

# Southport & District Tennis League

## Proposed Rule Changes by the League Executive Committee for 2019 Season

### 1. Introduction

The Executive Committee has analysed the results of the 2018 season extensively along with comments from a number of clubs which have been very helpful. As a result it is proposed, subject to agreement at the AGM, to make the following rule changes for the 2019 season. The changes have been allocated into two groups as those in the latter group are dependent on each other and will therefore need to be voted upon together to ensure that the rules remain consistent.

Anything in **red text** indicates a change from the 2018 rules.

### 2. General rule changes

These rules are not dependent on each other and will be voted on individually.

Rule	Proposed rule change	Comments on change
4	All new clubs shall have a minimum of 4 courts suitable for match play, <b>undertake to remain affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association while they remain members of the Southport and District Tennis League</b> and meet the criteria for applications as determined by the EC.	We are under considerable pressure from Tennis Lancashire and the LTA to only allow LTA affiliated clubs in the league so this rule change is recommended for any new clubs joining the league from now on.
12	In the event of a player being incapacitated after play in a match has begun, so that he or she cannot continue playing, a captain shall be entitled to include a substitute in any subsequent events in which the incapacitated player should have taken part, provided that the injury or other incapacity was caused <b>entirely</b> after play in the match had begun and was not due solely to tiredness <del>or the worsening of an existing ailment</del> .	It is recommended that the pre-existing ailment clause be deleted as, in practice, it is impossible for the League Executive to prove and enforce.
14	The captain of the home team shall have submitted the results of the match, using the online system, within <b>48</b> hours of the match being completed. The captain of the away team shall have verified the results within <b>72</b> hours of the match being completed. Missing either of these deadlines <b>may</b> result in the points being awarded to the opposing team, <b>at the discretion of the LMRSC/EC</b> .	It is proposed to reduce the time for away captains to verify results to 24 hours instead of 48 as the process is very quick and the extra delay caused some problems last year when some matches were not confirmed before the following week's matches had commenced.
17	In the event of inclement weather or bad light during a match, the match shall be deemed to have been completed if 8 sets have been completed. All sets not completed or begun shall be deemed <b>void</b> and recorded <b>"not played" on the online system</b> . In the event of 8 sets not having been completed, the match shall be treated as a postponed match and replayed as a new match. The scoresheet must show the actual date played.	Changed to reflect that scores of 6-6 cannot be recorded on the online system.

### 3. Registrations, “starring” and concessions

The following rules are proposed to make it easier for clubs to put out complete teams whilst still ensuring that teams and players are played in order of strength. It is hoped that this will significantly reduce the unacceptable number of concessions (30) that occurred in 2018. These rules have been designed as a “package” and will be voted upon as a group to avoid any inconsistency.

Rule	Proposed rule change	Comments on change
8	Each club shall register up to 20 men and 20 ladies for each league team. Individual players may be registered for any number of teams but must still be played in order of strength. Clubs agree that the names of all registered players will be shown on the League Results Website.	Increase in “squad size” for all teams other than lowest teams which already had 20.  Moved sections on “order of strength” and “permission to put names on website” from previous rule 9.
New rule	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 their 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.	Return of starred players.
9	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.	Return of starred players.
New rule	Up to 4 additional players 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 Wednesday of the third or seventh week. Apart from these changes no other changes to registrations or “starrings” may be made except in case of injury or as directed by the League Match Secretary.	It is proposed to move all rules on changes after the start of the season into a new rule to improve clarity.  It is not possible to delete players from a team for which they have already played so this allows extra players not replacements.
New rule	Any team that concedes a match will suffer a two point penalty in addition to the loss of all points from the conceded match.	Addition of two point penalty for conceding matches so that it is better to lose than to concede.

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