

# TENNIS OXFORDSHIRE

## DUNLOP SUMMER LEAGUE (DSL) AND DUNLOP WINTER LEAGUE (DWL) RULES

April 2026 – March 2027

Please be aware that while most rules for the two leagues have been aligned, there are some important differences which are specified in this document. Please ensure that all players are conversant with these rules before playing matches

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CONFIRM YOUR MATCHES AT LEAST 4 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MATCH**

### 1 TEAM COMPOSITION

1.1 A team comprises 4 players arranged in 2 pairs in strict order of merit by their respective captains

### 2 FORMAT OF MATCHES

2.1 Order of Play Round 1. Home 1 v Away 2      Home 2 v Away 1

Round 2. Home 2 v Away 2      Home 1 v Away 1

(AWAY team remain on same the courts for the duration of the match)

2.2 **Dunlop Winter League:** Each pair plays 2 sets against each opposing pair with the tie-break operating at 6 games all in every set. 1 point is allocated for every set won. The team with the greatest number of points shall be the winner of that Division.

2.3 **Dunlop Summer League:** The first round will consist of 2 tie-break sets. The second round (1 v 1 and 2 v 2) shall be the best of three sets with the tie-break at 6 games all. If BOTH Captains agree at the start of play, a Championship Tie Break (a tie break to 10 points with 2 points clear and with change of end every 6 points) may be played in place of a third set. If one captain does not wish to play a Championship Tie Break then a full set (with normal tie break at 6-6 games) must be played.

Across all Divisions, one point is allocated for every set won (including Championship Tie Breaks). The team with the greatest number of points shall be the winner of that Division.

2.4 If a team is unable to raise 2 pairs on the day of a match:

**Dunlop Summer and Winter League:** on ONE occasion ONLY during the course of the season they may field just one pair. If on a second occasion a team can only field one pair then it must concede the match (see 3.5). The team fielding one pair shall have one point deducted from its match total.

**Both Leagues:** Teams fielding only one pair must make every effort to inform their opponents of this before the match so that they can make appropriate travelling and start time arrangements.

### 3 CONFIRMATION AND START TIME OF MATCHES

3.1 It is the responsibility of the HOME team to phone the visiting club at least 4 days prior to the match. Team captains must always confirm the match START time, DATE and LOCATION OF COURTS. Email contact is also acceptable but confirmation that any email has been received must be sought. If no such confirmation is received then telephone contact must be made and efforts must be made to try other team captains listed on league planner or the Fixture Secretary. If, on the day of the match, the visiting team captain has had no contact from the home team and has him/herself attempted contact but been unsuccessful, then that team should arrive at the venue of the match regardless. If a visiting team arrives, and the home team is not present, then the visiting team will be entitled to claim a walkover provided that the home team is at fault (see 3.8).

3.2 Matches in both the summer and winter seasons are scheduled to **start** at either 10:00am or 1:00pm. This is **not** the arrival time. Players must be on court and ready to play at the scheduled time. If an alternative time is mutually agreed, players must be on court and ready to play at that time.

3.3 If any player(s) are absent at the agreed start time, the opponents shall be entitled to one love set for every half hour of lateness in each event in which such player(s) should have competed. However, if no member of a team is present after half an hour a walkover can be claimed. Players must not leave the venue once the match has commenced even during a rain break.

3.4 All clubs must arrange their home matches so that there is no restriction on the time available for the completion of such matches. It is not acceptable to allocate a fixed time for a home match on the basis that if a match overruns this allocated time, the match cannot be completed. By their very nature, matches can have quite different finish times, depending on a number of factors, including weather interruptions and how long individual sets last, but each match must have as much time as necessary to run its course, including a reasonable time for warm ups. In the event of the home team being unable to provide sufficient court time to finish the match any outstanding sets will be awarded to the visiting team.

3.5 Should a Club be unable to raise a team and thus concedes a walkover to another club, an 8-0 score may be claimed by the team receiving the walkover, while the team conceding the match shall have 8 points deducted from their current league table score. This applies to both summer and winter leagues.

3.6 In the event of a walkover, the team receiving the walkover must complete the online match card.

3.7 Any team conceding 2 walkovers in the same season shall have its record deleted from the tables for that season and will be relegated by at least one Division.

3.8 A walkover may be claimed by a Club in the event that the opposing Club has made an error in terms of the agreed date, start time, or venue subject to 3.1 above.

#### 4 **CANCELLING, POSTPONEMENT AND REARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES**

4.1 Changes to the draft fixtures must be agreed by both clubs and inputted to League Planner by the date specified by the League Secretary when notifying clubs of the publication of the fixtures. The start time of matches may also be changed by the home team. The away team's Fixtures Secretary must be informed and the new time inputted to League Planner by the specified date.

