

Middlesex National League Regulations 2020-21

By submitting an entry into LTA National League Winter Middlesex 2020, I agree that:

- I have considered my roles and responsibilities as team captain and we are fully committed to organising the team pre, during and post-matches this season.
- I have assessed the commitment of my venue and players in regard to fixtures, court time, travel, work/exams, and financial cost throughout the season. We are committed to compete.
- The League Organiser reserves the right to refuse an entry application from any team(s) who have a record of unplayed fixtures, walkovers and/or poor communication in recent seasons
- I have read the 2020 Rules and agree to ensure the team will abide by them. National League rules are available on the LTA website at www.LTA.org.uk/National-League

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21/10/2020

From 17-10-20 All London Boroughs are in COVID Tier 2 and all matches may only be played outdoors. If your club usually holds matches indoors, please either offer weekend courts, to play away or rearrange for January onwards. Any issues please e-mail sangeeta.arora@middlesextennis.org.uk

Middlesex National League Regulations 2020-21

Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

Entry to the LTA National League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

Team Eligibility

Competition Age Groups are calculated on the last date of the league; therefore, the following age groups should be used based on the league period: League running from September – March 2021,

11 & Under	2010 or 2011
12 & Under	2009-2010
14 & Under	2007-2010
16 & Under	2005-2010
18 & Under	2003-2010
Open	2007 or later

Player passports may be issued at the discretion of the LTA Performance Team, which will supersede these regulations.

A venue may enter more than one team in each event.

Where a venue has two or more teams in an event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on ratings, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team etc.

Where the venue has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

Player Eligibility

A player may only: Represent one venue in the 8&U-18&U age groups in the LTA National League Winter competition

All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have an LTA Rating.
- III. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 September 2020 and commit to representing that venue.
- IV. Be of the correct age (see rule 10.2)

Competition Structure

County Tier Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their venue registration code. Organising counties may, at their discretion, allow venues from neighbouring counties play in their league. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once.

At such a time that the ITF World Tennis Number is introduced, the ITF World Tennis Number (as set out in Appendix 5 Section 3 of the LTA Competition Regulations) will replace the LTA Rating and be referred to as a rating for the purposes of these regulations.

Match Arrangements

Time & Date Fixtures shall be played on or before the fixed dates specified.

It is both team captain's responsibility to contact each other before the match.

Fixtures are to start between 10am-4pm unless both teams agree otherwise.

The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. Away teams must still be active in obtaining the time.

By the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance

Each team must have an adult captain (age 18+) present at each fixture.

Courts The home team shall provide 2- 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation.

Balls The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber.

Match Format:

Boys 11U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U,	4 Singles and 2 Doubles	2 FAST4 Sets + MTB
Girls 11U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U	2 Singles and 1 Doubles	2 FAST4 Sets + MTB
Open Men's	4 Singles and 2 Doubles	2 Tie break to 6 Sets + MTB
Open Ladies	2 Singles and 1 Doubles	2 Tie break to 6 Sets + MTB
14U, 16U, 18U Mixed	2 Boys Singles, 2 Girls Singles and 2 Mixed Doubles	2 FAST4 Sets + MTB
Open Mixed	2 Men's Singles, 2 Ladies Singles and 2 Mixed Doubles	2 Tie break to 6 Sets + MTB

Team Format

4 Singles: A team shall consist of four to six players. Four players shall play one singles rubber each and a 5/6th player may be selected for the doubles rubber only

2 Singles: A team shall consist of two to three players. Two players shall play one singles rubber each and the 3rd player may be selected for the doubles rubber only.

Singles Nominations

Singles players are in order of rating. (or world tennis number when it replaces rating)

In the 11&U event, green players will be able to play above 9.2 rated players but may also be able to play below them.

If players have the same rating, the captain can decide the team order which may change from fixture to fixture.

Doubles Pairings Nominations:

11U-18U: Pair 1: Singles 1&2 Pair 2: Singles 3&4

Any doubles only players to directly substitute the player they are replacing

Open:

The doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the sum of the singles positions of the players in each pairing (see below).

Where players are nominated for the doubles rubber(s) only then his/her singles position shall be regarded as:

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Number 5 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the higher rating (or current ATP/WTA ranking or ITF World Tennis Ranking of 1500 or better)

Number 6 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the lower rating.

If singles player number 1 plays with 5 and singles player 2 plays with 3 then 2 and 3 shall be the first pair.

Where the total is the same, the pairing which includes the player who played in the highest order singles match shall be nominated as the first pair (e.g. if the pairings are 1 + 4 and 2 + 3, then 1 + 4 must be nominated as the first pair).

