



*Serving over a Century of League Tennis*

# **Dublin Lawn Tennis Council Constitution and League Rules 2023**

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## CONSTITUTION

### **1. The Council**

- 1.1.** The Dublin Lawn Tennis Council (hereinafter called “the Council”) shall be responsible for the promotion of tennis leagues and other tennis events in the Region of Dublin

### **2. Council Members**

- 2.1.** The Council shall consist of 4 Officers: - (President, Honorary Secretary, Assistant Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) and up to a maximum of *nine* Council members. The nine Council members shall consist of not more than two representatives from any one club competing in Council Competitions.
- 2.2.** The President shall serve no more than 4 consecutive years in that office. However, thereafter, he / she can return to serve as an officer other than President.

### **3. Eligibility**

- 3.1.** Competitions shall be open to all Clubs whose grounds are situated within a radius of 48 kilometres of the General Post Office, Dublin.
- 3.2.** To compete in Council Competitions, Clubs must comply with the following conditions:
  - 3.2.1.** Be affiliated to Tennis Ireland.
  - 3.2.2.** Affiliation fees and any other fees due to Tennis Ireland shall be fully paid.
  - 3.2.3.** Capitation fees and any other fees due to the Leinster Branch Tennis Ireland shall be fully paid.
  - 3.2.4.** Entries for any competition must be accompanied by the appropriate entry fee.
  - 3.2.5.** All fines payable to the Council are fully paid.
- 3.3.** Clubs and players participating in a League shall be subject to the Constitution and Rules of the Council upon submission and acceptance by the Council of an entry form for a League.
- 3.4. Child Protection Policy**

The Dublin Lawn Tennis Council has adopted, and adheres to, the Child Protection Policy of Tennis Ireland. This Child Protection can be accessed on the Tennis Ireland website at [www.tennisireland.ie](http://www.tennisireland.ie).

#### **4. Powers of the Council**

**4.1.** The Council shall have the following powers and duties: -

- To appoint sub-committees.
- To fill any vacancy occurring amongst the Officers or Council members.
- To organise competitions which shall be held annually.
- To decide the dates and format for each competition.
- To decide the closing date for entries to each competition.
- To decide the entry fee to be paid for each competition.
- To decide on the eligibility of the entry of any Club, team, or player for a Council Competition.
- To refuse the entry or entries of any club whose courts or premises are considered unsatisfactory or for any other reason which is deemed to be good and sufficient.
- To enforce the rules governing any particular competition.
- To suspend, expel or fine (up to a maximum of €1000) any Club and / or to suspend or expel a member of any Club competing in a Council competition whom they consider has acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the game or contrary to the rules of any competition, provided that the defaulting Club or person shall have been given a reasonable opportunity of appearing before the Council and offering an explanation.

#### **5. Decisions of the Council**

**5.1.** The Council shall have absolute power to make decisions on any matter which may arise in connection with a Competition and which is not provided for in the Rules. The decision of the Council on any such matter or on the interpretation of any Rule shall be final.

**5.2.** While any dispute, protest or disciplinary matter affecting a Club, or member of a Club, is being discussed by the Council, any representative of that Club on the Council shall not be present nor shall take part in the decision taken.

#### **6. Appeal of Decisions**

**6.1.** Appeals of decisions of the Council must be notified by e-mail by an Officer of the Club to the Honorary Secretary of the Council within 4 days of the notification of the decision.

**6.2.** Appeals will be heard by three members of the Council who were not part of the Council Sub-Committee that made the original decision.

#### **7. Competition Rules**

**7.1.** All competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis as sanctioned by Tennis Ireland.

**7.2.** All competitors shall be of a player category as defined by Tennis Ireland.

## **8. Annual General Meeting**

- 8.1.** An Annual General Meeting shall be held not earlier than the 1st day of February and not later than the last day of February in each year.
- 8.2.** The business of the Meeting shall be: -
- Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
  - Adoption of the Minutes of any Special General Meeting
  - Consideration of. Report from the Honorary Secretary
  - Consideration of. Report from the Honorary Treasurer
  - Presentation of the Financial Accounts of the Council for the year ending 31st December previous to the Meeting
  - Election of; -
    - President
    - Honorary Secretary
    - Assistant Honorary Secretary
    - Honorary Treasurer
    - Nine Representatives from Clubs of which not more than two representatives may be from any one club competing in Council competitions.
    - Financial Accountant.
    - Consideration of any duly proposed alterations or additions to this Constitution.
    - Consideration of any duly proposed alterations or additions to League Rules.
    - Consideration of any other relevant business.

## **9. Notice of Changes to Constitution and League Rules**

- 9.1.** Notice of proposed alterations or additions to the Constitution or Competition Rules must be submitted by the Honorary Secretary of a participating club and be received by the Honorary Secretary of the Council not later than the 1st January preceding the intended General Meeting.
- 9.2.** A Special General Meeting may be called:
- By the Council
  - At the request, in writing, of 10 clubs participating in Council competitions.
- 9.3.** The request to call a Special General Meeting shall: -
- Clearly set out the business to be transacted.
  - Be signed by 2 Officers of each of the requesting Clubs.
- 9.4.** Upon receipt of such a request the Council shall without undue delay, determine the date and venue for the Special General Meeting.
- 9.5.** No business shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting except that specified in the Agenda.

**10. Notification of AGM or Special General Meeting**

- 10.1.** The Honorary Secretary shall give at least 14 days' notice of both Annual and Special General Meetings to the Honorary Secretary of each participating Club. The notice shall include the Agenda for the Meeting and will be communicated to the nominated Honorary Secretary of each participating Club by post, or e-mail.

**11. Proceedings of Council, AGM, or Special General Meetings**

- 11.1.** Each participating Club present at a General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall have one vote which must be exercised by a bona fide member of the Club in question.
- 11.2.** The President of the Council shall preside, and act as Chairperson, at all meetings of the Council and at General Meetings and/or Special General Meetings.
- 11.3.** In his /her absence, a member of the Council shall be appointed by those present to take the chair and preside.
- 11.4.** In the case of equality of votes at a Meeting of the Council or at a General Meeting and/or Special General Meeting the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- 11.5.** The quorum for Council Meetings shall be six, two of whom must be Officers.
- 11.6.** The quorum for General Meetings and/or Special General Meetings shall be 15 duly represented Clubs.
- 11.7.** Minutes of the proceedings of every Council, General Meeting and/or Special General Meeting shall be recorded in books kept for that purpose. Such Minutes signed by the Chairperson shall, in the absence of proof of error, be accepted as conclusive evidence of the facts therein stated.
- 11.8.** This Constitution or any Competition Rules shall not be altered or added to, except such alteration or addition be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting and/or Special General Meeting.

## GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

### **1. Format of Leagues**

- 1.1. Each League shall be divided into Classes.
- 1.2. Each Class may be divided into Sections.
- 1.3. The division of any Class into Sections shall be at the discretion of the Council.  
The number and allocation of teams in each Class shall also be at the discretion of the Council.

### **2. Eligibility – to Play in the Leagues**

- 2.1. All players in a team shall be members of the Club they represent in the league.
- 2.2. A person may only play for one Club in any one league competition.
- 2.3. The Club for which a player first plays in a league is the only Club for which he/she may play in that league in that year.
- 2.4. The penalty for breach of this rule shall be loss of all points won by the offending team in all matches affected by the breach of this rule and such lost points shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 2.5. In addition, a fine of up to €100 may be imposed at the discretion of the Council.

### **3. Tennis Attire**

Players must wear recognised tennis attire.

### **4. Notification of Nominated Teams**

- 4.1. Teams and Substitutes with lowest relevant Class attached must be submitted on the DLTC system not later than the date published by the council in the league schedule for each league.
- 4.2. Points shall not be awarded to a team in respect of any match played prior to the date of receipt of this notification under Rule 4.1 of League Rules.

### **5. Nomination of Teams – Order of Merit**

- 5.1. Each Club shall nominate and play their teams in order of merit. Within each team the members shall also be nominated in order of merit in the prescribed Format for each League.  
This order of merit shall not be changed.
- 5.2. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches involving players in the incorrect order and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 5.3. **Note:** In Floodlight League and Junior Under 18 League, players within a team need not be listed in order of merit. However, teams shall be nominated in order of merit.



## **6. Allocation of Courts**

- 6.1.** All the Club's courts must be available for fixtures at the time specified by the Council in the fixture list or at any other time specified by the Council.
- 6.2.** The allocation of courts for individual matches in a fixture shall be made by the home team captain.
- 6.3.** The Council may, at its discretion, reschedule a fixture to another club if it is not satisfied that adequate numbers of courts will be available at the specified time. The Council may also reschedule a fixture to another club if it deems the courts to be unsuitable. If the Council reschedules a fixture to an alternative venue, the Council may specify the court surface on which the fixture is to be played (if appropriate).

## **7. Fixtures**

- 7.1.** All fixtures must be played on the dates and at the times specified on the fixture sheets or other notifications by the Council.
- 7.2.** All players of both teams must be ready to play at the specified starting time.
- 7.3.** If a walkover is being given in one of the matches in a fixture, players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest position in the order of the team.

## **8. Tennis Balls**

- 8.1.** Only approved balls as indicated on the fixture sheets may be used for League fixtures.
- 8.2.** The Home Team shall provide new tennis balls as approved by the Council for each match.
- 8.3.** Three balls must be provided for each match in a fixture.
- 8.4.** The cost of the balls shall be borne by the Home Team.
- 8.5.** The balls used shall become the property of the Home Club.

## **9. Fixture Result Sheets**

- 9.1.** Before the start of each fixture, the Captains of the opposing teams must exchange a list of the names of their respective teams in the prescribed format for the League.
- 9.2.** Except for Floodlight League and Junior Under 18 Class 1 League, players must be listed in order of merit in the format prescribed for the League.

## **10. Notification of Fixture Results – League Section Fixtures**

- 10.1.** The DLM of the winning Club is responsible for ensuring the input, saving, and submission of the result of each fixture **by 5 p.m. on the day after** the fixture, or for an abandoned fixture, when finished.
- 10.2.** The penalty for breach of Rule 10.1 of League Rules shall be a fine of €100.  
The Council will issue an e-mail to both Clubs advising the non-receipt of a

result. The Winning Club has 24 hours from the issuing of this e-mail to submit the late result. Failure to do so will result in the loss of all points won by the Winning Team in addition to the fine of €100.

- 10.3.** The result must be recorded on the official Result Sheet and must contain the **full names** of the members of both teams in the order in which they played in each match and signed by the two Captains/Acting Captain(s). All Result Sheets must be retained until the end of each League and must be e-mailed to the Council immediately if requested. If an “Unknown Player” appears on the on-line match result the submitting Club shall immediately e-mail the signed original Result Sheet to the Dublin Lawn Tennis Council at [dublinlawntenniscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dublinlawntenniscouncil@gmail.com). If the submitting Club does not e-mail the signed original result sheet to DLTC by **5 p.m. on the day after** the fixture, the Club may be fined €100.

## **11. Notification of Fixture Results – Play Off Fixtures**

- 11.1.** The DLM of the winning Club must input, save, and submit the result of each fixture by **12 noon on the day after** the Play Off fixture or by any other time notified by the Council to the Club.
- If the Result Sheet is not received by the due time, the result will be accepted but **a fine of €100 will apply**.
- 11.2.** The result must be recorded on the official Result Sheet and must contain the **full names** of the members of both teams in the order in which they played in each match, the score in each match and signed by the two Captains/Acting Captain(s). All Result Sheets must be retained until the end of each League and must be e-mailed to the Council immediately if requested.
- If an “Unknown Player” appears on the on-line match result the submitting Club shall immediately e-mail the signed original Result Sheet to the Dublin Lawn Tennis Council at [dublinlawntenniscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dublinlawntenniscouncil@gmail.com)
- If the submitting Club does not e-mail the signed original Result Sheet to the DLTC by **12 noon on the day after** the play-off fixture, or any other time notified by the Council to the Club, the Club may be fined €100.

