

**TENNIS NELSON MANDELA BAY**  
**GENERAL LEAGUE RULES 2024**

**1. INTRODUCTION:**

A series of inter-club matches will be arranged under the League system of Clubs affiliated to the Sub-structure: Club Tennis, Tennis Nelson Mandela Bay.

**2. THE FUNCTION OF THE LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:**

- 2.1 A League and Tournament Committee shall be elected at the AGM of the sub-structure, for management and control of leagues and tournaments.
- 2.2 The committee is a sub-committee of Club Tennis and reports to the management of Club Tennis in case of disputes and as such shall be responsible to the management Committee.
- 2.3 The Committee shall consist of a convenor and three members.
- 2.4 Matches shall be arranged for as many divisions and sections in the league competition as are thought necessary by the League Committee.
- 2.5 The order of play for leagues is to be published or posted to clubs one week prior to the leagues commencement thereof.
- 2.6 The League Committee has the power to make decisions based on requests or appeals from clubs during a league season.

**3. THE RULES:**

- 3.1 **Registration:** Each club must pay to the Secretary of the sub-structure, a league fee for each team registered to play in each league competition. **Any Club whose fees are unpaid** to the sub-structure one month after the closing date of entries for each particular league **will be debarred** from participating in that league
- 3.2 All Premier league singles matches will be played on the tiebreaker system, best of three sets. In all other matches, the two Captains may choose whether to play best of three tiebreaker sets or two sets and a ten point tiebreaker in lieu of a third set, at set all. If the Captains are in disagreement, then two sets and a ten point tiebreaker will be played each match.
- 3.3 **Starting Times:** Premier League matches start at 12h00. All other leagues start at 13h00 in winter and 14h00 in summer.
- 3.4 **Promotion and Relegation:** Automatic promotion and relegation of teams coming first and last within leagues of same format. Promotion and relegation of teams between leagues of different formats are at the discretion of the League Committee and in conjunction with the winning team.
- 3.5 **Facilities:** Clubs need 2 courts per 2 teams entered or part thereof, except in the case of the Premier A Men's league with only two players per team where a central venue is allocated.
- 3.6 **Balls:** Every player to play first round match with 3 new balls. The home club may elect to provide two new balls per match which is also acceptable.

- 3.7 **Referee:** The home club shall be responsible for appointing a referee for the match, whose duty it will be to see that an umpire be appointed if necessary. Any point referring to light, wind, rain, condition of courts etc., affecting the commencement or continuation of play, shall be left to the sole discretion of the two captains. In the event of a disagreement, the referee's decision will be final.
- 3.8 **Non-Compliance:** Any club failing to play on the day fixed by the Committee, or having failed to inform the league convenor of an alternative date agreed on by both teams, with the exception of 3.8 (a) and (b), **shall be disqualified**. All their points will be deleted and the team relegated to the next league. A fine of R150,00 will also be applicable.
- 3.8(a) One league team of a club will be allowed to miss one match due to the unavailability of club players. At the completion of the league, the League Committee will award points for missed matches based on the two teams' records, with the proviso that the defaulting team is not allowed to win the match.
- 3.8(b) Match cancelled due to rain, sodden courts and boisterous weather
- 3.9(a) **Players:** Players need to be a registered member of the Club they are playing for and may only play for that Club during leagues. Players changing clubs must have permission from the club they are leaving, to do so. However, where a team can be made up of a combination of club members, such team may be considered by the league committee.
- 3.9(b) Clubs having more than one team in the league may not play a player in the lower team who has played two or more matches for the higher team, except in the case where that player was originally chosen for the lower team.
- 3.10 **Composition of Leagues:** Due to time constraints, leagues will be restricted to a maximum of 8 teams, but preferably 6.
- 3.11(a) **Postponed Fixtures:** In the case of postponed fixtures (rained out matches) where the same (or normal) team cannot be fielded, clubs should not use the opportunities that may arise to strengthen their team, e.g. a team player should not be used in the B side if the A team has a bye or has already completed all other matches.
- 3.11(b) On agreement of both teams, matches may be postponed but need to be completed by the second last Saturday of the league. If this is not the case then Rule 3.8 will apply to the team that defaulted first.
- 3.12 **General Rule and Spirit:** The general rule and intended spirit of the Leagues is that the club which cannot field its original team members, should disadvantage itself by substituting lower ranked players. Doubtful cases, or those which appear to go against the general rule, should be cleared with the League Committee.
- 3.13 **Number of Matches:** No player may play more than one singles and no player may play more than two matches per fixture.
- 3.14 **Retirement:** Any member of a team who is compelled to retire through accident, injury or illness during his/her first match of a fixture, may be substituted by another qualified player not of a higher division of the same club within half an

hour of such retirement, the uncompleted game or sets of the interrupted match being forfeited to the club not in default. In the case of a result where matches are even, completed sets/games shall stand. If the player's medical condition allows, he/she may play the second match.

