



## **B.L.T.A. WINTER TENNIS LEAGUE**

### **Rules and Regulations: 2024**

#### **1) TEAM/CLUB ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Any Club or a Team able to satisfy the following requirements as to playing facilities may apply to play in the Winter Tennis League (**WTL**). The Club/Team must be able to provide throughout the WTL season playing facilities that, in the opinion of the Winter League Committee (**WLC**), are adequate for Teams to properly and effectively compete in the WTL. Adequacy will be determined by the number, quality, and availability of tennis courts for this purpose.
- b. A request to enter a Team must be emailed to the Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association (**BLTA**) Winter League Committee at [info@blta.bm](mailto:info@blta.bm) prior to the Entry Deadline.
- c. A request to enter a Team received after the scheduling for a particular season has been done would be deferred until the next WTL season unless the WLC is able, in their discretion, to make the necessary adjustments.
- d. A Team making an application for the first time to join the WTL or a Team applying to rejoin the WTL after an absence, if accepted, will be placed in a Division determined solely by the WLC.
- e. An administration fee, as stipulated each year by the WLC and payable to the BLTA, must accompany a Team entry. The amounts of team fees are noted on the BLTA Winter League registration forms.

#### **2) LEAGUE DIVISIONS/COMPOSITION OF TEAMS**

- a. The WTL will be divided into two Divisions:
  - (1) Open Men's Division – This division is open to all Male players
  - (2) Open Ladies Division – This division is open to all female players.
- b. Each team will consist as follows:
  - Open Men's Division – (3) Doubles Pairs
  - Open Ladies Division – (2) Doubles Pairs
- c. At the conclusion of the league season, the Teams in their respective Divisions with the most points will win the league.

### **3) PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

The WTL is open to all eligible amateur players. In order to be eligible to play in the WTL, a player must:

- a. Be registered as a BLTA Winter League player by a Club or a Team.
- b. Be a bona fide member of the BLTA.

### **4) REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- a. Teams must register a minimum of six players in the Open Men's Division and a minimum of four players in the Open Ladies Division.
- b. There is no maximum number of players that may be registered per Team.
- c. Players must be registered with a specific WTL Team prior to the start of their first fixture. New players may be added to a Team during the WTL season provided they are registered as per the instructions on the annual Winter League team registration form.

### **5) TEAM AND PLAYER RESTRICTIONS**

- a. (Only eligible players, as defined in 3), may play on a WTL Team.
- b. A player may represent only ONE Club/Team per WTL season.
- c. If a club has multiple teams in the same division players have to play on the team that they are registered with. Example: If a club has two teams in the Open Men's or Ladies Divisions (Team White and Team Green) a player registered with team White cannot play for team green or vice versa.
- d. Failure to comply with rules (a) to (g) above will result in the forfeiture by the Team at fault of all matches in which an infraction occurred. The opposing team will be awarded points for the forfeited matches as if they had been defaulted.

### **6) TEAM CAPTAINS**

- a. Each Team will appoint a Captain and indicate his/her identity to the WLC prior to the commencement of the WTL season. An e-mail address and phone number should be provided through which the Captain can be contacted and to which League materials can be transmitted.
- b. The Captain will be responsible for the running and conduct of his/her Team, for reporting the results of fixtures to the WLC, for player registrations, and for liaising with the WLC about Team matters. The Captain may delegate an appointee to assume their responsibilities at any given fixture.
- c. The home Team Captain is the official fixture referee except for individual matches in which they play, when they shall appoint an alternate referee for those matches. This alternate should be appointed PRIOR to the commencement of a fixture and shall be made known to the opposing Team Captain.
- d. Prior to the commencement of a fixture the Team Captains shall present their respective results sheets containing the pairings of their respective Teams. Once the sheets are exchanged there shall be no alteration of the Team sheet.
- e. Team Captains of both Teams shall be available at the site of the fixture at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the matches, in order that they may have time to implement the above rules.

- f. Home Team Captains shall provide cans of new, yellow, pressurized tennis balls, one can for each home pair (i.e., no practice balls) plus one can used to replace lost balls, at the commencement of the fixture; three cans for the Open Men's Division and two cans for the Open Ladies Division.