## **12. Postponed Fixtures**

- 12.1.** The only circumstances in which a fixture may be re-arranged, postponed, or abandoned are as follows:

### **12.1.1. Postponed by Agreement:**

A fixture may only be postponed due to adverse weather or for other exceptional causes. The postponement must be notified within 24 hours by e-mail to the Council’s Hon. Secretary by both Captains and **the rearranged fixture must be played before the date scheduled for the next fixture.**

**12.1.2. Abandoned by Agreement:**

A fixture may only be abandoned with the agreement of the two Captains by reason of adverse weather conditions or other exceptional causes. The abandonment must be notified within 24 hours by e-mail to the Council's Hon. Secretary by both Captains. **The fixture shall be finished before the date scheduled for the next League fixture.**

The scores in all matches at the time of abandonment shall stand and play in the unfinished matches shall be resumed from the point at which they ceased.

**12.1.3. Postponed/Abandoned without Agreement:**

If a fixture is abandoned/postponed without the agreement of the two Captains, the circumstances shall be reported within 24 hours by e-mail to the Hon. Secretary of the Council by the Hon. Secretary of each Club.

The Council shall have the power to:

- Order the fixture be replayed in its entirety at the original venue or an alternative venue nominated by the Council.  
or
- Order the fixture be resumed from the point at which play ceased.  
or
- Award any unfinished match or matches to either team.

**13. Deciding the Winning Team in a Class**

**13.1.** One point shall be awarded for each match within each fixture.

**13.2.** The teams competing in each Class, or in a Section where a Class is divided into Sections, shall play one fixture against each other.

**13.3. Class with one Section:**

Where there is only one Section in a Class, the two teams gaining the highest number of points shall meet in a Final, to decide the winner and runner-up of the Class.

**13.4. Class with two Sections:**

Where there are two Sections in a Class, the winner of each Section shall play the runner-up in the other Section and the winners of these fixtures shall meet in a final to decide the winner of the Class.

**13.5. Class with more than two Sections:**

**13.5.1.** Where there are more than two Sections in a Class the winner and runner-up in each Section shall partake in a Knock-Out Series to decide the winner of the Class.

**13.5.2.** The draw for the Knock-Out Series shall be made in such a manner as to ensure that the two teams from any one Section shall not meet each other until the Final.

**14. Deciding the Winner and Runner-Up in a Section:**

**14.1.** The Winner and the Runner-up in a Section shall be determined as follows:

**14.1.1.** The Winner in a Section (except those Classes with only one Section) shall be the team completing its fixtures with the highest number of points. One point shall be awarded for each match within each fixture.

**14.1.2.** The Runner-Up in a Section (except those Classes with only one Section) shall be the team with the second highest number of points.

**14.2.** When **two teams** for either the Winner or Runner-Up position in a Section finish on level points, the Winner or Runner-Up, shall be the Winner when the two teams concerned met in the Section.

**14.3.** Where **more than two teams** for either Winner or Runner-Up position in a Section finish on level points the Winner or Runner-Up, shall be determined as follows:

**14.3.1.** The team that defeated all other teams that were level on points shall be the Winner or Runner-Up.

**14.3.2.** If the above does not decide, the team that won the highest number of matches in the Section shall be the Winner or Runner-Up.

**14.3.3.** Should the number of matches won be equal, the Winner or Runner-Up shall be the team that won its matches by the highest margin of sets.

**14.3.4.** Should the margin of sets be equal, the Winner or Runner-Up shall be the team that won its matches by the highest margin of games.

**14.3.5.** When Rule 14.3 is used to select a Section Winner, then Rule 14.2 shall be used to decide the Runner-Up.

**15. Penalties**

**15.1.** If a Club withdraws a team after the draw has been made, the Council may fine that Club a sum not exceeding €500 (€250 Junior League)

**15.2.** If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150 (€75 Junior League).

**15.3.** The Council shall also have the power to remove a team from a league if it fails to fulfil any or all of its fixtures.

*The Following Rules apply to the specific League as indicated:*

## **WINTER LEAGUE**

### **1. Eligibility – Age Categories**

Players must have attained the age of 14 years by 31st December in the year preceding the competition.

### **2. Format of League Fixtures**

- 2.1. Each fixture shall consist of three doubles matches.
- 2.2. A match shall be the best of three sets.
- 2.3. Tie Break - The tie-break shall operate at 6 games all in each set of all matches.

### **3. Team Format**

All teams in this League shall consist of 6 players each of whom shall play in a doubles match.

### **4. Nomination of Team**

- 4.1. Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.
- 4.2. The penalty for breach of this Rule (2, 3 & 4.1 of Winter League) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

### **5. Walkover**

- 5.1. If a walkover is being given in one of the matches within a fixture, players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest position in the order of the team.
- 5.2. If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150.

### **6. Substitutes**

- 6.1. If a nominated player is unable to play in any fixture, a substitute may be played.
- 6.2. Such substitute shall be:
  - 6.2.1. A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class.
  - 6.2.2. A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class.
  - 6.2.3. A registered substitute, of the same Class or lower.
  - 6.2.4. If a Club uses a player who has not been nominated, or registered as a substitute in the same Class or lower, before the start of the League, the penalty shall be the loss of any point(s) affected by the use of such substitute.

- 6.3. A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.
- 6.4. A player who plays **more than one match** as a substitute for a higher team shall cease to be eligible to play for a lower team.
- 6.5. Order of merit must be maintained when substitutes are played.
- 6.6. To maintain the order of merit it may be necessary to alter the nominated positions. **However, after a substitute or substitutes have been included, any existing nominated pairings that remain must play as nominated or as previously played.**
- 6.7. A team of the same players that includes the same substitute(s) must play in the same format in all fixtures.
- 6.8. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 6.9. The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending Club a sum not exceeding €300 and/or remove the offending team from the League.
- 6.10. When registering substitutes on-line Clubs **must** ensure that players are allotted the appropriate “Lowest Class” for which they can play in the League. **Substitutes who have no “Lowest Class” allotted at the time registration closes will be deemed to be unregistered.** The Council reserves the right to change the “Lowest Class” of a registered substitute at any time before or during a competition, where appropriate.
- 6.11. A registered substitute, who is subbing on a team in the Class corresponding to his/her lowest class designation, may play in any position on that team, once order of merit is maintained.
- 6.12. A registered substitute, whose lowest class designation is lower than the team for which s/he is subbing, must play below all nominated players on that team and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.
- 6.13. A nominated team member of a lower team in the same class, or in a lower class, must play below all nominated players on the team in which s/he is subbing and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.

