

## Southport & District Tennis League

### Proposed Rule Changes by the League Executive Committee for 2020 Season

#### 1. Introduction

The S&D League Executive Committee has carried out a review of the 2019 league season and also considered helpful feedback provided by a number of clubs. The main concerns from the season were:

- There were far too many matches conceded; just as many as in the previous year although at least in 2019 it was mainly lower teams.
- There were too many matches that included ineligible players.

It is hoped that the proposed rule changes in this document will address both these concerns and make it far easier for clubs to field fully eligible teams. All proposed changes from the previous rules are shown in red text.

#### 2. Players playing for more than one team in the same week

To make it easier for clubs to field full teams, it is proposed that the majority of league players should be allowed to play for more than one team in the same week. There does, of course, have to be some controls around this to prevent lower teams being unreasonably strengthened and so the rule changes in this section are proposed and will allow playing up but not down. To ensure consistency of the rules all the proposed changes in this section will be voted on as one block.

Rule	Proposed rule change	Comments on change
7	No player shall play more than one like event in the same match. <del>No player shall play in more than 1 match in 1 week unless Rule 22 applies. A postponed or re-arranged match shall be deemed to be played during the week when the match should have been played.</del> A player may play for more than one team in the same week so long as they comply with the "starring" described in rule 9.	Removes the restriction on playing more than one match in the same week.
9	<del>Each club with more than one team in the League shall nominate 4 men and 4 ladies for each team, excluding the lowest team, who will be known as "starred players". Three of the men and three of the ladies shall be starred for the team in which they usually play while the other man and lady will be starred for the team below. The starring shall be indicated by adding the number of the team for which they are starred after their surname on the player registration. "Starred" players may not play for a team which is lower than the one for which they have been starred and must be regular league players.</del>	This changed rule ensures that players playing more than once in a week may only play up not down while retaining a small amount of flexibility for the lowest two players in each team.
22	<del>In the event of a rearranged match a player who has already played for a LOWER team than the one included in the re-arranged fixture, will be available for selection in the higher team's replay.</del>	This rule is not required if players may play more than once in a week regardless of whether a match is a replay.

### 3. Other Proposed changes

Rule	Proposed rule change	Comments on change
9	<p>This correction to rule 9 will only be proposed if the earlier changes to allow playing more than once in a week are not accepted by the AGM.</p> <p>Each club with more than one team in the League shall nominate 3 men and 3 ladies for each team, excluding the lowest team, by adding the number of the team for which they are nominated after their surname on the player registration. These will be known as "starred" players and may only play for the team for which they have been nominated or a higher team. They must be regular players for the team for which they have been nominated.</p>	<p>The section in red was accidentally missed by the printers in the 2019 handbook.</p>
10	<p>Player registrations and "starrings" must be sent to the League Planner Manager 2 weeks before the start of the season and in the spreadsheet format as defined by the League Planner Manager. At the discretion of the League Planner Manager SMALL numbers of changes to the registrations MAY be accepted up to the Friday before the start of the season. All registration spreadsheets and any change requests must be copied to the League Match Secretary for information.</p>	<p>Ensures the League Match Secretary has a copy of the initial player registrations to allow later checking.</p>
New rule	<p>When entering match results, clubs may add additional players to any team so long as the player is already registered for a lower team at the same club. An email recording the addition must be sent to the League Match Secretary within 48 hours of the addition being made.</p>	<p>Increases flexibility with moving players up when higher teams are short. Addition must be made by one of the clubs concerned via the League Planner system.</p>
11	<p>Up to 4 additional <del>players-men</del> and 4 additional ladies may be registered per team between the seventh and eighth week of the season. Clubs may request a change to "starred" players between the third and fourth week and/or between the seventh and eighth week of the season. Any change requests must be sent to the League Planner Manager and the League Match Secretary in writing (or email) to arrive no later than the Friday of the third or seventh week. Apart from these changes and those described in rule (new rule number above) no other changes to registrations or "starrings" may be made except in case of injury or as directed by the League Match Secretary.</p>	<p>Clarification on the number of additions that may be made.</p> <p>Gives clubs an extra 2 days to request changes.</p> <p>Adds a cross reference to the new rule above. (Only required if that rule is accepted by the AGM.)</p>
12	<p>Teams that concede a match will suffer a two point penalty in addition to the loss of all points from the conceded match. This rule will apply to all teams apart from the lowest team in clubs with more than one team.</p>	<p>Removes the concession penalty for a club's lowest team in clubs with multiple teams.</p>
New rule	<p>Clubs must make every effort to field complete teams. However, if this is genuinely not possible then a match may go ahead so long as each contains a minimum of 2 men and 2 ladies and the shortage of players has been notified to the opposing team at least an hour before the match is due to take place. Any gaps in a team must be in the lowest positions in the team and must only be in the club's lowest team playing on that night.</p>	<p>Defines the minimum number of players that must be fielded to avoid a match being conceded.</p>

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