Middlesex Tennis Floodlit League Rules 2026-27

1. Competition

This competition is open to LTA registered venues within Middlesex who have also “opted in” to membership of Middlesex Tennis. It will be called “The Middlesex Tennis Floodlit League”. The competition will be run in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the LTA and LTA code of conduct. It will be played between September and March.

The regulations are drawn up by the Middlesex Tennis Competitions Advisory Group who may vary them at their discretion.

2. Middlesex League Management

Middlesex League Competitions Management will be under the general control of the Middlesex Tennis Competitions Advisory Group and League Management Committee subject to the over-riding authority of Middlesex Tennis Board of Trustees

3. Powers and Duties of League Management

a) The League Management Committee is empowered to amend the league structure and rules as they deem appropriate and its decision on any matter arising from the competition will be final.

b) The League Management Committee may refuse an entry without giving a reason.

c) The League Management Committee shall determine the entry fee which will be subject to the approval of the Middlesex Tennis.

d) The League Management Committee will send entry information to clubs in June/July. All entries and payments are to be made online. The composition of Leagues and Divisions will be circulated in July/August.

4. League Structure

a) The League will be divided into divisions in the four areas as follows:

West Middlesex Area
North-West Middlesex Area
North-East Middlesex Area
East Middlesex Area

b) Each Area will have as many Divisions as necessary.

c) Each Division will have a Divisional Secretary who will be appointed by the Competitions Advisory Group.

5. Divisional Structure

a) Divisions generally will contain seven or eight teams.

b) In Divisions containing six or more teams, each team will play one match against each of the other teams in its division.

c) Where a division contains five or less teams, each team will play twice per season against each of the other teams on a Home and Away basis.

d) A club will be permitted to have more than one team in the same Division at the discretion of the League Management Committee. Where this occurs, the teams must complete their fixture not later than the date set for the completion of round two.

6. Fixture Arrangements

a) Clubs should organise dates for each fixture by the date given by the League Management Committee
   a. Matches should be played Monday to Friday evenings from 19:00.
   b. Matches may start earlier with the agreement of both teams but not before 18:30
   c. Matches must be scheduled within the round dates (see Appendix 1)
   d. Home captains should set match dates and then update the website by “rescheduling” their home matches, both date and time.
   e. These dates should be communicated to the away captains for confirmation.

b) Each club will enter a team captain and contact details on the website.

c) 3-5 days prior to a match the home team captain should contact the away team captain to confirm arrangements for the match including refreshments.

d) The home team must provide refreshments after a match, which should be a minimum of sandwiches or something equivalent and a hot or cold drink. The cost of the food and drinks must be borne by the home team.

e) Where a team does not have floodlights the following procedure should be followed:
The home team must contact their opponents and offer a weekend date.
If opponents do not wish to play at the weekend then they (the original away team) should offer to provide the courts for the match at their venue.
If the venue is switched, the original home team must provide the balls and refreshments and pay any court fees.

7. Competition Period

a) Matches must take place on the agreed date. Rearrangement can only be by mutual agreement and with the prior consent of the Division Secretary. Unavailability of players is not an acceptable reason for requesting a rearrangement.

b) Matches must be completed by 31 March 2027 – for any matches not completed by this date, points will be allocated by the League Management Committee.

8. Composition of Teams

a) All players must have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.

b) All players must be a bona fide member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for prior to their first match and commit to representing that venue. A player may only represent one venue in the Middlesex Tennis Floodlight League irrespective of area in the same season. A player may represent one venue in the Men's or Women's Doubles event and another venue in the Mixed Doubles event.

c) Each team should consist of two pairs. In the event of a team not being able to field two pairs for the match they should field one pair and concede all eight points for the missing pair. The two remaining players must play as pair 1.

d) Clothing worn for matches must comply with the clothing rules of each individual club. Any club that insists on predominantly white tennis clothing must ensure that all opposing teams are aware of this restriction prior to the match being played.

e) Any club unable to fulfil a fixture must notify the opposing team captain and the League Divisional Secretary not less than 72 hours before the date agreed upon for playing the match. The matter shall be reported to the League Management Committee who shall have the power to take such action as they may deem appropriate including the possible deduction of points.

f) Any team that fails to fulfil two matches in the season shall be withdrawn for that season and any matches they have been played will be declared void. Any team withdrawn under rule 8(f) may not necessarily be accepted for the following season but if they are accepted may be relegated more than one division at the discretion of the League Management Committee.