4.2 Matches may only be cancelled and re-arranged because of the unfit state of the courts or the weather (including cancellation by a visiting team which considers the roads unfit for travel).

4.3 If on the day prior to the match, the matchday temperature is forecast to be 30c or above (as per BBC Weather), the match can be postponed at the request of either team.

4.4 The League fixtures shall take precedence over Club activities and are second only to National and Regional Team Tennis fixtures and only when such fixture dates are unknown by 31st March, or officially re-arranged by the organising body. The absence of one player does not constitute a valid reason for changing a League fixture.

4.5 If a match is postponed owing to the weather the HOME Team must provide at least 3 dates which should not clash with the opposing team's existing fixtures. The Home Club must input the new date to League Planner within 14 days of the original date. If no new date can be agreed, then the Leagues Committee will fix the date.

4.6 All **Dunlop Summer** matches must be completed by the last Sunday in September (27<sup>th</sup> September 2026).

4.7 All **Dunlop Winter** matches must be played by the last Sunday in March (28<sup>th</sup> March 2027).

## **Matches stopped after the arrival of the visiting team.**

4.8 Play shall be suspended in matches when it is raining, except where the captains mutually agree that play shall continue.

4.9 If a match has to be stopped and cannot be completed after the arrival of the visiting team, on the first occasion the replay of the fixture (see 4.10 and 4.11 below) will take place at the same venue unless mutually agreed otherwise. On the second occasion the replay will take place at the venue of the original visiting team.

4.10 A date for the replay shall be fixed as set out in 4.5 above.

4.11 **Dunlop Summer and Winter:** An unfinished match should be replayed in its entirety unless the Captains mutually agree to let the score of any completed sets stand in which case that score should be entered in League Planner as the final result (e.g. 3-2, 1-4, 3-3). If at the end of the season a match is "not played" then zero points will be awarded.

4.12 If a player retires through injury or any other reason during a rubber, the opponents shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets.

## **5 BALLS**

5.1 Eight new Dunlop tennis balls should be provided by the HOME team for all League matches. Dunlop (Australian Open, Dunlop Fort All Court or Dunlop ATP) is the recommended and preferred ball and these can be purchased by clubs from selected retailers at advantageous rates. Dunlop is the Official Sponsor of the Summer and Winter Leagues.

## **6 NOTICE OF RESULTS**

6.1 The **Captain of the winning club (or the home team in the event of a draw)** is responsible for submitting the result of the match on-line to League Planner. You will need the full names of the players and the full score of all rubbers/sets and games won or lost. This should be done, within 48 hours of the conclusion of a match. No results will be accepted if the names of all the players are not included. A record of the score and names of players should be retained by both captains. The losing captain should confirm the result online. This should NOT be done by the captain of the winning team.

6.2 All players must be LTA Advantage members and linked to their club in order to play in the Dunlop Summer and Winter Leagues.

6.3 The result of the match should be agreed between the two captains immediately at the conclusion of the match. It is not permissible to change scores or alter the result in any way after the away team has departed. If the two captains cannot agree the result, within 48 hours of the end of the match they

must notify the Leagues Committee at [adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk](mailto:adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk) giving a full explanation for the reasons for being unable to do so. The Committee will then determine what result should prevail.

6.4 The Leagues Committee shall be under NO obligation to accept the result of any match, notice of which has not been in accordance with 6.1.

## 7. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

7.1 A player may represent a Club if he/she is an LTA Advantage Member and a full playing member who has paid (or is paying via a Standing Order of Direct Debit) the appropriate full subscription for the current year. Someone paying a reduced rate membership fee that is not generally available, does not qualify to play. It is also not permitted to pay players to represent the Club.

7.2 If a player represents a Club but then during the season leaves and joins a new Club they may represent that new Club in either League, subject to the approval of the Leagues Committee. A player may play in a Mixed team for another Club.

7.3 A Club shall not be bound to play the same team throughout any Competition but no change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in any match after the start of play. If, however, an unfinished match is replayed in its entirety, the composition of the teams may be changed.

7.4 The team a player represents in their first match of any season is their "designated team" and the one they stay in for the remainder of that season. However, in the event of a player being asked to play for a team that is higher than their designated team for their first match, they may revert back to their designated Team for the remainder of their matches. A player **cannot play in a lower team from their designated team for any other reason.**

7.5 No allowance can be made for players coming back from an injury playing in a lower team unless a request is emailed to the League Committee at least a week before the match is due to be played.

7.6 **Dunlop Winter:** A player may only play TWO matches for a higher team and remain eligible to play in his/her designated team. On the third occasion of playing up, he/she will be committed to that team for the remainder of the season.

