

## **Rules for DDSRA League Matches**

### **1 Club Representation**

- 1.1 The competition shall be open to all member clubs of Dundee and District Squash Rackets Association.
- 1.2 Teams wishing to gain entry into the leagues, having not played in the previous season, will have to commence in the lowest division of the leagues and work their way up. This rule can be waived should the league secretary feel that the entry of a particular team will be detrimental to the competitive character of the leagues.
- 1.3 The competitions are open to all players providing they meet all the criteria set out forthwith.
- 1.4 A team will consist of five fully paid up members from a club.
- 1.5 Professionals may play for a club which they are employed at or for a club to which they are a fully paid up member. However they must not be paid for so doing.
- 1.6 Men may only compete in the men's league however ladies may play in both the ladies league and the men's league.
- 1.7 During a season, no player may represent more than one club in the league without discussion with the relative match secretary. Permission may be granted for example mid-season (not near the end) where a player moves home and therefore moves club accordingly.
- 1.8 Ladies may represent one club in the Ladies League and a different club in the Men's League provided they are fully paid up members of both clubs.

### **2 Team and Match Rules**

- 2.1 Matches will be contested between two teams and will consist of five rubbers each best of five games.
- 2.2 Each rubber will be completed under the Rules of Squash adopted within the DDSRA Constitution and using the scoring system in use for the given league/competition.
- 2.3 Double yellow dot balls should be used in all rubbers unless it is agreed by both players to use a single yellow dot.
- 2.4 Each match must be allocated a minimum of four court hours i.e. when two teams play simultaneous home matches a minimum of eight court hours will be required.

- 2.5 Clubs must play their team in order of merit and team order must be exchanged between the two captains prior to the commencement of the match.
- 2.6 A team member may not, without good reason, move more than two positions in either direction relative to the rest of the teams, within any two match period.
- 2.7 The league secretary will scrutinise the team orders, and any deviation from this rule may result in league point penalties being imposed.
- 2.8 To assist in the consistency of team selection during a season, a team must be selected and displayed for any higher team that does not have a match. This team shall be called a “ghost” team. For example; if a second team in a club has a match but the first team does not then a first team composition may be required by the league secretary showing the ghost team if the composition of the second team is questionable.
- 2.9 The home team is responsible for supplying markers for three of the five match rubbers. The captain of a team may invite a non-team member to act as marker subject to agreement by the other team captain.
- 2.10 If a team does not have at least two players present and ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time without good reason, the opposition has the right to claim the relevant rubber. Each subsequent player must be ready to play on completion of the previous rubber. Although failure to comply allows the opposition the right to claim the rubber however it is hoped that good sense and sportsmanship will prevail and that matches will be completed in the best interests of the game.
- 2.11 The order of play should be agreed by both captains but in the event of a dispute, will be 5<sup>th</sup> string, 4, 3, 2, 1. If for some reason, a player fails to appear, the match should be completed normally and a written explanation submitted to the league secretary with the results. The league secretary’s decision is final.
- 2.12 Should a team be competing with a number of players lower than five then they shall be ordered 1...2...3...4. For example, if prior to the start of a match a team knows they will only have 4 players, these 4 players will be ranked 1 to 4, and the 5<sup>th</sup> string match conceded.
- 2.13 The home captain must submit the results within 48 hours of the match. Penalty points of a maximum 3 points per late match result may be deducted by the league secretary should this rule not be complied with.
- 2.14 No player may play their first match for a club in a season once there are only six scheduled matches left in the league calendar. This date should be marked

on the league calendar by the league secretary. Any appeal on this rule may be made to the league secretary who may use their discretion.

- 2.15 No player may play for more than one team within a club in any given scheduled fixture week. I.e. if one of a club's teams rearranges a match any player playing in the scheduled week shall not be eligible to play for any other team who should have played in that week regardless of when the match is rearranged. As a last resort a player in this circumstance may play to give the opposition a match (and to allow the match to go ahead) but the points for this rubber will be conceded.
- 2.16 Any behaviour on court or off court that is deemed detrimental to the match or to the league may be reported in writing to the league secretary who may impose any sanctions to a team or individual. This could include but is not restricted to; formal warnings, league point penalties, match bans.

### **3 Match/League Points**

- 3.1 Every game won scores one point to that team (a match between two teams consist of five rubbers each best of five games).
- 3.2 A bonus of three points will be awarded to the team winning the most rubbers in the match.
- 3.3 The season league positions will be decided by the total points scored but in the event of equal points between two or more teams, the winner will be the team who has won the most matches. If still equal, a play off will be held at a date to be arranged by both captains and the match secretary.
- 3.4 At the end of the season the two bottom clubs in each division will drop down one division, apart from in the lowest division. The top two clubs in each division will go up one division, apart from in the top division. This rule may be varied at the discretion of the committee.

### **4 Match Dates**

- 4.1 It is in the interest of the league that the matches are completed on the scheduled dates.
- 4.2 Any appeal on matches or match dates must be made in writing to the respective league secretary as soon as possible and subsequently a decision will be made by the league secretary. The league secretary will endeavour to uphold any reasonable requests.
- 4.3 Where a match is postponed due to exceptional weather conditions or exceptional circumstances (which will be adjudicated by the league

secretaries at the request of either team captain) no penalty will be imposed to either team.

- 4.4 When a request to postpone a match is made by a team captain for a reason other than that given in Rule 4.3, the non-offending team captain may opt to rearrange or he/she may claim a walk-over;
  - 4.4.1 A claim for a walk-over must be submitted by the relevant captain on a result card. The team claiming the walk-over shall be awarded 18 points, with the offending team receiving 0 points.
  - 4.4.2 When a match is postponed and rearranged for a reason other than that given in Rule 4.3, the offending team (the team asking for the postponement) will automatically lose the right to any bonus points that may be awarded for that match. I.e. if the offending team loses the rearranged match then no penalty is imposed but if they win they do not receive their bonus points. It is therefore in the interest of a team to play a match rather than rearrange.
  - 4.4.3 Any rearranged matches should occur as soon as possible after they are postponed.
  - 4.4.4 As a last resort “double-headers” can be played but it is in the interest of the league to avoid this if at all possible.
- 4.5 All matches must be played by the last date scheduled in the squash calendar in the fixture handbook. If a match remains un-played at the end of the season the offending team shall concede the match.

## **5 Disputes**

- 5.1 In all disputes the league secretary, in conjunction with the management committee if deemed necessary by the league secretary, will have the final decision. Any queries or disputes should be sent in writing to the league secretary.