

# **NORTH CORK TENNIS LEAGUE 2016**

## **COMPETITION RULES**

1. This competition will be confined to Clubs in North Cork for players of 17 years and over. A club may enter as many teams as it desires in each division.

2. Entry fees must accompany the entry forms. Failure to do so will deem the team illegible for entry in the draw.

3. Entries to be returned to the Host Club, Whitechurch Tennis Club.

4. The league will consist of four divisions as follows:

Premier Division – Grades 2 & 3 combined (No pairing to be both Grade 2, except in Super doubles in the knockout stages).

Division 1 – Grade 4

Division 2 – Grade 5

Division 3 – Grade 6

5. Clubs should only enter teams where they have a fair degree of certainty that these teams will be able to meet the fixture deadlines.

6. Matches consist of 1 Mens Doubles, 1 Womens Doubles and 2 Mixed Doubles.

7. TEAM PANELS: Team Panels to be entered in each division. Each team will consist of 4 players, 2 men and 2 ladies, names of substitutes for each team should also be listed. The panel may consist of 5 ladies and 5 men with a maximum of 10. If a player who is not on the panel plays on a team, the team will be disqualified. Affiliated Clubs must enter their player's appropriate Munster grades on the entry form.

Players listed at the commencement of play are the only ones eligible to play in that match. If, through injury on the night, a player is unable to complete a match or start a subsequent match, his/her team must concede one or both matches, which ever applies by default.

8. Players may play only once on a higher division team. To play a further time with a higher team will deem them ineligible to play again with the lower division team.

9. Player's names and their team positioning must be written on the result sheet prior to commencement of play. Play should only commence when this has been completed. Sheets also to be filled in prior to commencement of final matches.

10. All league matches and the semi-finals should be 2 tie break sets (when the score reaches 6-6). The team that wins the most sets is deemed the winner and awarded 3 points. Where teams are tied on sets 1 point will be awarded to each team. In the event of a tie in the knockout stages, a Mixed Super Doubles will be played. Finals will be the best of 3 tie break sets.

**11.** Brand new tennis balls (Tretorn) must be used in all matches. The “home” team shall supply the tennis balls. It is recommended that “home” teams provide refreshments to visiting teams.

**12.** Results must be signed by both captains and returned by the winning captain or home captain in the event of a draw within 48 hours to the League Secretary. Failure to submit the score sheet on time may result in one point being deducted from the teams score for each late score sheet submitted.

**13.** Where there is one group in a Division the top 2 teams go through to the final. Where there are 2 groups in a Division the top 2 teams in each Group go through to the semi-finals where the winner of Group A plays the runner up in Group B; the winner of each group will have home advantage.

**14.** In the case of teams having equal points the team with the greater number of sets won will be deemed to be the winner. In the case of a further draw the games will be counted and the team with the greatest game difference will be the winner. In the case of a further draw the score from the original game will count. If the teams still cannot be separated, a play-off will take place.

**15.** All Premier Division matches will be set for Thursday nights, All Division 1 will be set for Friday nights, Division 2 for Saturday nights and Division 3 for Sunday nights. Games must be played on or before those nights – in the order specified on the fixture dates list. Where an agreement cannot be reached games will be played on the designated night. All games must be played in the order that they are drawn.

**16.** Games which have to be temporarily interrupted: for any reason e.g. weather, should when restarted continue from the score at the time the game was stopped. If due to bad weather before or during the course of a nights play, a postponement or deferral is requested by one team, it can only be granted by agreement of both team captains. Failing agreement by the opposing team captain, the match must continue. It is intended that common sense would prevail and that no one would be asked to play in dangerous conditions. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the remaining games being conceded by the defaulting team.

The team names in the original team must play in the deferred games. Under no circumstances will substitutes be allowed in these situations. Team captains will therefore have to ensure that any players involved in a situation of this type will be available for the rearranged date. If this is not possible, the game should continue on the original night. Postponed matches must be played prior to the next scheduled match.

**17.** In the case of an objection before a particular match, or even before nights play commences, the objection should be written out and signed by both team captains. The match(es) should then be played. The League Committee will then decide on the validity of this objection regardless of the outcome of the games involved and decide on what appropriate action to take. The objecting team captain must forward this written objection to the League Secretary as per rule 20.

**18.** Any team failing to turn up for a game without notice of half an hour after the agreed time of commencement of match shall be assumed to have conceded a walkover. If this occurs a second time, the said team shall be disqualified and all their scores cancelled.

**19.** Any objections, which a team or club may have in relation to the league or its running must be, submitted to the League Secretary within 48 hours of the objection being raised. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the objection being over-ruled.

**20.** The onus is on each Club Secretary to ensure that each of its Team Captains is familiar with the rules of the league, list of contacts, score sheets etc. Ignorance of the rules will not in itself be sufficient defence in the case of any breach of the rules.

**21.** No player may play in the League for more than one Club during the course of the League campaign.

**22.** Players that win in any division of last year's North Cork League will be automatically upgraded to the next higher division. Premier Division players are excluded from this rule. A player may appeal this to the grading committee.

**23.** In the event of any dispute (e.g. match dates, player grading) the decision of the organising committee shall be final.

**24.** There are to be fixed dates for the semi-finals and finals. These dates will be decided by the Host Club.

**25.** The organising committee is deemed to be the committee or person who is organising the League on behalf of the Host Club. The committee or person running the League on behalf of the host Club has the final ruling in the running of the League and this role must be respected by all taking part in the League. The Host Club is rotated around the North Cork Tennis Clubs in alphabetical order. The forthcoming Host Club shall host a meeting at the end of the League and invite all Clubs involved. Matters for discussion at this meeting will be amended to existing rules or improvements for the next year etc.

**26.** Grading Committee: The Grading Committee shall consist of three members. One member from the previous Host Club, one member from the current Host Club and one member from the forthcoming Host Club. I.e. year 2016 Mitchelstown, Whitechurch & Ballyhooley.

**27.** 2016/2017 Munster Grading will be the grading system and the Grading Committee shall have the final say. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that their players do not play in a division below their 2016/2017 Munster grade. Particularly, if a player has gained enough points to be upgraded they should play in the new grade accordingly in this North Cork Tournament. Failure to comply with this rule will render a team liable to disqualification from the competition. For players who do not have a Munster Grade the Grading Committee will grade these players after getting advice from their Club.

**28.** Teams from the same Club if drawn in the same group in the same competition must meet in the first round.