

Grove LTC Championships

Description of the Draw & Operating Guidelines

John Carroll

12/4/2015

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	The 9-Step Draw Schedule	1
3	“Starring” & Seeding Procedures	2
4	Key Elements of the Draw Process	3
5	A Note on Under 8 & 10 Competitions	5
6	Match Schedules	5

1 Introduction

- The purpose of this note is to brief Grove LTC members on how the Championship Draw is undertaken and to describe its operating guidelines (relating to competition entry, apologies, “starring” and seeding). The guidelines were constructed to ensure that the draw is as fair and as balanced as possible and, also, that competition entrants can see how decisions are reached and that they are made aware of some of the practical constraints under which the draw is undertaken.
- The draw was partly computerised for the first time in 1994 but it was limited to the extent that it did not automatically place the competitors in the appropriate locations on a seeding chart. Additionally, there was some disquiet over the fully-randomized draw for partners as it gave rise to some very imbalanced pairings and resulting competitions.
- Both the draw for partners and the seeding process were re-vamped following approval by the Committee in February 2001. The 2001 Championships also saw the properly-formatted competition charts for the first time and the process has remained relatively stable since then.
- In the intervening period, other minor enhancements have been added and, in March 2005, the current operating guidelines were approved by the Committee.

2 The 9-Step Draw Schedule

The overall schedule for the draw is presented in the form of **9** basic stages (see Table 1) which are, hopefully, self-explanatory. It is important to note that the dates for Steps 4 and 6 are scheduled in advance, following consultation with the members of the Championship Committee (see paragraph 4.3.c regarding Step 6), and after having due regard for the timings of the other steps in the draw schedule. From a playing perspective, the key steps are 4 to 7. The “starring” and seeding process is described in detail in the next and later sections.

Computer System		Captains/Committee	
1	Update Membership Data		
		2	Receive Entry Forms & Championship Fees
3	Enter Competition Details Produce Apology Lists		
		4	Finalise Apology Lists "Star" Doubles Competitions
5	Make Draw for Partners Produce Competition Lists		
		6	Seed Singles Competitions Seed Doubles Competitions
7	Implement Seeding Make Championship Draw Produce Formatted Output		
		8	Check Final Format Display in the Pavilion
9	Produce Statistical Data Generate Entry Fee Lists		

Table 1: The 9-Stage Draw Schedule

3 "Starring" & Seeding Procedures

- 3.1 From season to season, there can be an imbalance in the numbers of entries in the doubles competitions, i.e. an odd number of entrants in the ordinary doubles, or more ladies than men (or *vice versa*) in the mixed doubles competitions. In such circumstances and, on a partially-random but computerised basis, a number of entrants must be withdrawn from the affected competitions.
- 3.2 The list of apologies for the mixed doubles competition (or a single apology where there is an odd number of entrants in any of the ordinary doubles competitions) is approved by the Championship Committee prior to making the draw for partners. Any substitutions to each list will be made by selecting in reverse order from a randomly-ordered list of competitors.
- 3.3 In the draw for partners in the doubles competitions, the Championship Committee will impose restrictions on certain combinations by "starring" a number of players (up to 50% of

the number of entrants, in the case of ordinary doubles, or up to 50% of the number of male or female entrants, whichever is the smaller, in the case of mixed doubles). The draw for partners will not allow a “starred” player to be paired with any other “starred” player.

- 3.4 Because the pool of “starred” and “non-starred” Senior players will remain relatively the same from one year to the next, this type of randomized draw can lead to the possibility of a partnership in one year recurring in a subsequent year. However, a check will be made to ensure that, in so far as possible, no repeat partnerships will occur over at least 3 successive years.
- 3.5 Following the draw for partners, the Committee will decide on the seedings for each competition. It is recommended that at least 8 seeds (as numbers allow) should be identified in as many competitions as possible.
- 3.6 Once the seeding has been agreed, the draw will be made and the output will be a correctly seeded competition on the following basis.
 - (a) For each competition, the Championship Committee will have identified the 8 (can be more or less) “formal” seeds. The remaining competitors will be assigned a random number between 9 (or one higher than the number of seeds if this is different from 8) and the number of entrants.
 - (b) If, for example, there are 15 competitors including 8 “formal” seeds, the 7 non-seeded entrants will be randomly assigned a seed number between 9 and 15. In this example, the first seed will have a bye into the quarter-finals (because there is no “16th seed”), while the second seed must play the “15th seed”, the third plays the “14th seed” etc with the 8th seed playing the “9th seed”.
 - (c) Each draw will guarantee that, should the seeds progress, then the first will meet the eighth in the quarter-final, the second will meet the seventh, etc., in common with most other seeded tournaments.

