

1. ELIGIBILITY. All teams entered in the North Devon Tennis League are eligible. The KO Cup is one competition divided into two sections:
 - a) the Premier Cup for teams in the upper divisions – Men & Ladies
 - b) the Pete Stacey Cup for teams in the lower divisions – Men & LadiesExactly which divisions are eligible for each trophy is decided each year at the League's pre-season meeting.
2. VENUE. A coin will be tossed by the organising committee to decide home and away.
3. PAIRINGS. Each team shall consist of two pairs.
4. STATUS. Where clubs enter more than one team, all teams other than the lowest must be nominated. Nominations must be received by the league fixtures secretary by the 1 May. 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 for 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. NB If a team fields an ineligible player then Rule 13 will apply.

(i) NO PLAYER WHO PLAYS IN THE UPPER DIVISIONS; OR IS OF THAT STANDARD, MAY PLAY IN THE PETE STACEY CUP.

NB The make-up of the upper divisions being decided at the pre-season meeting.

5. CLUB REPRESENTATION. Players may represent a different club in the KO/Pete Stacey Cup from that which they have represented in the league; providing they are a bona fide member of that club. See also Rule 4 (i)
6. COURSE OF PLAY. Each match will consist of 4 rubbers: two tie-break sets and a third set championship tie – break (first to 10 points - providing there is 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.**
7. ORDER OF PLAY. Each pair will play two rubbers (one against each opposing pair). Visiting team captains have the choice of courts and order of play. The home team changes courts after completion of first rubbers.
8. SCORING. 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.

9. DATES. Dates will be as stated with the affiliation form, and the draw done at the pre-season meeting. Matches to be played ON or BEFORE that date. Any rearrangement to be mutually agreed by both teams. The fixtures Secretary *does not* need to be notified.
- (i) Matches to start at agreed time or 10.30am if not alternative arrangement. Players arriving 15 to 30 minutes late forfeit 1st set, 30 to 45 mins late 1st rubber forfeited, more than 45mins walkover given. See also Rule 12 (i)
10. ABANDONED MATCHES. An abandoned match is one in which bad weather forces play to be stopped before its conclusion. The decision to abandon must be by mutual agreement between the Captains and made with due regard to the safety of the players. Where the first rubber has been completed, the match shall be decided on the results of the completed sets. See also Rule 8 (i) (ii) 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. See also Rule 11 (i)
- Where the first rubber has not been completed, the match must start from scratch at a later date, mutually agreed by the clubs. Players in the rearranged match do not necessarily need to be those who played in the abandoned match. Rule 11 (i) will also apply.
11. POSTPONEMENTS. The only reason for a postponement shall be bad weather. The decision must be made by the home captain with due regard for the safety of the players. An alternative venue may be sought with the agreement of both captains. (i) The *home captain* must offer three dates as soon as possible and notify the league fixtures secretary of the agreed rearranged date within one week. Failure to do so will mean that the match may be awarded to the away team. If there is no response from the away team, the home team should notify the league fixtures secretary and they shall be awarded the match, at the discretion of the committee.
12. WALKOVERS. Should, on the specified day of the match, a team fail to turn up; a walkover will be given to the opposing side. See also Rule 9 (i)
- (i) 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
13. 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. See Rule 8
14. SCORE CARDS. The home team shall supply the match score card, previously distributed by the League fixtures secretary. It is the responsibility of the home team to see that the result reaches the League fixtures secretary as soon as possible, and the score card no later than seven days after the fixture. Failure to do will result in a £5 fine for the home team.

15. **FINALS.** The date and location of the finals will be fixed by the league fixtures secretary. The finals of all the events will be played on the same day at the same venue.
16. **TROPHIES.** Cup winners shall hold the respective trophies for one year, they will be signed for, and the club is responsible for returning them to the league fixtures secretary by the 31 August.
17. **MOBILE PHONES.** These are not to be switched on during matches unless otherwise agreed beforehand.
18. **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.
19. **DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.** These are to be taken as final.