- 3.15 **Rained out Fixtures:** At the discretion of the League Committee, depending on the number of teams in each league and the number of weeks available, it will be specified at the start of the league whether rained out matches will be played or if the rained-out rule will apply. If the rained out rule is to be applied, the score cards for these matches must be filled out as follows:

**Completely rained out matches:** The decision to cancel a match completely must be taken at 14h00 after which there will be no play, unless both captains agree to play. Should one of the teams be from out of town, this could be done telephonically at 12h00 if there is absolutely no doubt that it is too wet to play. Each team will then score 7 points (Premier and Leagues 3-6) or 6 points (Leagues 1 & 2) or 5 (all other leagues), i.e. 1 point each for each match, plus 1 bonus point each.

**Partially rained out matches:** For uncompleted matches, 1 point is scored for each completed set, and for the balance of that match, each team receives an extra point. For example, if rained out at 1-0, then scores is 2-1; rained out at 1-1, then score is 2-2. Completed individual matches are scored normally. If no set is completed, it counts as an unplayed match. The 2 bonus points are awarded to the team with the most points, or split if the points are equal.

- 3.16 **Team Formats:**

- 3.16.1 Men's Premier League:

Four players per team, 4 singles plus 2 doubles. This may be reduced to a 2-player team to increase the number of teams in the league.

On application for Premier A & B the names of the players, in order of ranking, must be submitted and that order must be adhered to throughout the league.

Complete the singles card only, before start of match. After the results of all the singles have been written down, the teams have 15 minutes to decide on their doubles pairing.

Order of play for the singles is 1 vs 1, 2 vs 2, 3 vs 3, 4 vs 4

For the duration of the league, team must continue to play in the same order. Players may move up the order but not down.

The possibilities for doubles combinations are:

- 1 & 2 = 1<sup>st</sup> couple and 3 & 4 = 2<sup>nd</sup> couple OR
- 1 & 3 = 1<sup>st</sup> couple and 2 & 4 = 2<sup>nd</sup> couple OR
- 1 & 4 and 2 & 3 – either couple may play as first couple.

A fifth player may be used for doubles. The 5<sup>th</sup> player must be played as the second couple in the doubles unless this is specified prior to the leagues.

3.16.2 Men's Premier Doubles:

Four players per team playing doubles. Format is 1 x 1, 2 x 2, then 1 x 2 and 2 x 1.

3.16.3 Men's and Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> league:

The team consists of four players who play 2 singles and 3 doubles matches. Singles players must be split for the final doubles matches. Either couple may be the first couple.

3.16.4 All Other Leagues

The team consists of 4 players who all play doubles.  
First round 1&2 vs 1&2, 3&4 vs 3&4. Second round 1&3 vs 1&3, 2&4 vs 2&4.

3.16.5 Mixed Leagues

The team will consist of 4 players who will play two doubles (1 Ladies & 1 Men's) and two mixed.

3.17 **Scoring:** For each match, 1 point is scored for each set won by either team. Two bonus points are awarded to the team winning the most matches. If matches are equal, the two bonus points are awarded to the team with the most sets. If matches and sets are equal, the tie will be considered a draw and each team will be awarded one bonus point. See also "Rained out Rule"

3.18 **Results:** The results of each match must be submitted to the Secretary of the District, by the home team, not later than the **TUESDAY** following the date of the match being played. **Two points will be forfeited for late and incorrectly completed cards.** (Send in results as per details on the score cards).

3.19 **Province and National Priority:** Province should have priority and leagues should not be scheduled on Provincial match days. Teams affected should be allowed to postpone their match (one only) which must be completed before the end of leagues. Permission must be obtained from the League Committee one week in advance. This will apply if one member of a team will be away.

3.20 **Disputes:** Any disputes must be sent in writing to the Convenor of the League Committee.

3.21 **Late Arrival:** Any player who arrives more than 15 minutes late for play will forfeit his/her points for the missed match/matches, unless prior arrangement is made with the opposing captain. The rest of the team can, however, continue to play.

3.22 **Team rule:** The Captain of a team, or previously delegated member of the team, may go onto the court to talk to his/her players, **BUT ONLY** during changeovers.