

Maidstone & District LTA

Inter-Club Competition Rules

April 2026

1) General Responsibilities

- a) Matches should start promptly and be played in a friendly and respectful spirit.
- b) The home team must enter results on the LTA website within 48 hours; the away team must verify accuracy.
- c) Home captains should confirm matches 48 hours before play and offer light refreshments afterwards.

2) Eligibility

- a) To play for a club, a player must:
 - i) Hold a full membership for that club on the day of the match.
 - ii) Be listed by the club as a player for the competition before the season starts.
 - iii) Hold a valid BTM membership number.

3) Registration

- a) The Ladies', Men's and Mixed/Combination leagues are treated as separate competitions.
- b) Registration is valid for one summer or winter competition, and a player may represent only one club for each competition.

4) Nomination

- a) Clubs entering multiple teams must submit nominations of at least four players per team (excluding the lowest team) to the secretary at least 7 days before the season. Failure results in zero points for that team.
- b) Additional nominated players may be added during the season with 7 days' notice.
- c) A player is ineligible if:
 - i) They have been nominated for a higher team.
 - ii) They have played twice for a higher team in the same competition (summer or winter).

5) Fixtures

Before each season begins, clubs must arrange match dates promptly following publication of the divisional structure. Fixture Secretaries must ensure all fixtures are agreed and entered into the system before the season begins. The home team is responsible for entering match dates. Any issues must be referred to the Match Secretary.

- a) Each team plays all others in its division.
- b) Once a date is fixed, it may only be changed due to bad weather, court unfitness, Kent League clashes, or as outlined in section (c).
- c) Rearrangement requests made more than 72 hours before a match should normally be accepted once per team per season if due to genuine unavailability. The home team must offer three alternative dates.
 - i) If the rearranged match is rained off, the non-requesting team may claim 12 points; the requesting team receives 0 points.
 - ii) The non-requesting captain may decline if courts are unavailable.
 - iii) If both captains agree not to rearrange, no points are awarded.
 - iv) A team may only request such a rearrangement once per season; repeated requests for the same match need not be accepted.
- d) Teams from the same club must play each other early in each half of the season.
- e) A player not ready 15 minutes after the start time concedes one set; after 30 minutes the rubber is forfeited.
- f) Matches must be played within:
 - i) Summer: 1 April – 30 September
 - ii) Winter: 1 October – 31 March
 - iii) Extensions may be granted for extenuating circumstances.
- g) If home courts are unfit, another venue may be agreed.
- h) Rearranged dates must be updated on the LTA website.

6) Matches

- a) Teams consist of 4 players arranged in pairs, declared in strict merit order before play.
- b) Home clubs must supply at least 4 new LTA-approved balls per court.
- c) Each pair plays two rubbers; each rubber consists of two tie-break sets, with a championship tie-break to 10 if split.

- d) No points are awarded for unplayed matches.
- e) Incomplete rubbers due to retirement: opponents receive remaining games and, if necessary, a love set.
- f) Unfinished rubbers award 1 point per team. Completed rubbers count toward the result. If fewer than two rubbers are completed, the match must be replayed unless captains agree otherwise. The rearranged match will be played at the away team's ground.
- g) Winners are determined by rubbers, then sets, then games; drawn matches result in shared points.
- h) Teams may change players between matches but not after a match has started.
- i) Scoring:
 - i) Each rubber won: 2 points
 - ii) Unfinished rubber: 1 point per team
 - iii) Match winner bonus: 4 points
 - iv) Total: 12 points available
- j) Drawn matches split winning bonus points.
- k) Conceding team receives 0 points; opposition receives 12 points.
- l) Results must be entered within 48 hours.

7) Divisional Results

- a) Final standings are based on total points, then:
 - i) Percentage of matches won
 - ii) Percentage of rubbers won
 - iii) Percentage of sets won
 - iv) Percentage of games won
- b) Disputes are resolved by the Committee.

8) Player Behaviour and Conduct

- a) Players must behave respectfully toward opponents, officials, spectators, and facilities.
- b) Aggression, abuse, or conduct bringing the league into disrepute is prohibited.
- c) Sanctions may include warnings, point deductions, suspension, or referral to the Committee.

d) Clubs are responsible for player and supporter behaviour.