after the designated start time. If not, the team in default shall forfeit 1 or 2 sets as the case may be. If players for sets 3 and 4 are not available, a further 20 minutes later, the team in default shall forfeit one or two sets. However, a team shall only forfeit a set or sets when it is unable to field a pair for a vacant court at or after the default time.
15. Score sheets, signed by the captain of each team, shall be forwarded by the home captain to the Match Secretary within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
16. Matches shall only be postponed because of inclement weather. In the case of a League match being abandoned before half the match has been completed the whole match shall be replayed as a postponement within the next 3 weeks. An abandoned League match of which six sets have been completed shall stand as so far played and shall be completed at the earliest possible date. A set, which is affected by bad light or inclement weather, may only be abandoned by mutual agreement of the four players on court. The set shall be resumed at the same score, unless the games are level in which case the whole set shall be replayed.
17. Both teams shall turn up except where in the case of inclement weather the two captains shall mutually agree to the match being postponed. Once both teams are there the home captain shall be the final arbiter as to whether a match shall be abandoned. If no play is possible the home captain shall notify the Match Secretary to this effect and inform him of the date of the rearranged fixture. Re-arrangement of postponed matches should be by mutual agreement, but if this is not possible, the home team must offer at least two dates in separate weeks. Once fixtures have been published a fixture may not be changed without the Match Secretary's consent.
18. Two Clubs shall be promoted and two relegated except when the Executive Council considers that this would upset the balance of the Divisions of the League. Whatever the circumstances, however, at least one club shall be promoted and at least one relegated.
19. The home team shall provide three new balls per court for each League match. Only balls approved by the LTA and dated the current season may be used.

20. The League disclaims all responsibility for any injury or damage which may be incurred by anyone participating in any match or function organised by the League.
21. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game of tennis as in the current LTA handbook.
22. This Constitution and Rules can only be amended at a General Meeting. Any proposition for amendment or addition to these rules at the AGM shall be notified to the Secretary in writing by January 1<sup>st</sup>.
23. A match forfeited will result in the deduction of twelve points for the offending Club.
24. A player can only play a maximum of 17 matches in a season.

## **Junior Divisions**

1. The winning club shall be awarded the "Kevin Livesey" Junior Tennis Trophy, to be held for 12 months.
2. Teams shall consist of 4 players, boys or girls or both, who must be either 16 and under, 14 and under or 12 and under on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013, depending on which division they are to play in.
3. Each fixture shall consist of 4 singles matches and 2 doubles matches. Each player shall play 1 singles match and 1 doubles match. The singles matches are the best of 3 sets: the first 2 sets shall be played to 4 (e.g. 4-1, 4-2, 5-3, tiebreak at 4 – 4), the 3<sup>rd</sup> set if needed to be a match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2 points, e.g. 10 -4, 10- 8, 11-9). The doubles match is one set (first to 6 games, 6 – 5 is ok). Players should play the singles in order of ability. If players have an LTA Rating, they should play in ratings order, if appropriate.
4. Home clubs to have the choice of Saturday or Sunday mornings.
5. Matches to start at 10am. Play should commence no later than 10.15am – any team or player not ready to play by then shall forfeit the first rubbers, as appropriate. The order of play shall be: all singles first, then the doubles.
6. Each match is worth 1 point. The final score shall be out of 6 (e.g. 4- 2, 6- 0, etc).
7. Matches can only be postponed because of inclement weather. If a match is called off due to the weather, clubs should try to re-arrange the fixture. However, clubs can agree to halve the points, or one team can concede, but a result card must be sent in whichever is decided.
8. An entry fee of £2 per team is payable to the Treasurer at the start of the season.
9. For each match, each team should ensure that an adult remains present for the entire duration of the match.
10. If a club has more than one team in a division, they must nominate 2 players who will only be allowed to play for the higher team.