## **7. Eligibility to play in Play Off Fixtures**

- 7.1. A nominated team member or registered substitute may not play in the play-off Fixtures unless he/she has played at least one match in the League competition.

In **Class 1** fixtures, a nominated team member or registered substitute must have played at least **two matches** in the League competition.

- 7.2.** If the team concerned is a Club's only or lowest team competing, the League Sub-Committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a registered substitute, or nominated team member who has not played in the League, to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made by e-mail in advance of the play-off fixture and shall provide sufficient information to enable the Sub-Committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.
- 7.3.** The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of this Rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

**8. Promotion**

The finalists in Class 2, the four semi-finalists in Class 3, and the eight quarter finalists in all lower Classes shall be promoted to the Class immediately above for the next year.

**9. Relegation**

- 9.1.** The teams to be relegated will be those that have the least number of points.
- 9.2.** If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams with the least number of fixtures won shall be relegated.
- 9.3.** Should the number of fixtures won be equal, the team, which has the highest margin between sets won and lost in all matches, shall be relegated.
- 9.4.** Should the margin of sets won be equal, the team, which has lost its fixtures by the highest margin of games shall be relegated.
- 9.5.** Where a section(s) contains less than six teams the number of points won by teams will be adjusted proportionately as if they were in a six-team section.
- 9.6.** Two teams in Class 1 and four teams in Class 2, and eight teams in all Lower Classes shall be relegated each year to the Class immediately below for the next year.

## SUMMER LEAGUE

### **1. Eligibility – Age Categories**

- 1.1.** Summer League – Women’s Premier and Men’s & Women’s Class 1:  
Players must have attained the age of 13 years by 31st December in the year preceding the competition.
- 1.2.** Summer League – Classes 2 and below:  
Players must have attained the age of 14 years by 31st December in the year preceding the competition.

### **2. Format of League Matches**

- 2.1.** Each fixture shall consist of three singles and two doubles matches.
- 2.2.** A match shall be the best of three sets.
- 2.3.** Tie Break – The tie-break shall operate at 6 games all in each set of all matches.

### **3. Team Format**

In all Classes, a team shall consist of 7 players, each of whom shall play one singles or one doubles.

### **4. Courts**

If a Club has less than 5 courts available for a fixture at the scheduled start time, a draw must be made to determine which matches are played first. All players must therefore be present at the scheduled start time as per Rule 7.2 of League Rules. However, with the agreement of both captains, alternative arrangements can be made beforehand.

### **5. Nomination of Team**

- 5.1.** Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as singles players and as doubles combinations. **This order of merit shall not be changed.**
- 5.2.** Registered substitutes or players substituting from a lower team may substitute in either singles or doubles.
- 5.3.** Where substitutes are used, nominated players may move from singles to doubles or from doubles to singles. Where a substitute is needed for singles and that substitute is registered on a lower team or is a registered substitute for a lower class, that substitute must play below any Nominated Singles or Doubles Player(s) or Substitute(s), of a higher Class.
- 5.4.** The penalty for breach of this Rule (5 of Summer League) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.



## **6. Walkover**

- 6.1. If a walkover is being given in one of the matches within a fixture, players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest position in the order of the team.
- 6.2. The lowest position may be in Singles or in Doubles.
- 6.3. If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150.

## **7. Substitutes**

- 7.1. If a nominated player is unable to play in any fixture, a substitute may be played.
- 7.2. Such substitute shall be:
  - 7.2.1.** A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class.
  - 7.2.2.** A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class.
  - 7.2.3.** A registered substitute, of the same Class or lower.
  - 7.2.4.** If a Club uses a player who has not been nominated, or registered as a substitute in the same Class or lower, before the start of the League, the penalty shall be the loss of any point(s) affected by the use of such substitute.
- 7.3. A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.
- 7.4. A player who plays more than one match as a substitute for a higher team shall cease to be eligible to play for a lower team.
- 7.5. Order of merit must be maintained when substitutes are played.
- 7.6. To maintain the order of merit it may be necessary to alter the nominated positions. **However, after a substitute or substitutes have been included, any existing nominated pairings that remain must play as nominated or as previously played.**
- 7.7. A team of the same players that includes the same substitute(s) must play in the same format in all fixtures.
- 7.8. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 7.9. The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending Club a sum not exceeding €300 and/or remove the offending team from the League.
- 7.10. When registering substitutes on-line Clubs **must** ensure that players are allotted the appropriate “Lowest Class” for which they can play in the League. **Substitutes who have no “Lowest Class” allotted at the time registration closes will be deemed to be unregistered.** The Council reserves the right to change the “Lowest Class” of a registered substitute at any time before or during a competition, where appropriate.

- 7.11. A registered substitute, who is subbing on a team in the Class corresponding to his/her lowest class designation, may play in any position on that team, once order of merit is maintained.
- 7.12. A registered substitute, whose lowest class designation is lower than the team for which s/he is subbing, must play below all nominated players on that team and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.
- 7.13. A nominated team member of a lower team in the same class, or in a lower class, must play below all nominated players on the team in which s/he is subbing and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.

## **8. Eligibility to play in Play Off Fixtures**

- 8.1. A nominated team member or registered substitute may not play in the play-off Fixtures unless he/she has played at least one match in the League competition.  
In Women's Premier and Men's & Women's Class 1 fixtures, a nominated team member or registered substitute must have played at least **two matches** in the League competition.
- 8.2. If the team concerned is a Club's only or lowest team competing, the League Sub-Committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a registered substitute, or nominated team member who has not played in the League, to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made by e-mail in advance of the play-off fixture and shall provide sufficient information to enable the Sub-Committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.
- 8.3. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of this Rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

## **9. Promotion**

The winner of Women's Class 1 shall be promoted to Women's Premier Class. The finalists in Class 2, the four semi-finalists in Class 3 and the eight quarter-finalists in all lower Classes shall be promoted to the Class immediately above.

## **10. Relegation**

- 10.1. The teams to be relegated will be those that have the least number of points.
- 10.2. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams with the least number of fixtures won shall be relegated.
- 10.3. Should the number of fixtures won be equal, the team, which has the highest margin between sets won and lost in all matches, shall be relegated.
- 10.4. Should the margin of sets won be equal, the team, which has lost its fixtures by the highest margin of games shall be relegated.

