

2019 Old College Tournament

Introduction

Closing date for entries: **Sunday 5th May**

Please ensure that you have completed and submitted your entry form and paid for your events no later than this date. Late entries cannot be accepted! Please pay online, using the entry form here: <https://www.oldcollege.co.uk/tournament/>

Start of first round matches: Early in May

The first group stage will be published in the clubhouse at the beginning of May. We will have strict completion dates for each round which will be highlighted on the tournament sheets. If you can't play your match(es) by the completion date, you will forfeit them.

If you have any questions about the club tournaments, please don't hesitate to contact:

Adult open tournament: Mark Alderson (aldersontennis@gmail.com)

Veterans tournament: Hamid Irshad (hamid.irshad@ntlworld.com)

Junior tournaments: Matt Cowie (matthewcowie@live.co.uk)

Participant Responsibilities

You must be:

1. Able to play on Finals Day (Saturday 7th September).
2. Regularly contactable by e-mail.
3. Able to book courts on the online booking system.

Able to meet your match organisation and playing commitments (see the guidelines and completion dates for each round.)

Rules

1. The tournament is only open to members who have paid their subscription fees in full for 2019/20.
2. Matches are to be played on any booked court at the club.
3. Group stage matches are played on an abbreviated 'Fast 4' scoring basis. Two sets played to 4 games, with a 7-point tiebreak played at three games all. A championship tiebreak to decide the match if it is tied at one set all. Lets and ad scoring as standard. Only one court booking slot must be used and the results submitted immediately by the winner after the match is completed.
4. The winner of the group will have either won all their matches outright or be the player with the greatest net (won minus lost) number of sets. Championship tiebreak decider counts as one set. All subsequent matches are first to two sets (tiebreak at 6 all), with a ten-point championship tiebreak, should the match be tied at one set each. The final will be played over the best of three tie-break sets.
5. All matches are to be completed by the fixed completion dates. The only movement on this will be in exceptional circumstances. If you feel your match is affected by such circumstances, please contact the tournament director as soon as possible. Each case will be judged individually to come to a fair resolution. Holidays and injuries do not count as exceptional circumstances.
6. If a player or pairing are forced to withdraw before a match (eg. as a result of injury or illness) then the opponent(s) that they beat in the previous round take their

place.

7. If a player withdraws before their doubles pair have played a match, their partner is able to find another partner provided the new partner has not already played a match.

Guidelines for Arranging Matches

The following guidelines have been written to help facilitate participants to organise matches in the most fair, efficient and respectful manner. They are not rules, however. Should a referee need to make a judgment on how to progress in the tournament in the event of a match not being completed, the cooperation of each competitor will be taken into account.

- Each participant or a nominated representative from each pair, is responsible for contacting their opponent(s) in a timely manner – so as to utilise as much of the available time for a round as possible – at the start of each round offering at least 2 bookable evening and weekend court slots on different days. Each participant must respond yes / no to slots within two days and at the least offer two alternative slots.
- In the unlikely event that a mutually agreeable date cannot be found then the referee must be engaged by the players. This should be done at least a week prior to the deadline for a round to enable time for a resolution to be found.
- If it is the case that one party has tried to arrange a match and the other party has not responded or has been unable to play due to injury then a 10-0 result will be awarded. In the case where both parties try to play but were unable to do so by the deadline then a 0-0 result will be awarded.

Referee Responsibilities

If the referee is contacted because a mutually agreed date can't be found then they will request that the participants explore options to re-arrange their schedule to accommodate. If a date still can't be found then the referee will make a decision on who progresses, taking into account how well the competitors have followed the guidelines. Coin tosses will not be used to decide the result of a match.

FAQ

1. **Must we play a tie-break instead of a third set?** Yes. Court time is at a premium. Only the finals will be over 3 sets.
2. **What factors will the referee take into account if they get involved?** Whether the guidelines for arranging matches have been followed will be an important consideration.
3. **Two days to respond to an email?! I'm much too busy to do that!** If you are not able to follow this guideline, then please consider whether entering a tournament with tight timelines such as this is something that you want to do. If you enter the tournament then you have an obligation to arrange matches and respect the time of your opponents.
4. **I'm on holiday for two weeks and I'm not responding to e-mail while I'm away.** Make sure you let your opponents know when you'll be able to get back to them and / or plan and agree dates before you go. In doubles please ensure your partner can speak on your behalf.