



**Aughton Lawn Tennis Club**  
a tennis club for everyone



## **ALTC COMPETITIVE LEAGUE TENNIS RULES Regarding Process of Selection and Players' Responsibilities**

Currently ALTC has 8 league teams – 4 gentlemen's teams, 2 ladies' teams and 2 mixed teams. The gentlemen's and ladies' teams are in the Liverpool and District Tennis Group and the mixed teams are in the Southport Tennis League. The gentlemen's and ladies' teams comprise 6 players each and the mixed teams comprise 8 players each, of which 4 are gentlemen and 4 are ladies.

### **CLUB CAPTAINS**

1. A Gentlemen's Captain and a Ladies' Captain will be appointed by the committee upon the recommendation of the gentlemen's and ladies' teams' captains respectively. The Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains will be regular league players (but not current team captains), and will be asked to attend the committee from time to time to report on the selection process and any issues with the process or the teams or individual players.
2. The Gentlemen's Captain will be responsible for all gentlemen league players in both the Liverpool and Southport Leagues. The Ladies' Captain will be responsible for all ladies league players in both the Liverpool and Southport Leagues.

3. The Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains will normally be expected to serve for 3 years
4. The Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains will be responsible for coordinating the selection process with the team captains, monitoring compliance with these rules, chairing any meetings with the team captains, mediating and adjudicating between the captains and/or relevant player(s) if there are any disagreements over player selections, ensuring the interests of the club and all players, who wish to play league tennis, are considered.
5. Before the start of the season the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains will convene a meeting with all the team captains in order to coordinate a full list of all players, who wish to play and who are eligible to play in each of the 2 leagues (Liverpool and Southport) for registration in those 2 leagues by the club secretary.
6. The meeting and subsequent meetings will also be used to decide which players should be included in the squad to play in which team ("Team Squads"). This should be based on individual player preference and eligibility as well as player ability as judged by the team captains (in consultation with the club coach and the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains). All team captains should participate in the discussion about player ability from their experience of that player in matches and the practice sessions.
7. All potential eligible players should be considered for a Team Squad. A list of all players not selected for any

Team Squad should be given to the Friendly Team captain for inclusion in the friendly team squads.

8. With the exception of the Friendly Team Captain(s), no player who has been included in the Team Squads for league tennis may play for the friendly teams, except where there is insufficient availability among the friendly team squads (in which case league players may be asked to play for the friendly teams, with priority being given to those league players who have not been selected for any league team in that particular week).

## **TEAM CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

9. Each team will have a captain responsible throughout the season for selecting and organising the team to play each match and on match nights for liaising with the opposition captain, for deciding the pairings in the correct order for the match, for completing the scoresheet as required by the league, collecting the match fees from each player and providing refreshments at home matches. A comprehensive list of Captains' Responsibilities will be circulated to captains
10. Before 1<sup>st</sup> March. Sitting captains (i.e. captains from previous season) will be asked if they wish to continue and, if not, someone else appointed by the committee. In the event of more than one team member wishing to be captain the Gentlemen's Captain and Ladies' Captain will make a decision on their applications.
11. All captains will normally be expected to serve for 3 years and may continue to serve on an annual basis after that, subject to approval by the Gentlemen's

## Captain and Ladies' Captain.

12. Team captains are responsible for organising weekly practice sessions for a month before the season starts –Friday night for Southport Mixed and Liverpool Ladies, Sunday night for Liverpool Gentlemen's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams and Saturday morning for Liverpool Gentlemen's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> teams. The club coach and the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains will be asked to support these sessions where possible.
13. The team captains are responsible for checking the availability of all players included in their Team Squads for their match for the following week, in order to aid the selection process for all captains.
14. Each week, team captains may select their teams from either or both of (a) their Team Squads, and (b) from other Team Squads, provided that such players are not already playing for that other team, subject to any applicable rules of the relevant league and also subject to a limit that no more than 2 players from a higher Team Squad may be selected to play for a lower team (though such limit shall not apply where there are no players in the lower Team Squads available).
15. Each player in every Team Squad is expected to conduct himself or herself in an appropriate manner for the benefit of the club generally and league teams as a whole. Thus, players are responsible for (a) if selected, agreeing to play for the team in whose Team Squad they are included, (b) if not selected to play for the team in whose Team Squad they are included, agreeing to play for another team (regardless of whether that team is higher, lower or in a different league), if requested by another team captain or by his/her usual team captain,

- (c) advising team captains at the earliest opportunity of any unavailability for matches (including as to any periods of holiday, or weekday nights which are not convenient), and (d) responding promptly to all communications from team captains seeking to clarify his or her availability.
16. Team selections for the following week's matches, will be made by the team captains and submitted to the league team WhatsApp and posted on the notice board by the Friday of the previous week for all players to see and ensure that the selection process is fair and above board. Team captains will ensure that their players including the reserve are notified and still available to play in their team.
17. In order to enable as many players as possible to play league tennis, no player may play for more than 1 team in any one week. However, recognizing that it is in the club's interests for the 1<sup>st</sup> teams to be as competitive as possible, and as an exception to this rule, each 1<sup>st</sup> team captains (Liverpool Gentleme's, Liverpool Ladies' and Southport Mixed) may select players who have already been selected to play for another team, subject to the relevant league's rules and also subject to a limit of no more than 50% in number of that particular 1<sup>st</sup> team playing for more than 1 team in any one week.
18. Match scoresheets, showing results and the team members who actually played, must be submitted to the league Team WhatsApp at the same time as the result is provided to the relevant league.

## **MEMBERS/PLAYERS**

19. All members, who wish to play league tennis, are encouraged to attend one or more of the team practice sessions in the month before the league season begins
20. All members, who wish to be considered for selection, should make this clear to one or more of the team captains and/or the Gentlemen's or Ladies' Captain. They should also say whether they prefer to play in one league or another or no preference, and as to which Team Squad they prefer to be included. If the member already plays for another club in one of these leagues, then this should be clearly stated.
21. No member will be considered for selection, if he or she has not paid their annual subscription.
22. Before the start of the season players should provide their availability for the whole season or at least as far ahead as possible to their team captain who will then draw up a written schedule of players' known availability.
23. If any player feels he or she has been overlooked or is selected for the wrong team he or she should contact their team captain and/or the Gentlemen's or Ladies' League Captain. The relevant team captain will notify the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains as soon as the grievance has been made so as to ensure their involvement in the matter, in order to try to resolve the grievance with the appropriate team captain(s) and provide feedback to the player within a week.
24. Any new member, who joins during the season and is interested in playing league tennis and any junior member recommended by the club coach, should be given the opportunity to play with one or more of the

team captains to assess his or her level of playing ability for one of the teams

25. The Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with these rules, dealing with any complaints and for investigating any allegations of non-compliance. Investigations should include discussing the issue with all concerned parties and ascertaining any exceptional circumstances. In appropriate circumstances, the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Captains may allow an exception, issue a warning, or may recommend to the committee that a particular player or team captain should be suspended (whether indefinitely for a specified period) from representing the club in league tennis