- 10.5.** Where a section(s) contains less than six teams the number of points won by teams will be adjusted proportionately as if they were in a six-team section.
- 10.6.** One team in Women's Premier Class, two teams in Class 1, four teams in Class 2 and eight teams in all Lower Classes shall be relegated to the Class immediately below.

## MIXED LEAGUE

### **1. Eligibility – Age Categories**

Players must have attained the age of 18 years by 31st December in the year preceding the competition.

### **2. Format of League Fixtures**

- 2.1.** Each fixture shall consist of three Mixed Doubles matches.
- 2.2.** A match shall be the best of three sets.
- 2.3.** Tie Break – The tie-break shall operate at 6 games all in each set of all matches.

### **3. Team Format**

A team shall consist of 6 players, three men and three ladies each of whom shall play a mixed doubles match.

### **4. Nomination of Team**

Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as mixed doubles combinations.

This order of merit shall not be changed.

### **5. Walkover**

- 5.1.** If a walkover is being given in one of the matches within a fixture, players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest position in the order of the team.
- 5.2.** If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150.

### **6. Eligibility**

- 6.1.** Class 1 is for players who have not played higher than **Class 3 in Summer League in the year of the League.**
- 6.2.** Class 2 is for players who have not played higher than **Class 5 in Summer League in the year of the League.**
- 6.3.** Class 3 is for players who have not played higher than **Class 7 in Summer League in the year of the League.**
- 6.4.** Players, who were not registered for the Summer League in the year of the League can only play Mixed League in a class appropriate to their playing standard. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis on their results in previous Leagues.
- 6.5.** The 6 players who played in the Final on the winning Class 2 and Class 3 teams from the previous year **CANNOT** be nominated in the same Class or lower Class for one year following their league win, regardless of their Summer League lowest class in the year of the League.

- 6.6. If a player has been registered as a nominated team member or substitute in a particular Class of the Summer League that player shall be deemed to be of that Class even if they had not played.
- 6.7. If a registered player or substitute plays only one match in a higher Class in the Summer League of that year, that player is deemed eligible to play Mixed League at the level equivalent to their original Summer League registration.
- 6.8. It is the responsibility of the Clubs to ensure that any substitute used in Mixed League is registered in the appropriate "Lowest Class". Team Captains are responsible in ensuring substitutes used are eligible to the appropriate Class. Substitute lowest class registration will only be checked as and when the substitute is used. Substitutes used and found to have been incorrectly classified will be deemed to be in breach of this Rule.
- 6.9. Penalty for breach of this Rule (6 of Mixed League) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending teams in matches affected by the breach. Such lost points shall be awarded the opposing team.

## 7. Substitutes

- 7.1. If a nominated player is unable to play in any fixture, a substitute may be played.
- 7.2. Such substitute shall be:
  - 7.2.1. A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class.
  - 7.2.2. A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class.
  - 7.2.3. A registered substitute, of the same Class or lower.
  - 7.2.4. If a Club uses a player who has not been nominated, or registered as a substitute in the same Class or lower, before the start of the League, the penalty shall be the loss of any point(s) affected by the use of such substitute.
- 7.3. A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.
- 7.4. A player who plays more than one match as a substitute for a higher team shall cease to be eligible to play for a lower team.
- 7.5. Order of merit must be maintained when substitutes are played.
- 7.6. To maintain the order of merit it may be necessary to alter the nominated positions. **However, after a substitute or substitutes have been included, any existing nominated pairings that remain must play as nominated or as previously played.**
- 7.7. A team of the same players that includes the same substitute(s) must play in the same format in all fixtures.
- 7.8. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

- 7.9.** The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending Club a sum not exceeding €300 and/or remove the offending team from the League.
- 7.10.** When registering substitutes on-line, Clubs **must** ensure that players are allotted the appropriate “Lowest Class” for which they can play in the League. **Substitutes who have no “Lowest Class” allotted at the time registration closes will be deemed to be unregistered.** The Council reserves the right to change the “Lowest Class” of a registered substitute at any time before or during a competition, where appropriate.
- 7.11.** A registered substitute, who is subbing on a team in the Class corresponding to his/her lowest class designation, may play in any position on that team, once order of merit is maintained.
- 7.12.** A registered substitute, whose lowest class designation is lower than the team for which s/he is subbing, must play below all nominated players on that team and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.
- 7.13.** A nominated team member of a lower team in the same class, or in a lower class, must play below all nominated players on the team in which s/he is subbing and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.
- 8. Eligibility to play in Play Off Fixtures**
- 8.1.** A nominated team member or registered substitute may not play in the play-off Fixtures unless he/she has played at least one match in the League competition.
- 8.2.** If the team concerned is a Club’s only or lowest team competing, the League Sub-Committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a registered substitute, or nominated team member who has not played in the League, to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made by e-mail in advance of the play-off fixture and shall provide sufficient information to enable the Sub-Committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.
- 8.3.** The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of this Rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 9. Promotion**  
There are no team promotions in Mixed League.
- 10. Relegation**  
There is no relegation in Mixed League.

## SENIOR LEAGUE

### **1. League Format**

- 1.1. The League shall consist of age categories as defined by the Council.
- 1.2. Each age category shall be divided into Classes.

### **2. Eligibility – Age Categories**

- 2.1. Players must attain the relevant age category during the calendar year of the Senior League or before.
- 2.2. Nominated team members shall only play in the age category for which they are nominated.
- 2.3. Registered substitutes may play in any age category for which they are eligible by age and for which they are registered as a substitute. However, any player who plays more than one match as a substitute in any Age Category or for a higher team in the same Age Category shall thereupon cease to be eligible to play in a different Age Category or for a lower team in the same Age Category.

### **3. Format of League Fixtures**

- 3.1. Each fixture shall consist of three doubles matches.
- 3.2. A match shall be the best of three sets.
- 3.3. Tie Break – The tie-break shall operate at 6 games all in each set of all matches.

### **4. Team Formats**

All teams in this League shall consist of 6 players each of whom shall play in one doubles match.