9. Format of Match

a) A match will consist of four rubbers as described in rule 11 and no finishing time should be set. Points will be awarded in accordance with rule 13-14.

b) Play should be continuous, and commencement of any round should not, when possible, be delayed until all the matches in the previous round are completed. There should be no warmup between rounds.

10. Uncompleted Match

a) If a match is not started or less than one round has been completed the match must be replayed on a mutually agreed date **before the completion date of the following round.** Unplayed matches in the final round must be played by 31st March 2027.

b) In the event of a club not fielding a team in accordance with rule 8(e) the opposing team has the option of offering a new date for the match to be played, by the completion date for the following round.

c) In the event of the match not being played, the defaulting club will receive 0 points and, at the discretion of the League Management Committee, may have points deducted. The other club will receive a proportional award of up to 16 points. The award of points takes into account the points gained by the receiving club in their other matches and the points other teams have gained against the defaulting club in their other matches. In any other case other where a match is not played the committee has the power to award points as he/she considers appropriate up to a maximum of 16 points.

d) In the event of bad weather, matches may only be postponed with the agreement of both Captains. If no agreement between Captains is reached or no contact made, then the match is deemed to be still on, and players are expected to be ready to play at the agreed start time.

11. Form of Match

a) Each rubber will consist of two tie break sets.

b) If the score reaches deuce in any game a deciding point will be played.

a. In men's and women's doubles, the receiving pair has choice of side but cannot change positions
b. In mixed doubles, the player of the same gender as the server shall receive the deciding point. The players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive the deciding point.

c) A tie-break will be played if the set score reaches 6-6. The tie break will be the first to seven points or by two clear points if a score of six points each is reached.

12. Order of Play

Visitors remain on the same court

Round 1	Round 2
Home 1 v Away 1 Home 2 v Away 2	Home 2 v Away 1 Home 1 v Away 2

13. Points Scoring System

a) The total number of points awarded for a match shall be 16. Two (2) points will be awarded for each completed set won.

b) Each team's league position will be determined by the aggregate of the number of points it has obtained in each match during the season plus any points it has been awarded under rule 10(c).

14. Standard Allocation of Points in Uncompleted Matches

Points will be split equally for any incomplete sets with each team receiving 1 point each per set.

15. Time of Play - Late Arrival

a. Unless mutually agreed otherwise all matches will be played mid-week.

b. (i) The start time is 7.00pm. However, this may be changed to either 6.30pm or 6.45pm with the mutual agreement of both teams. Neither team is obliged to change the start time and a start time 7.00pm will remain if mutual agreement cannot be found.

(ii) If both teams agree to an earlier start time, they should both inform either their Regional Secretary or their Divisional Secretary who will change the time on the website. All changes to the start time must be agreed and communicated to the Divisional Secretary at least 14 days prior to the match. In the event of an earlier start time the home team captain should reconfirm the earlier start time to the away team contact 5- 7 days before the match.

(iii) In the event of a dispute over the start time, the time shown on the results website will be taken as the agreed start time and in the absence of any time showing on the results website it will be taken as 7.00 p.m.

c Any 'knock up' must be completed by the start time resulting from rule 15(b).

d If a pair is incomplete 15 minutes after the starting time and the opposing pair in correct order is complete, the incomplete pair will forfeit a love set in the first round. If a pair is incomplete 30 minutes after the starting time, then the incomplete pair will forfeit a second love set in the first round.

e If the previously incomplete pair is on court ready to play by the completion of the match in the first round, the second is played to the rules.

f If a pair is not on court ready to play by the completion of the match in the first round, the incomplete pair will forfeit a love set in the second round.

g Substitutes are only permitted for non-appearance and not because of injuries sustained during play.

h For a pair to be complete both players must be on court, changed and ready to play.

i All sets forfeited above must be indicated on tournament software using the "match abandoned" option and then adding a comment as to why the sets were forfeited.