7.7 **Dunlop Summer:** A player may only play ONE match for a higher team and remain eligible to play in his/her designated team. On the second occasion of playing up, he/she will be committed to that team for the remainder of the season

## 8 DRESS

8.1 Players' dress must be suitable sports clothing and footwear.

## 9 COMPLAINTS

9.1 Should a dispute take place between two clubs, the complaint must be put in writing to the Leagues Committee at [adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk](mailto:adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk) within 7 days . This MUST be sent with the endorsement of the Fixtures Secretary of the Club, and NOT directly from a Team Captain or individual player. Communications from Team Captains or individual players will not be considered. A copy of the email from the Fixtures Secretary will then be sent to the opposing Fixtures Secretary. The Leagues Committee will take any necessary and appropriate action. The decision of the League Committee will be final in any dispute.

9.2 If a player is found to have played one or more matches for a team lower than his or her designated team, all sets won by the player in those matches may be forfeited.

### Disqualification

9.3 Teams will be relegated by at least one Division if any form of cheating on match results comes to the attention of the Leagues Committee.

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. The Dunlop Winter League will consist of Men's Doubles and Women's Doubles. The Dunlop Summer League will consist of Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles competitions.
2. The Leagues shall be open to all venues/clubs registered with the LTA and Tennis Oxfordshire (aka Oxfordshire Lawn Tennis Association) or another neighbouring County Association.
3. Matches must be played on any LTA approved surface, in accordance with the League Rules and within the Laws and Regulations of Lawn Tennis for the time being sanctioned by the Lawn Tennis Association, so far as they are applicable. All aspects of Tennis Oxfordshire's Safeguarding policies must be adhered to including those relating to travel (see [www.tennisoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.tennisoxfordshire.co.uk) )
3. The Management of the Competition shall be entrusted to the Leagues Committee which shall be a sub-committee appointed by the Management Committee of Tennis Oxfordshire. No changes to these Rules shall be made without the consent of the Management Committee.

4. A Club wishing to enter any Competition shall complete an entry form by the specified date and return it to [adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk](mailto:adultleagues@oxfordshirelta.co.uk). Such notice must be accompanied by an entrance fee to be decided by the Leagues Committee annually, per team, per Competition.
5.
  - (a) Each League Competition shall be divided by the Leagues Committee into Divisions and the Leagues Committee shall determine the Division into which each Club shall be placed.
  - (b) **For the Summer Competitions** in the following year, the Leagues Committee will, where possible, re-arrange the Clubs in each Division in such a manner that Clubs which were respectively first and second in the previous year shall be placed in the Division immediately above the one in which they last competed, and the Clubs which were respectively last and last but one shall be placed in the Division immediately below the one in which they last competed.
  - (c) **For the Winter Competitions** in the following year the Leagues Committee will, where possible, re-arrange the Clubs in each Division in such a manner that Clubs which were respectively first, second and third in the previous year shall be placed in the Division immediately above the one in which they last competed, and the Clubs which were respectively last, last but one and last but two shall be placed in the Division immediately below the one in which they last competed.
  - (d) **Both Leagues:** In the event of a tie on points, the result of the match between the two tied teams will decide the higher team position. If that match was a draw then the higher position will be decided by the percentage of sets won out of sets played. If after this calculation the two teams remain tied then the percentage of games won to games played shall decide. If more than two teams are tied and head-to-head results do not provide a ranking, the final standings will be determined by the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if, after this calculation only 2 teams remain tied the result in the match played between them will be used to break the tie). If more than 2 teams have the same percentage of sets won out of sets played, then the percentage of games won to games played shall decide.
  - (e) The Leagues Committee may re-arrange each year the number of Clubs in all Divisions in such manner as it may deem necessary.
  - (f) If any Club or new team, which was not previously entered for any Competition or which having previously entered has dropped out of such Competition shall give notice of its wish to compete, it shall be placed in an appropriate Division based on the playing ability of the team members and in agreement with Leagues Committee.
6. The Leagues Committee shall, immediately after the date fixed for receiving entries:

- (a) Determine the Division into which each Club entries shall be placed in accordance with 5 above.
  - (b) Make the arrangements for and fix the dates on which the matches in all Competitions are to be played.
- 7. The Leagues Committee shall give notice to the Fixture Secretaries of the Clubs from whom entries have been received, the Division into which each Club has been placed; and furnish a list of the relevant fixtures; and the dates on which all matches must be played. Dates of matches may be altered if both Clubs agree and the change must be made on Online League Planner within the specified time period. If the two clubs cannot agree then the Leagues Committee will fix the date.
- 8. It is customary for the home team to provide light refreshments at the end of the match (at minimum tea/coffee and biscuits/cake).

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