### **5. Nomination of Team**

- 5.1. Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.
- 5.2. The penalty for breach of this rule (2 & 5 of Senior League) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

### **6. Walkover**

- 6.1. If a walkover is being given in one of the matches within a fixture, players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest position in the order of the team.
- 6.2. If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150.

## **7. Substitutes**

- 7.1.** If a nominated player is unable to play in any fixture, a substitute may be played.
- 7.2.** Such substitute shall be:
  - 7.2.1.** A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class.
  - 7.2.2.** A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class.
  - 7.2.3.** A registered substitute, of the same Class or lower.
  - 7.2.4.** If a Club uses a player who has not been nominated, or registered as a substitute in the same Class or lower, before the start of the League, the penalty shall be the loss of any point(s) affected by the use of such substitute.
- 7.3.** A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.
- 7.4.** A player who plays more than one match as a substitute for a higher team shall cease to be eligible to play for a lower team.
- 7.5.** Order of merit must be maintained when substitutes are played.
- 7.6.** To maintain the order of merit it may be necessary to alter the nominated positions. **However, after a substitute or substitutes have been included, any existing nominated pairings that remain must play as nominated or as previously played.**
- 7.7.** A team of the same players that includes the same substitute(s) must play in the same format in all fixtures.
- 7.8.** The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 7.9.** The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending Club a sum not exceeding €300 and/or remove the offending team from the League.
- 7.10.** When registering substitutes on-line Clubs **must** ensure that players are allotted the appropriate “Lowest Class” for which they can play in the League. **Substitutes who have no “Lowest Class” allotted at the time registration closes will be deemed to be unregistered.** The Council reserves the right to change the “Lowest Class” of a registered substitute at any time before or during a competition, where appropriate.
- 7.11.** A registered substitute, who is subbing on a team in the Class corresponding to his/her lowest class designation, may play in any position on that team, once order of merit is maintained.
- 7.12.** A registered substitute, whose lowest class designation is lower than the team for which s/he is subbing, must play below all nominated players on that team and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.



- 7.13.** A nominated team member of a lower team in the same class, or in a lower class, must play below all nominated players on the team in which s/he is subbing and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.

**8. Eligibility to play in Play Off Fixtures**

- 8.1.** A nominated team member or registered substitute may not play in the play-off Fixtures unless he/she has played at least one match in the specific League competition.

In **Class 1 (except Men's O/55 Senior League)** fixtures, a nominated team member or registered substitute must have played at least two matches in the specific League competition.

- 8.2.** If the team concerned is a Club's only or lowest team competing, the League Sub-Committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a registered substitute, or nominated team member who has not played in the specific League, to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made by e-mail in advance of the play-off match and shall provide sufficient information to enable the Sub-Committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.
- 8.3.** The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of this Rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

**9. Promotion**

The finalists in Class 2, the four semi-finalists in Class 3, and the eight quarter finalists in all lower Classes shall be promoted to the Class immediately above for the next year.

**10. Relegation**

- 10.1.** The teams to be relegated will be those that have the least number of points.
- 10.2.** If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams with the least number of fixtures won shall be relegated.
- 10.3.** Should the number of fixtures won be equal, the team, which has the highest margin between sets won and lost in all fixtures, shall be relegated.
- 10.4.** Should the margin of sets won be equal, the team, which has lost its fixtures by the highest margin of games shall be relegated.
- 10.5.** Where a section(s) contains less than six teams the number of points won by teams will be adjusted proportionately as if they were in a six-team section.
- 10.6.** Two teams in Class 1 and four teams in Class 2, and eight teams in all Lower Classes shall be relegated each year to the Class immediately below for the next year.

## OVER 65 SENIOR LEAGUE

### **1. Eligibility – Age Categories**

Players must have attained the age of 65 years during the calendar year of the competition or before.

### **2. Format of League Matches**

- 2.1. Each fixture shall consist of three doubles matches.
- 2.2. A match shall be the best of three sets.
- 2.3. Tie Break – The tie-break shall operate at 6 games all in the first two sets of all matches.
- 2.4. If the match is one set all a Championship Tie Break – first to 10 points, win by 2 points – shall be played instead of a third set.

### **3. Team Format**

All teams in this League shall consist of 6 players each of whom shall play in a doubles match.

### **4. Nomination of Team**

Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.

### **5. Walkover**

- 5.1. If a walkover is being given in one of the matches within a fixture, players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest position in the order of the team.
- 5.2. If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150.

### **6. Substitutes**

- 6.1. If a nominated player is unable to play in any fixture, a substitute may be played.
- 6.2. Such substitute shall be:
  - 6.2.1. A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class.
  - 6.2.2. A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class.
  - 6.2.3. A registered substitute, of the same Class or lower.
  - 6.2.4. If a Club uses a player who has not been nominated, or registered as a substitute in the same Class or lower, before the start of the League, the penalty shall be the loss of any point(s) affected by the use of such substitute.
- 6.3. A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.

- 6.4. A player who plays more than one match as a substitute for a higher team shall cease to be eligible to play for a lower team.
  - 6.5. Order of merit must be maintained when substitutes are played.
  - 6.6. To maintain the order of merit it may be necessary to alter the nominated positions. **However, after a substitute or substitutes have been included, any existing nominated pairings that remain must play as nominated or as previously played.**
  - 6.7. A team of the same players that includes the same substitute(s) must play in the same format in all fixtures.
  - 6.8. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
  - 6.9. The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending Club a sum not exceeding €300 and/or remove the offending team from the League.
  - 6.10. When registering substitutes on-line Clubs **must** ensure that players are allotted the appropriate “Lowest Class” for which they can play in the League. **Substitutes who have no “Lowest Class” allotted at the time registration closes will be deemed to be unregistered.** The Council reserves the right to change the “Lowest Class” of a registered substitute at any time before or during a competition, where appropriate.
  - 6.11. A registered substitute, who is subbing on a team in the Class corresponding to his/her lowest class designation, may play in any position on that team, once order of merit is maintained.
  - 6.12. A registered substitute, whose lowest class designation is lower than the team for which s/he is subbing, must play below all nominated players on that team and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.
  - 6.13. A nominated team member of a lower team in the same class, or in a lower class, must play below all nominated players on the team in which s/he is subbing and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation.
- 7. Eligibility to play in Play Off Fixtures**
- 7.1. A nominated team member or registered substitute may not play in the play-off Fixtures unless he has played at least one match in the League competition.
  - 7.2. If the team concerned is a Club’s only or lowest team competing, the League Sub-Committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a registered substitute, or nominated team member who has not played in the League, to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made by e-mail in advance of the play-off fixture and shall provide sufficient

information to enable the Sub-Committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.

