

Rules and Conditions (as at 29 July 2024)

1. General
 - a. The tournament will be conducted under the Rules of Lawn Tennis and the rules and regulations of the LTA including the Code of Conduct.
 - b. A County qualification is not required but all matches must be played within the geographical boundaries of Kent unless mutually agreed by the two players (this is the County of Kent, the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham and the Unitary authority of Medway).
 - c. Players enter the Competition at their own risk. The host club shall not be held responsible for personal injury or loss of damage to personal effects.

2. Entry Requirements
 - a. In order to enter the Veteran events, players must have reached the minimum age by 1st October 2024 (which is 40 for women and 45 for men).
 - b. All players in singles events must have a current LTA rating and must have British Tennis Membership.
 - c. Players may only enter a maximum of three (3) events.
 - d. The closing date for entries is 20th September 2024 although this may be extended and will be advertised.
 - e. Entries can only be submitted on-line via the Maidstone Open website. You will be asked for payments at the time of entry
 - f. Confirmation of your entry will be emailed to you.
 - g. Telephone entries will not be accepted.
 - h. Players must be available for the Finals Day on Sunday 2nd March 2025.
 - i. Please note that subject to entries, consolation finals may be played on Saturday 1st March 2025.
 - ii. No exception to this rule is allowed.
 - iii. If for any reason it becomes clear that a player will not be available on Finals Day they must withdraw from the competition immediately.
 - iv. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
 - v. Any matches played and won knowing that a player will be unavailable for Finals Day will be declared null and void (i.e. as if it had never been played).

3. Arranging matches
 - a. The top listed player (or players) has home advantage (unless 3.c supersedes this).
 - b. Both parties are encouraged to be proactive in arranging matches; however, the ultimate responsibility is with the top listed player (or players) who should offer three (3) possible fixture dates.
 - c. Byes and walkovers count as a home advantage.
 - d. As the Championships move forward, if either player (or players) has played their previous matches home (or away) the referee will make the decision as to who gains the home advantage for the following round(s).
 - e. Any issues in securing a suitable date must be communicated with the tournament organiser as soon as practicable.

- f. Once a date has been fixed for a match it cannot be changed other than for bad weather.
- g. If a player cannot make the prearranged date for any other reason then they must concede the match.
- h. Players will be given play by dates to complete their matches.
- i. These must be adhered to. If players wish to extend the date they must ask permission from the organisers. Failure to do so could mean both players/teams are disqualified from the event.
- j. Should matches not be played by the set deadlines, then players who have not contacted the Tournament Director to ask for an extension and/or offering a valid reason, will forfeit the match.

4. Conduct of matches

- a. New balls of a make designated as within ITF specifications and (unless from a freshly opened pressurised container) of the current year shall be provided at the expense of the players with choice of ground, unless mutually agreed otherwise. Balls will be provided for the Finals.
- b. Scoring format
 - i. Singles: The best of 3 tie-break sets. The 3rd set may be replaced by a champion's tiebreak game (first to 10 points with a lead of 2 points) but only if it is mutually agreed prior to the commencement of the match. If players cannot agree, a third tiebreak set must be played.
 - ii. Doubles: First 2 sets to be tie-break sets. If a 3rd set is required then it must be a champion's tie-break game.
- c. The decision of the Referee is final. No complaint can be entertained unless lodged in writing with the Tournament Organiser within 48 hours of occurrence.