If one player from a team of 4 is unable to play doubles, the nominated pair must play number 1.

In the mixed event, the men's singles matches will be matches 1&2 and the women's singles matches will be 3&4.

This will be followed by two mixed doubles matches. Doubles pair 1 and doubles pair 2 will be decided using the nomination process above.

Match Scoring A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

Match Result The team with the most rubber points shall win the match A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

If rubber points are equal, the match will be deemed a draw and each team will receive 1 match point on the league table for a match draw.

The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day.

Division Standings

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

Advice

POINTS OF CONTACT

The following are the main points of contact for each team captain:

Internal

- Club Coaches / Club Manager – Important for confirming players and court bookings for home matches
- Parents / Players – To confirm player availability and selection

External

- Opposing Team Captains – This person is your only point of contact before match day and on match day
- League Organiser – Your league organiser is the person to contact with any query not answered in this guide.

TEAM CAPTAIN CHECKLIST

- File all emails from your League Organiser somewhere safe and easy for you to access throughout the season

- Look at the Fixture List from your League Organiser and book the courts for your home fixtures
- Get in touch with your opposition (by email/text/ whatsapp) and confirm your fixtures – this must be done 14 days before the fixture date!
- Having problems getting in touch with your opposition? Contact your league organiser as soon as you're concerned who can help you

TIPS FOR SOLVING COURT ISSUES

- Look to play the fixture on 2 or 3 courts instead of 4
- Stagger the start times of all fixtures at your club to allow for adequate court space
- Look to play at another local venue or switch the home/away with your opposition

TIPS FOR SOLVING PLAYER AVAILABILITY ISSUES

- Consider selecting eligible players who were not originally part of your squad list.
- Consider bringing in eligible players from younger age groups.
- Consider playing the match with fewer than 4 players. Teams can still win with 3 players. Please contact your opposing captain before match day if you intend to do this.

HOW TO ENTER A RESULTS VIDEO

- A 'How to Enter Results Video' is available for Team Captains to view in the Captain's Area at: www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter
- We strongly recommend viewing this video if you are entering results for the first time or experience any problems. This video includes tips such as how to add players who are not on your team list.

UNKNOWN PLAYERS / ADDING PLAYERS TO YOUR VENUE

- All players must be linked to the venue they are competing for through the LTA database to be eligible. If a player is not linked they will not appear for online results entry.
- If a player cannot be found, the team captain must use the 'Add Comment' function to note the name and LTA number of the unknown player.

MATCH DAY SITUATIONS

There are occasions where issues arise on court regarding line calls, scoring or player disagreements. We would like to remind all players, parents and captains of the LTA Fair Play values. The policy for all fixtures is for the issue to be resolved directly between the players involved in the rubber. If the situation cannot be resolved between the players, the team captains only can get involved to help resolve the issue. In no situation should a spectator (player/parent/coach/club member) who is not playing in the rubber concerned be involved with any disagreement on court. Those individuals must communicate through their team captain only.

COACHING

- Only team captains are allowed to communicate with players during matches.
- This must only be to communicate to players to resolve score disputes, line call disagreements or for general fixture logistics.

- In no situation should coaching take place between the player(s) and anybody off court, including the team captain.
- Parents and captains are permitted to encourage their players but must not provide any form of instruction.

REPORTING ISSUES If you wish to report an issue from your fixture, please contact your league organiser within 48 hours of the fixture explaining the situation.

MATCHES PLAYED WITHOUT A CHAIR UMPIRE

National League matches will be played without a Chair Umpire. All players should be aware of the following basic principles when playing a match in these circumstances:

- Each Player (or doubles team) is responsible for all calls on his/her own side of the net
- All “out” and “fault” calls should be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear
- If in doubt, the Player must give the benefit of the doubt to the opponent(s)
- If a Player incorrectly calls a ball “out” and then realises that the ball was good, the point should be replayed unless it was a point winning shot or unless that Player made an incorrect “out” call earlier in the match. In these circumstances, the Player who called “out” loses the point
- The server should call the score before each first serve, loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear. If a player is unhappy with any actions or decisions, the player should speak to their team captain, who can then watch the match or speak to the opposing team captain.
- In 8&U fixtures scorers should be used. The role of the scorer is to call the score and check players are in the correct position to start points. The scorer must not be the family member of any player involved in the rubber.