- 7.3. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of this Rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

**8. Promotion**

- 8.1. The winner of Class 2 shall be promoted to Class 1.

**9. Relegation**

- 9.1. The team to be relegated will be those that have the least number of points.
- 9.2. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams with the least number of fixtures won shall be relegated.
- 9.3. Should the number of fixtures won be equal, the team, which has the highest margin between sets won and lost in all matches, shall be relegated.
- 9.4. Should the margin of sets won be equal, the team, which has lost its fixtures by the highest margin of games shall be relegated.
- 9.5. Where a section(s) contains less than six teams the number of points won by teams will be adjusted proportionately as if they were in a six-team section.
- 9.6. One team from Class 1 shall be relegated to Class 2.

## JUNIOR LEAGUE

### **1. League Format**

- 1.1. In Under 14 League, each fixture shall consist of three doubles matches.
- 1.2. In Under 18 League, each fixture shall consist of two singles matches and one doubles match.
- 1.3. A match shall be the best of three sets.
- 1.4. Tie Break – The tie-break shall operate at 6 games all in the first two sets of all matches.
- 1.5. If the match is one set all a Championship Tie Break – first to 10 points, win by 2 points – shall be played instead of a third set.

### **2. Nomination of Team Under 14 League**

- 2.1. Players shall not have attained the age of 14 by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year preceding the competition.
- 2.2. Within each team, the members shall be nominated in order of merit as doubles combinations. This order of merit shall not be changed.

#### **2.3. Walkover**

- 2.3.1.** If a walkover is being given in one of the matches within a fixture, players must move up the playing order and the walkover must be given starting at the lowest position in the order of the team.
- 2.3.2.** If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €75.

### **3. Nomination of Team Under 18 Leagues: CLASS 1**

- 3.1. Players shall not have attained the age of 18 by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year preceding the competition.
- 3.2. Before the start of each fixture, the opposing Captains shall place the names of their team members in a container. Papers placed in the container must have a full First Name and Surname written on them in Capitals.
- 3.3. Each Captain shall draw the name of one opponent. These two players shall play a singles match.
- 3.4. A further two names will be drawn by this method, and these two players shall also play a singles match.
- 3.5. The remaining players shall play a doubles match.

#### **3.6. Walkover**

- 3.6.1.** If a team in the Under 18 Class 1 does not have a full complement of players a blank paper(s) is/are placed in the container for the missing player(s) and, if drawn, a walkover is given in that match.
- 3.6.2.** If a team does not have a full complement of players a fine of €75 shall be imposed.

**4. Nomination of Team Under 18 Leagues: CLASS 2**

- 4.1. Players shall not have attained the age of 18 by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year preceding the competition.
- 4.2. The four players on an Under 18 team playing in Class 2 must be nominated in Order of Merit.  
The strongest plays 1<sup>st</sup> Singles, the next strongest player plays 2<sup>nd</sup> Singles and the other two remaining players play the doubles.

**4.3. Walkover**

- 4.3.1.** If a team in the Under 18 (Class 2) does not have a full complement of players, a walkover is given in the Doubles match.
- 4.3.2.** If a team does not have a full complement of players a fine of €75 shall be imposed.

**5. Eligibility**

- 5.1. The League shall consist of age categories as defined by the Council.
- 5.2. Nominated team members may only play in the age group for which they are nominated.
- 5.3. Registered substitutes may play in any age category for which they are eligible by age.
- 5.4. Penalty for breach of this Rule (5 of Junior League) shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach. Such lost points shall be awarded to the opposing team.

**6. Supervision**

All fixtures must be supervised by an adult from each of the competing Clubs.

**7. Substitutes**

- 7.1. If a nominated player is unable to play in any fixture, a substitute may be played.
- 7.2. Such substitute shall be:
  - 7.2.1.** A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class.
  - 7.2.2.** A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class.
  - 7.2.3.** A registered substitute, of the same Class or lower.
  - 7.2.4.** If a Club uses a player who has not been nominated, or registered as a substitute in the same Class or lower, before the start of the League, the penalty shall be the loss of any point(s) affected by the use of such substitute.
- 7.3. A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.
- 7.4. A player who plays more than one match as a substitute for a higher team shall cease to be eligible to play for a lower team.

- 7.5. Order of merit must be maintained when substitutes are played excluding Under 18 Class 1.
  - 7.6. To maintain the order of merit it may be necessary to alter the nominated positions. **However, after a substitute or substitutes have been included, any existing nominating pairings remaining must play as nominated or as played previously.**
  - 7.7. A team of the same players that includes the same substitute(s) must play in the same format in all fixtures, excluding Under 18 Class 1.
  - 7.8. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
  - 7.9. The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending Club a sum not exceeding €150 and/or remove the offending team from the League.
  - 7.10. When registering substitutes on-line Clubs **must** ensure that players are allotted the appropriate “Lowest Class” for which they can play in each particular League. **Substitutes who have no “Lowest Class” allotted at the time registration closes will be deemed to be unregistered.** The Council reserves the right to change the “Lowest Class” of a registered substitute at any time before or during a competition, where appropriate.
  - 7.11. A registered substitute, who is subbing on a team in the Class corresponding to his/her lowest class designation, may play in any position on that team, once order of merit is maintained, excluding Under 18 Class 1.
  - 7.12. A registered substitute, whose lowest class designation is lower than the team for which s/he is subbing, must play below all nominated players on that team and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation, excluding Under 18 Class 1.
  - 7.13. A nominated team member of a lower team in the same class, or in a lower class, must play below all nominated players on the team in which s/he is subbing and / or below any registered substitutes of a higher-class designation, excluding Under 18 Class 1.
- 8. Eligibility to play in Play Off Fixtures**
- 8.1. A nominated team member or registered substitute may not play in the play-off Fixtures of any League unless he/she has played at least one match in the specific League competition. In **Class 1** fixtures, a nominated team member or registered substitute must have played at least **two matches** in the specific League competition.

