



MIDDLESEX WINTER CUP RULES 2024-25

Men's and Women's Doubles

Winter 24-25 Round Dates

***All teams must be committed to hosting and getting a team out on all dates should they progress.**

Fixed Dates

Men – 22 September, 20 October, 1 December, 2 February, 9 March

Women – 29 September, 10 November, 8 December, 9 February, 16 March

1. The competition shall be competed for annually in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the LTA. It shall be managed by the Middlesex LTA Competition Committee, and will be divided into Divisions, each of which will be run by a Divisional Secretary.

2. The competition is open to all Clubs which are affiliated to the Middlesex LTA.

3. Entry is online on the website:

Players

4. The qualification to play for a Club shall be bona fide membership of that Club on 1 October in any year.

No one can play for more than one Club during the same season.

By a bona fide member is meant:-

* One who is liable for payment of the subscription for membership for the current season.

* A life member.

* A permanent official of the Club.

The team consists of 3 Doubles pairs.

5. The draw will be forwarded, together with Round dates, as soon as possible after the closing date.

6. Any Club intending to scratch must give three days' notice to the opposition and the Divisional Secretary.

Match Arrangements

7. In all Divisions the Club having choice of ground may decide on what surface the tie is played. All ties shall **be played outdoors** unless mutually agreed.

8. The tie must be played on courts of a like surface. If the home team does not have three like courts then the opposing team has the option to take over the tie as the home team and the Divisional Secretary must be notified.

9. Play shall start not before 10.00 am nor later than 1.30 pm unless with agreement of both teams.

10. New balls, of a make approved by the LTA, shall be provided by the home team.

11. Each team shall consist of 3 pairs, who shall play against each pair of the opposing team.

Each rubber shall be the best of three sets. Sets one and two will be tie-break sets – any third set will be a Match Tie-Break (first to 10 but with two clear points)

The order of play shall be decided by lot.

No pair shall play more than once on the same court.

12. Appropriate hospitality should be offered to the visiting team

Substitutions

13. A Club is not bound to play the same team throughout the competition, but no substitutes are allowed once a tie has started.

Late Arrivals

14. Any pair not ready to play within 30 minutes of the start time shall concede the first rubber 0/6 0/6.

Results

15. The Captain of the winning team shall enter the result on line within 24 hours of the match finishing.

16. The team which wins the majority of rubbers is the winner of the tie.

If the tie is unfinished, due to bad weather or failing light, but the first two rounds have been completed, the tie will be decided on those two rounds only.

If the number of rubbers is equal the tie will be decided on the number of sets won and if the tie is still equal then the number of games won will decide the winner.

17. If two rounds of the tie have not been completed it must be replayed before the date of the next tie.

In the event of a dispute please contact your Divisional Secretary. If he/she is unavailable please contact the Middlesex LTA Office.

Division Finals

19. A club may use two players who have not played in a previous round in the Finals. All other 4 players competing in the Finals, must have played for his/her Club in at least one previous round.

*If a team receives a walkover in any previous round, they should name the team they intended to play, had the match gone ahead.

*If a team is struggling to get a team of 6 from players who have played previously and 2 new players, they may make a request to the divisional secretary to use a player of a worse standard (proven by rating / playing for a lower team in the Summer/Floodlit leagues)

20. Medals will be presented to all finalists in all divisions.