SCORE DISPUTES

Scoring disputes are either a genuine mix up or a deliberate act. In both situations, team captains from both teams should use the same procedure:

1. Establish what each player thinks the score is.
 - a. If the dispute is:
 - i. over the score in a game, work through the game, point by point
 - ii. over the score in a set, go through the set game by game
2. Establish which point(s) or game(s) the players cannot agree on. These point(s) or game(s) should be disregarded, and the score adjusted to include the points or games they agree on
3. Play resumes according to the new agreed score
4. Following all disputes remind the players that the server should call the score clearly before every point
5. For the purposes of the above, it is important both team captain’s have a presence courtside during matches

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by HM Government we will be adhering to guidance put in place by the LTA to ensure the safety and wellbeing whilst competing.

Undertaking any activity, including tennis, has the potential for increased risk of transmission of COVID-19, you are advised to read Government guidance on staying safe outside your home.

VENUES

- All venues must ensure they have read and adhere to the LTA Guidance for Tennis Venues. This page is updated regularly so please ensure this is checked regularly.
- All those attending a venue must ensure they strictly observe and respect all rules and signage at any particular venue.

PRE-ATTENDANCE SYMPTOM CHECK

It is the responsibility for anyone attending a National League fixture in any capacity that they should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms using the information on the NHS website before leaving home.

No-one should leave home to participate in tennis if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of COVID-19, currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature
 - A new, continuous cough
 - A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste
- Government guidelines in relation to local lockdowns and returning to the UK from overseas must be followed.

QUARANTINE/SELF ISOLATING/HEALTH It is each player/team captain's responsibility to adhere to current government guidelines regarding both international and domestic travel.

- Countries and territories with no self-isolation requirement on arrival in England can be found on www.gov.uk
- The latest advice on local restrictions and areas with an outbreak of Coronavirus can be found on www.gov.uk This information can change on a regular basis so please ensure you refer to it.
- If any players are traveling back from any of the countries on the current quarantine list, they are not permitted to participate in a National League fixture if this falls within the two week isolation period.
- Similar to the above if someone is self-isolating they cannot break that period and play in the event if it falls within the tournament period.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- Walking and cycling to fixtures is encouraged. Where this is not possible, use public transport or drive.
- Players are encouraged to arrive as close as possible to when they need to be at the venue.

Car sharing - You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other

- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering.

EQUIPMENT

Please follow public health guidelines for hygiene.

- Please bring your own hand sanitiser to clean your hands at regular intervals especially before and after a match.
- Please try not to bring any equipment, baggage or clothing that is not essential.
- Players must bring their own tennis balls for practice.
- Players are advised to bring and use their own equipment – where any equipment is shared it should be subject to thorough cleaning measures between use.
- Any equipment used (e.g. mini tennis nets, orange lines, scoreboards) should be cleaned and wiped down afterwards.
- New or fresh tennis balls are not need for each match, but extra care must be taken to ensure the players do not touch their faces during play, and anyone involved in the match should all clean their hands before the match and immediately after finishing (use alcohol gel if required).

MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Social distancing should be observed by all those attending the competition.
- Players should not to congregate on/around the court before & after play.
- There should be no skin to skin contact for players. Racket taps are allowed but shaking hands or elbow alternatives are not permitted.
- Presentations can take place but Medals/Trophies should remain in boxes/packaging or players can take them out the boxes and be collected from the table (not passed). This should only be held outside.

DOUBLES PROTOCOL

- Other than during the playing of a point distance between partner's and opponents to be maintained.
- Player's to avoid talking into a tennis ball, and when communicating with partner maintain distance.
- Avoid fist pumps and other physical contact with partner.
- Maintain distance from partner and opponents when changing ends.
- No shaking of hands at the end of a match. Racket taps allowed.

SUPERVISION & SPECTATING

- Where possible, players should be restricted to one non-participant and, where possible, dependents should not be brought along.

- Supporters, parents, and other spectators should remain socially distanced whilst attending events.
- Spectator groups must be restricted to discrete six person gathering limits and spread out, in line with government guidance.

RAIN DELAYS

- In the event of rain, attendees should use an umbrella or if they drove, return to their own vehicle, to maintain social distancing if there is insufficient outdoor cover from the rain to maintain social distancing.
- Players and spectators should not gather indoors to shelter if it does rain.
- In the event of an extended delay, team captains are encouraged to make an early decision with regards to canceling the league match to avoid attendees waiting around for a prolonged period.

DURING THE COMPETITION

- If a player develops coronavirus symptoms at any time during the fixture (even if not whilst at the venue) they must stop competing and withdraw immediately. They should then contact the NHS.
- Public Health England will contact the venue if anybody that attended the competition later tests positive for COVID-19 under the Track and Trace system.
- Changing rooms are not to be used during fixtures; therefore, players should arrive on site ready for play. Toilets will be accessible, however, all those involved in the competition must observe the relevant signage at the particular venue.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

- Players should bring their own drinks / snacks to matches.
- Some venues may have a bar / restaurant, and all guidelines at the venue must be followed.