16. Player Restriction - Clubs with two teams or more

a) If a club has two or more teams in the competition a player who plays twice for any higher team or teams, be it in the same or different Division, may not subsequently play for a lower team in that season

b) All Clubs with more than one team but up to five teams in the Men's and Women's events must nominate three players for each of their teams except the lowest ranked team. All clubs with more than five teams have to nominate three players for each of their first four teams - no nominations need to be made for any fifth or lower ranked teams.

c) For Mixed events clubs must nominate 4 players – 2 men and 2 women.

d) Nominated players are expected to play regularly for the team for which they have been nominated and may not play in any lower team.

e) If a club has 2 or more teams in the same division where players have been nominated, then four players must be nominated for the highest team.

17. Nominations

a) Nominations must be filled in on the online nomination spreadsheet by 9th September. Points will be deducted from any team who have not submitted their nominations by this date and further points will be deducted for every match thereafter when nominations have not been registered.

b) If for any reason a nominated player is unable to play for the Club during the current season, the Divisional Secretary must be informed immediately and another player nominated. When any match in the division has started a club can no longer change the nomination but can add another player. Failure to comply will result in 4 points being deducted. Named, nominated players may not play at all in any lower team for the entire season.

c) If a club has two or more teams in the competition a player who plays twice for any higher team or teams, be it in the same or different Division, may not subsequently play for a lower team in that season.

18. Choice of Court

a) The home team shall have the choice of courts and must provide two suitable courts. If the surface of the two courts is not the same, then the away team has the choice of court.

b) Matches must start and finish on the same courts unless agreed by both captains.

19. Balls

The balls must be New and ITF approved.

20. Results

All results should be entered online by the winning team within 48 hours of the match being played. The losing team must confirm these results within 7 days and if they are not happy should contact their Divisional Secretary immediately.

Both team captains should complete and sign an official score sheet and should retain this score sheet in case of a subsequent query.

21. Injuries

If a player is injured during play he/she is allowed a five minute recovery time. If after five minutes the player is unable to continue then he/she shall concede that match. A player injured in an earlier round may return for a later round provided he/she available to play at the start of that round.

22. Divisional Winners, Promotions and Relegations

a) The Divisional Champion will be the team with the most points after all matches are complete and checks have been made by Divisional Secretaries for ineligible players.

b) In each division, normally there will be two promotions and two relegations per season, Exceptions: In Mixed West Division two and Mixed North West Division 2, one only team will be promoted; and in Nine Team Divisions up to three teams may be relegated.

c) Teams may not be promoted if they fail to complete all their matches without good reason. The team in 3rd position would be likely to then gain promotion.

d) In the event of a tie, the winner will be decided by

i. The head-to-head result if only two teams are tied
ii. The highest percentage of games won to games played, if more than two teams are tied.

e) For the calculation, all sets that are conceded will be considered as 0-6 loss.

a. If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all remaining games and sets necessary to win the rubber.
b. Where there are incomplete sets, then only the games played will be taken for the calculation.
c. For any matches where points have been apportioned, no games will be added.

Appendix 1

Round Dates			
	Box of 7 or 8	**Box of 9**	**RR of 5 Home and Away**
Round 1	25 September	25 September	25 September
Round 2	23 October	16 October	16 October
Round 3	20 November	13 November	13 November
Round 4	22 January	11 December	4 December
Round 5	12 February	22 January	15 January
Round 6	5 March	12 February	29 January
Round 7	19 March	5 March	12 February
Round 8		12 March	5 March
Round 9		19 March	12 March
Round 10			19 March
Round 11			