

Notes for new tennis captains and team players

Use of MyDivision.com

- All of the leagues we play in are administered on this site.
- As a captain it will be essential that you have an account to set and check fixtures and enter/confirm scores. You can also find the league rules, contacts and addresses for other clubs.
- As a player it is not essential but you will find it useful and interesting.
- Registration is simple and free and it doesn't send you any spam.

Covered by the league rules

Balls

- The rules require 4 new balls per court to be provided for each match (some leagues specify a specific manufacturer).
- It is absolutely in order if the home team arrives first to open and warm up with one of the new tubes of balls.
- It is good etiquette to allow the away team to open the other.

Playing conditions (i.e. rain, wind, light and court condition)

- Check the weather forecast the day before. If there is a risk of poor weather agree with the opposition captain what your cancellation strategy will be, taking account of travelling time for the away team.
- Generally given the risk of injury it is best to err on the side of caution.
- If bad weather develops during the match, or you are running out of light at a non floodlit club, you should try to agree with the other captain what to do, but either captain is allowed to deem the conditions unplayable in the Birmingham Area League .(The Metropolitan gives the home captain final say, but in reality you shouldn't demand the away team keep playing if the conditions are marginal)
- If you have to abandon a match partially completed you have to get the same eight players back on a new date - this may be difficult!

Lateness

- If a pair are not ready to play 30 minutes after the start time you may claim a set and 45 minutes the rubber. Generally however we are playing for fun and so we should be tolerant of the difficulties of traffic (especially on evening matches) and only claim if you can't reasonably complete the match.

Etiquette not covered by the rules

Who changes court

- The visiting team pairs will stay on the same court for both their rubbers and the home team will change.

Calling out the score

- Call out the score clearly after every point

Line calling

- You call the lines on your side of the court and you must play to the other side's calls.
- Call promptly and clearly even if it looks obvious to you, especially on serve
- If you are in doubt over whether a ball is in/out, good etiquette is to play the ball as in.
- It is ok to politely ask the opposition if they are sure if you think they have made a mistake, and if they agree to replay the point. It is not good etiquette (and achieves nothing anyway) to have an argument.

Refreshments

- The rules don't demand it any more, but it is good manners to offer tea/coffee & biscuits/cake after a day time match, or a drink from the bar after an evening match.
- Some teams want to leave as soon as they can after playing. This is ok, but if we are doing it we should let the opposition know before the match. It is fine to contact the opposition and find out if they would like to stay for refreshments or not.

Administrative Issues

- Remind your team of the match time and location roughly a week ahead.
- Make contact with the opposition a few days before and make sure both sides know who to contact in the event of weather issues. Team contact details are available in MyDivision. You can also discuss refreshments when you do this.
- Ideally the captain on the day should be familiar with MyDivision and enter the scores. If not it is important to get the full names of all the players (MyDivision orders by surname) and always specify the results home team first. Write on a piece of paper and send a photo to the team captain.