

1. The Houldsworth Cup competition shall be a mixed doubles knock-out event open to all clubs.
NB: Clubs may combine to enter joint teams. Players may also represent a different club from that which they have represented in the league; providing they are a bona fida member of that club.
2. A club may enter one or more teams. There shall be a fee for each team entered.
At the beginning of each season, the entry fee is set by the North Devon LTA.
3. Each team shall consist of **two** mixed pairs.
4. DATES. Dates will be as stated with the affiliation form, and the draw done at, **or after** the pre-season meeting. **Matches to be played BEFORE or ON that date.** Any rearrangement to be mutually agreed by both teams. The fixtures secretary **does not** need to be notified. If the Home team has insufficient/unsuitable courts, the match can be played at an alternative venue.
5. NOMINATIONS. Where clubs enter more than one team, all teams other than the lowest must be nominated. Nominations must be received by the fixtures secretary at least two weeks **before the start of the competition**. If nominations are not received by this date, the players in the first match will be the nominated team. Players nominated for a team may not play in a lower team. **Players must be nominated, and play, in merit order.**

A player may play up once without altering their status. If a player plays in a higher team more than once, they cannot play down again in the current season.

6. COURSE OF PLAY. The match shall consist of **four** rubbers: two tiebreak sets and a third set championship tiebreak (first to 10 points with a margin of two points or two points clear thereafter).
IF A SET ALL IN THE FIRST RUBBER, THE CHAMPIONSHIP TIE-BREAK THIRD SET IS TO BE PLAYED BEFORE THE START OF THE SECOND RUBBER

One point will be awarded for each rubber won; making a total of 4 points.

- i In the event of a draw in the rubbers won, the match shall be awarded to the team winning the most sets.
- ii If the number of sets is equal the winner shall be the team with the most number of games won.
- iii If these are also equal, and the match is tied each team must nominate one of the pairs to play a deciding tie –break set.

7. ORDER OF PLAY.

	First Round		Second Round	
Home Team	2 nd pair v	1 st pair v	1 st pair v	2 nd pair v
Away Team	1 st pair	2 nd pair	1 st pair	2 nd pair

The Home team pairs change courts after each rubber. Visitors stay.

8. INCOMPLETE TEAMS. If a team is unable to provide a complete team they may field **one** pair, plus an ineligible pair (**DECLARING THIS BEFORE THE MATCH**) whose scores would not count. Alternatively, they may field only **one** pair, and start the match **two** rubbers to nil down.

9. WALKOVERS. Should, on the specified day of the match, a team fail to turn up a walkover will be given to the opposing side. The captain of the team ready to play must notify the League Fixtures Secretary within one week or they may forfeit the match. The team giving the walkover will be fined £10.

9. ABANDONED MATCHES.

a) Where the first rubber has NOT been completed, the match must start from scratch at the earliest date mutually arranged by the clubs concerned.

Players in the rearranged match do not necessarily need to be those who played in the abandoned match.

b) Where the first rubber HAS been completed, the match shall be decided on the results of the completed sets. NB If the match is tied on sets and games then a date(s) must be agreed to complete the match with the same players – the pairs do not necessarily have to play on the same day.

The Fixtures Secretary must be notified as soon as possible by the Home team – failure to do so may mean the match being awarded to the Away team.

The rearranged date must be at least one week before the next round is due to be played.

10. FINAL. The final will be held at the Tarka Tennis Centre. A coin will be tossed to decide who the Home team will be.

11. The Home team shall supply balls, refreshments and the scorecard. Except for the final when the NDFTA will supply the balls and scorecard. It is the responsibility of the Home captain to see that the completed scorecard reaches the Fixtures Secretary not later than seven days after the match.

Failure to comply with this regulation will result in forfeiture of the match.

12. TROPHY. Cup winners shall hold the trophy for one year. It will be signed for, and the club is responsible for returning it to the League Fixtures Secretary, by the 31 August.

13. MOBILE PHONES. These are not to be switched on during matches unless otherwise agreed beforehand.

14. RULES. The League fixtures secretary has full powers to enforce the cup rules. A written appeal may be made to the committee regarding the enforcement of the rules. DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE TO BE TAKEN AS FINAL.