- 8.2.** If the team concerned is a Club's only or lowest team competing, the League Sub-Committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a registered substitute, or nominated team member who has not played in the specific League, to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made by e-mail in advance of the play-off fixture and shall provide sufficient information to enable the Sub- Committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.
- 8.3.** The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of this Rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

**9. Promotion**

The finalists in Class 2 shall be promoted to Class 1 for the next year.

**10. Relegation**

- 10.1.** The teams to be relegated will be those that have the least number of points.
- 10.2.** If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams with the least number of fixtures won shall be relegated.
- 10.3.** Should the number of fixtures won be equal, the team, which has the highest margin between sets won and lost in all matches, shall be relegated.
- 10.4.** Should the margin of sets won be equal, the team, which has lost its fixtures by the highest margin of games shall be relegated.
- 10.5.** Where a section(s) contains less than six teams the number of points won by teams will be adjusted proportionately as if they were in a six-team section.
- 10.6.** Two teams in Class 1 shall be relegated each year to Class 2 for the next year.



## FLOODLIGHT

### **1. Eligibility – Age Categories**

Players must have attained the age of 14 years by 31st December in the year preceding the competition.

### **2. Format of League Fixtures**

- 2.1. Each fixture shall consist of two singles matches and one doubles match.
- 2.2. A match shall be the best of three sets.
- 2.3. Tie Break – The tie-break shall operate at 6 games all in the first two sets of all matches.
- 2.4. If the match is one set all a Championship Tie Break – first to 10 points, win by 2 points – shall be played instead of a third set.

### **3. Team Format**

A team shall consist of 4 players each of whom shall play a singles or doubles match.

### **4. Nomination of Team**

- 4.1. Before the start of each fixture, the opposing Captains shall place the names of their team members in a container. Papers placed in the container must have a full First Name and Surname written on them in Capitals.
- 4.2. Each Captain shall draw the name of one opponent. These two players shall play a singles match.
- 4.3. A further two names will be drawn by this method, and these two players shall also play a singles match.
- 4.4. The remaining players shall play a doubles match.

### **5. Walkover**

- 5.1. If a team does not have a full complement of players a blank paper(s) is/are placed in the container for the missing player(s) and, if drawn, a walkover is given in that match.
- 5.2. If a club fails to fulfil a fixture or part of a fixture, without reasonable justification, the Council may fine the Club a sum not exceeding €150.

### **6. Substitutes**

- 6.1. If a nominated player is unable to play in any fixture, a substitute may be played.
- 6.2. Such substitute shall be:
  - 6.2.1. A nominated member of a lower team playing in the same Class.
  - 6.2.2. A nominated member of a lower team playing in a lower Class.
  - 6.2.3. A registered substitute, of the same Class or lower.

**6.2.4.** If a Club uses a player who has not been nominated, or registered as a substitute in the same Class or lower, before the start of the League, the penalty shall be the loss of any point(s) affected by the use of such substitute.

- 6.3. A nominated member of a team may only substitute for a higher-ranking team. The higher-ranking team may be in a higher Class or the same Class.
- 6.4. A player who plays more than one match as a substitute for a higher team shall cease to be eligible to play for a lower team.
- 6.5. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of order of merit and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 6.6. The Council shall also have the authority to fine the offending Club a sum not exceeding €300 and/or remove the offending team from the League.
- 6.7. When registering substitutes on-line Clubs **must** ensure that players are allotted the appropriate “Lowest Class” for which they can play in the League. **Substitutes who have no “Lowest Class” allotted at the time registration closes will be deemed to be unregistered.** The Council reserves the right to change the “Lowest Class” of a registered substitute at any time before or during a competition, where appropriate.

## **7. Eligibility to play in Play Off Fixtures**

- 7.1. A nominated team member or registered substitute may not play in the play-off Fixtures of any League unless he/she has played at least one match in the League competition. In **Class 1** fixtures, a nominated team member or registered substitute must have played at least **two matches** in the specific League competition.
- 7.2. If the team concerned is a Club’s only or lowest team competing, the League Sub-Committee shall have the power to grant special permission for a registered substitute, or nominated team member who has not played in the League, to compete. An application for such special permission shall be made by e-mail in advance of the play-off fixture and shall provide sufficient information to enable the Sub- Committee to judge the standard of the intended substitute.
- 7.3. The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be the loss of all points won by the offending team in matches affected by the breach of this Rule and the points lost shall be awarded to the opposing team.

## **8. Promotion**

The finalists in Class 2, the four semi-finalists in Class 3, and the eight quarter finalists in all lower Classes shall be promoted to the Class immediately above for the next year.

**9. Relegation**

- 9.1.** The teams to be relegated will be those that have the least number of points.
- 9.2.** If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams with the least number of fixtures won shall be relegated.
- 9.3.** Should the number of fixtures won be equal, the team, which has the highest margin between sets won and lost in all matches, shall be relegated.
- 9.4.** Should the margin of sets won be equal, the team, which has lost its fixtures by the highest margin of games shall be relegated.
- 9.5.** Where a section(s) contains less than six teams the number of points won by teams will be adjusted proportionately as if they were in a six-team section.
- 9.6.** Two teams in Class 1 and four teams in Class 2, and eight teams in all Lower Classes shall be relegated each year to the Class immediately below for the next year.

## 2023 DLTC LEAGUE SCHEDULE

<b>2023 DLTC LEAGUE SCHEDULE</b>				
<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES</b>	<b>TEAMS NOMINATED BY</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>FINALS</b>
<b>WINTER</b>	29th November 2022	17th January 2023	22nd January 2023	26th March 2023
<b>SUMMER</b>	14th March 2023	2nd May 2023	5th May 2023	24th June 2023
<b>MIXED</b>	6th June 2023	27th June 2023	7th July 2023	18th August 2023
<b>SENIOR</b>	18th July 2023	29th August 2023	3rd September 2023	22nd October 2023
<b>O/65</b>	11th August 2023	1st September 2023	7th September 2023	19th October 2023
<b>JUNIOR</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>FLOODLIGHT</b>	29th August 2023	19th September 2023	25/26 September 2023	27/28 November 2023
<b>WINTER 2024</b>	28th November 2023	TBA	TBA	TBA