Current guidance states that you should NOT:

- socialise indoors in groups of more than two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) – this includes when dining out or going to the pub.
- socialise outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households; gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is from exclusively from two households or support bubbles.

NHS TEST & TRACE

- To support NHS Test and Trace, team captains should keep a temporary record of all players for 21 days, in a way that is manageable, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed.
- All match times & fixtures, player details and results should be fully inputted and kept up to date via www.competitions.lta.org.uk Full guidance is available online for venues, coaches, players, officials and competition organisers: www.lta.org.uk/coronavirus

Problem Solving

Late Arrival

If any nominated player is not ready to play within 15 minutes of a rubber due on court then the opposing team shall be awarded a walkover for this rubber (by a score of 10-0 or 4-0).

The player concerned shall be permitted to play a subsequent rubbers provided he/she is ready to play when the doubles rubber is due on court. If he/she is not ready when the doubles rubber is due on court the team will be deemed 'incomplete' and the opposing team shall be awarded a walkover for this rubber (by a score of 10-0 or 4-0)

In the event that the entire away team is going to be late for extenuating circumstances (e.g. motorway closure etc) and has contacted the home team in good time, a reasonable degree of flexibility on start time should be shown by the home team.

Incomplete Teams

If a venue is unable to field a complete team for the whole fixture then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the doubles rubber. The complete team shall be deemed to have won the forfeited rubbers by a score of 4-0 4-0.

When it is known before the match that one team is going to be incomplete, the lowest nominated singles player(s) of the opposing team does not have to be present for the fixture.

Player Retirement

If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets necessary to win the rubber. The player retiring from the rubber shall be eligible to compete in any remaining rubbers.

Completion of Matches (due to inclement weather)

If play is suspended after a match has started, then the match shall resume at the point of suspension. If a match cannot be started due to rain or rain stops play before any rubbers have been completed, then the match may be rearranged on or before the rain date at the original venue as set by the League Organiser.

At the discretion of the league organiser, the home venue of a fixture may be reversed in the case of inclement weather and/or courts being unfit for play.

If a team has two matches rained off and schedules the first rained off match for the official rain date and cannot play the second rained off match prior to the rain date, then this second rained off match will be halved with both teams receiving half the rubber points and 1 match point each.

Matches that are rained off on the agreed rain date will be halved with both teams receiving half the rubber points and 1 match point each. Where one or more rubbers have been completed, then the winner of the match shall be the team winning the most number of completed rubbers. 2 points shall be awarded for each completed rubber with any remaining points shared.

For the purposes of final league placing calculations, the incomplete and unplayed rubbers shall be deemed shared by a score of 4-2, 2-4. Should each team have won an equal number of rubbers then each team shall receive 3 rubber points and 1 match point.

Team Withdrawal

In the event of a team being unable to fulfil a fixture, on the first occurrence, their opponents shall record six rubbers and two match points.

Should the offence be repeated by the same team they shall take no further part in the competition. Once a team has been withdrawn, they shall take no further part in the competition. All results against this team will be declared null and void for the purposes of determining the final placing in its group.

However, the League Organiser shall have the power to consider a team's position regarding a team walkover with extenuating circumstances, in which case the team receiving the walkover will win all rubbers 4-0, 4-0, and will receive 6 rubber points and a match win.

League organisers may - at their discretion - allow a team to fulfil their remaining fixtures following a walkover. However, the team will be retired at the end of the league season and as such all results will not be counted in the final league standings calculation.

Regulations

All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct and the National League Competition Regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the National League Regulations shall prevail).

Each player participating in the competition grants and assigns to the LTA the right to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself. Such promotional activities by the LTA shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product/company.

The day to day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by the League Organiser under the auspices of the LTA Competitions Team (CT). The Competition is sanctioned by the LTA under the management of the CT. The CT shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of these regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these Regulations; to suspend or modify any of these Regulations in appropriate circumstances. The CT decision on all matters is final.

Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to the League Organiser (copying in nationalleague@LTA.org.uk) by the team captain within 48 hours of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the League Organiser/CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.

All players are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the LTA (including, without limitation, the LTA's Anti-Doping Programme, the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and the Regulations Concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting) and fully and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction and authority of the LTA by competing in the Competition.

Where a LTA registered venue is suspended, the LTA Competitions Team shall determine if the venue shall play any further part in the current or further stages of the Competition.