## 7) FIXTURE MATCHES

- a. Only 6 players (3 Doubles Pairs) can play in one Open Men's fixture at one time.  
Only 4 players (2 Doubles Pairs) can play in one Open Ladies Division fixture at one time.
- b. For fixtures in the Open Men's Division, each doubles pair of one Team will play each doubles pair on the opposing Team one regular tie-break set. Therefore, a fixture will consist of nine sets.
- c. For fixtures in the Open Ladies Division, each doubles pair on one team will play each doubles team on the opposing team as follows:
 

Home Team Pair 1 vs Away Team Pair 2	(8 game Pro-Set)
Home Team Pair 2 vs Away Team Pair 1	(8 game Pro-Set)
Home Team Pair 1 vs Away Team Pair 1	(8 game Pro-Set)
Home Team Pair 2 vs Away Team Pair 2	(8 game Pro-Set)
- d. All Teams must adhere to the schedule of the league. In the event a Team is unable to field a full roster of players for a scheduled WTL match that team will forfeit the points.
- e. If a team defaults an entire fixture, they will be contacted by the Winter League Committee, after two defaulted matches, they will be removed from the WL schedule and the results of any matches in which they participated stricken from the Winter League results.
- f. For the Open Men's Division, players from either team must be ready to play at the scheduled start time. If a player has failed to arrive by the scheduled start time this will result in the loss of a set for that particular match. If a player arrives 16 minutes past the start time that player is defaulted and all matches on that day pertaining to that particular player shall be recorded as 6-0 sets. It is recommended that all players arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- g. For the Open Ladies Division, players from either team must be ready to play at the scheduled start time. If a player has failed to arrive by the scheduled start time this will result in the loss of four games for that particular match. If a player arrives 16 minutes past the start time that player is defaulted for that particular match on that day and opposing team records the match as 8-0. It is recommended that all players arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- h. In the event of an injury, the injured player is entitled to up to 10 minutes of injury time commencing when the time out is called. If play does not resume within 10 minutes, the match is defaulted and points for all un-played games are awarded to the Team without the injured player. If play resumes, the score continues from the last completed point played. No substitutes are permitted in the case of an injured player unless it occurs during the initial warm-up period and the Team seeking the replacement provides a substitute immediately. A Team cannot use more than two injury time-outs in any one scheduled fixture.

## 8) SCORING

- a. For Open Men's Division, a team receives one point for each SET won. The total number of games won should also be recorded.
- b. For Open Ladies Division Scoring is as follows: The winner of a match will be awarded three points total. (Fixture comprising of four matches/each match will be 8 game Pro-Set) First doubles pair to 8 games, no tie-break at 7-7) If teams are tied on points at the end of the fixture, games won/lost will be the decider.
- c. Any match or set that must be defaulted for non-appearance of the scheduled opposing Team, will result in the total maximum number of points for a match or set being awarded to the Team arriving as scheduled.
- d. The position of each Team in the WTL for the Division or Subdivision in which it plays shall be determined from the cumulative total of points won during the season. The Team with the highest number of points for an entire Division, is the first place Team of a Division.

## 9) FIXTURE RESULTS

- a. All Fixture Results Sheets must be completed in ink, legible, signed by captains (or their designates) of both teams, and retained by Team Captains. These results must be reported as noted on the Result Sheet, by e-mail, or as a hard copy, no later than 11:00 a.m. Tuesday following the day when the fixture was played or was due to be played. It is the primary responsibility of the winning Team Captain or home team captain, in the case of a delayed match, to submit the results sheet for a given fixture. Failure to submit the Fixture Result Sheet may lead to the winning Team forfeiting the points earned in that fixture.
- b. Fixture Results Sheets must be submitted, as above, whether or not the fixture was completed. In the case of non-completion, the reason for non-completion should be stated on the Fixture Results Sheet. A proposed rescheduled date for the Fixture, within one month of the originally scheduled date, should be noted on the Results Sheets.
- c. In the event the fixture did not take place at all (i.e., was rained out) the Teams are to play their fixture on or before the next free day for both teams, (BYE or RAIN DAY) in the WTL schedule. Fixture Results Sheets should be submitted for the originally scheduled date, advising the reason the fixture did not take place and advising a proposed rescheduled date.

## 10) SCHEDULING

- a. Each Team, in each Division, shall during the WTL season play every other Team in that Division at least once, and as otherwise scheduled by the WLC.
- b. League play will initially be scheduled for Saturdays, or as otherwise advised and agreed with individual Teams. In the event Team members are not able to play on Saturday for religious reasons, the WLC will make every attempt to work with the Team captains to schedule those fixtures on Sunday afternoon or on a weeknight.
- c. Likewise, makeup, matches will be scheduled for Saturday, whenever possible; however, the WLC reserves the right to schedule matches on Sundays or weeknights as necessary.
- d. Where the home Team has less than three available courts, the home and the away Team captains shall be at liberty to agree to stagger starting times for the matches in a fixture.

## 11) POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

- a. Fixtures may be postponed due to inclement weather if, in the opinion of the home Team Captain, the courts are unplayable. The decision of the home Team Captain as fixture referee shall be final and binding.
- b. No fixture or match may be postponed due to inclement weather until a physical inspection of the courts by the home Team Captain, or their appointee, has taken place. For hard courts, such inspection must take place within the 45 minutes immediately preceding the scheduled starting time of the fixture or match.
- c. In the event of a fixture or match being postponed, all completed matches shall count and the score of all incomplete matches shall stand. The match will be continued from the score at the time of the postponement. Final results of matches rescheduled due to inclement weather must be submitted to the BLTA office within 48 hours of the rescheduled date.
- d. There shall be no postponement of matches for any reason other than inclement weather. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in forfeiture of the fixture by both Teams.

## **12) RESCHEDULING**

- a. All incomplete or un-played matches shall be completed or played at the earliest possible date by arrangement between the captains concerned. If there is undue delay in the rescheduling, the WLC will reschedule the match.
- b. All incomplete or un-played matches shall be completed or played by the players originally indicated, and as indicated, on the captains' score sheets. If a player is unavailable at the resumption of a match for good cause (e.g., illness or business commitments), a replacement may take his/her place subject to the approval of the Team captains involved. In the event of a dispute, the WLC will make the final decision regarding the substitution.
- c. All league fixtures must be completed by the season end date, decided by the WLC, and which is specified on the WTL season schedule.

## **13) END OF SEASON TIES**

- a. In the event of a two-way tie for first place in any Division, the match scores during head-to-head competition between the Teams involved in the tie will be used to determine the winner.
- b. In the event of a three-way tie, sets won/lost will be counted. If still tied games won/lost.

## **14) GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

- a. Any Team Captain (the submitter) may file an official grievance with the WLC in the event that his/her Team has a grievance related to WTL competition. The Captain is responsible for notifying all their Team players of the details of the grievance. This grievance must be in writing and must be physically received by the WLC within seven working days of the event giving rise to the grievance.
- b. Upon receiving such a grievance, the WLC Chairperson(s) will form a grievance subcommittee for this particular grievance consisting of the Chairperson and four members of either the WLC or the BLTA executive, not involved in the dispute. This subcommittee will adjudicate expeditiously upon the grievance, and the Chairperson will communicate the decision in writing to the Team Captain or Captains concerned.
- c. Enquiries about procedures and rules will be considered by the WLC as needed. This may lead to the submission of a grievance, but these enquiries will not be considered to be grievances, unless specifically requested or identified by the submitter as a "Grievance to the WLC".

- c. Decisions made by a WLC grievance subcommittee can be appealed to the BLTA executive.

### **15) LEAGUE DUES**

All entry fees must be paid prior to the commencement of the WTL season. The WLC reserves the right to:

- a. Deduct all points earned by the offending Team each time they field an ineligible player in a fixture until the entry fee is paid in full.
- b. Remove any Team from the WTL or refuse admittance to the WTL for non-payment of this entry fee.
- c. Once paid, WLT dues are not refundable.

### **16) OBSERVING THE RULES OF THE HOME CLUB/TEAM**

- a. All WTL Teams and players are expected to abide by any and all regulations established by the home Teams or Clubs. Regulations include, but are not limited to, the wearing of proper tennis attire, the wearing of tennis shoes appropriate to the surface, and the wearing of tennis whites (e.g., at Coral Beach Club).
- b. All WTL Teams and players are expected to abide by any and all regulations established by the BLTA.

### **17) EFFECT OF RULES**

- a. All Teams and players participating in the WTL do so upon the express conditions that they are subject to and will abide by these rules. The captain of each Team will be asked to certify that they have read and understood these rules. It is the responsibility of the Team Captain to convey this information to the members of their Team.
- b. In the case of uncertainty or misunderstanding of any of these rules and regulations, or in any other instance whereby a circumstance or incident is not covered by the rules, the WLC will make any necessary decisions and as needed.