4 Key Elements of the Draw Process

4.1 Entry to Competitions:

- (a) The maximum numbers permitted to enter the singles and doubles competitions are 32 and 64 respectively. Registration will be effective from the date of receipt of the championship forms and, in the event of a tie in an oversubscribed competition, the remaining places will be determined on a random number basis following the application of 4.2.
- (b) The maximum number of competitions which competitors may enter is 4. Note that those who enter 4 competitions may be at risk of being withdrawn from an oversubscribed doubles competition.
- (c) Junior competitors will be permitted to enter for those competitions in their age group and in the next level up (e.g. Under 14 as well as Under 12) up to a maximum of 4 competitions, but they will be prohibited from entering any of the Senior (i.e. over 16) competitions.
- (d) Entry to Junior competitors is determined by your age on January 1st in the current year and eligibility is based on the year in which you were born. If, for example, you were born in 2004, then you are eligible to enter the Under 12 and Under 14 competitions

in 2015; the Under 12 and Under 14 competitions again in 2016; and the Under 14 and Under 16 competitions in 2017. Table 2 illustrates, over three successive seasons, the competitions which you can enter, based on your year of birth.

- (e) In order to complete the draw in reasonable time, it is vital that the deadline for submission of competition entry forms be respected. However, the Captains should be given the discretion to make exceptions in cases where additional entries enhance the overall situation (e.g. reduce the length of apology lists) and this should be made known to all concerned.

Championship Season	Eligible Junior Competitions				
	Under 8 & Under 10	Under 10 & Under 12	Under 12 & Under 14	Under 14 & Under 16	Under 16 only
2015	2008 & 2007	2006 & 2005	2004 & 2003	2002 & 2001	2000 & 1999
2016	2009 & 2008	2007 & 2006	2005 & 2004	2003 & 2002	2001 & 2000
2017	2010 & 2009	2008 & 2007	2006 & 2005	2004 & 2003	2002 & 2001

Table 2: Entry to Junior Competitions by Season & by Year of Birth

4.2 Basis for Apology Lists:

In the context of paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 (above):

- (a) Junior players who have entered competitions at two different age levels (e.g. Under 12 and Under 14) may be withdrawn from an oversubscribed competition in the older age-group level and, should this happen, they will be assured of participation at the younger level.
- (b) Senior players who have entered 4 eligible competitions are more likely to be withdrawn from an oversubscribed competition than those who have entered only 1 or 2 competitions.
- (c) Subject to the foregoing provisions, every effort will be made to ensure that a competitor who was listed as an apology in any one of the previous 3 years will not be withdrawn in the current year.

4.3 “Starring” & Seeding Process:

- (a) The Championship Committee will be convened on an annual basis to oversee the “starring” decisions (affecting the draw for partners) in the 12 doubles competitions, and the designation of seeds in all 26 competitions.
- (b) The Committee will consist of the Ladies and Men’s Captains, together with at least 2 other Committee members who will have a reasonable familiarity with the playing abilities of both Junior and Senior competitors.
- (c) The “starring” and seeding of competitions will take place on pre-arranged dates which are consistent with a reasonable time-frame for the overall draw schedule.

- (d) In cases where there is a need to amend one or more of the doubles competitions *after the draw has been made*, both the “starring” and the seeding decisions will be re-visited in the light of any changes and, where required, a new draw for partners will be instituted for that competition. *Ad hoc* changes can be unfair to other competitors in the original draw and this will be avoided.

5 A Note on Under 8 & 10 Competitions

- 5.1 All Under 8 and Under 10 championship matches must be umpired by a Tennis Leader (or a person nominated by a Tennis Leader or Monitor).
- 5.2 In Under 8 matches, the server can choose to serve from either the base-line or the service-line. If they choose to serve from the service-line, they must serve under-arm or using a bounce serve. The service location can change for each serve, e.g. the first serve may be over-arm from the base-line and second serve may be under-arm from the service-line.
- 5.3 All Under 8 and Under 10 championship matches must be played with a modified ball density:
- Red spot for Under 8
 - Green spot for Under 10
- 5.4 The finalists in all Under 8 and 10 singles competitions will be determined on the basis of the results of round-robin competitions involving the respective entrants. The round-robin competitions will be run by the Tennis Leaders during the months of July and August. The format and timings of the round-robin competitions will be determined by the Tennis Leaders and Championship Sub-Committee based on the number of entrants into each age category.
- 5.5 The Under 8 and 10 singles finals will be the best of 3 sets. However, the Under 8 singles finals must be played with a modified scoring system, i.e. first to 6 commencing at 2–2.

6 Match Schedules

- 6.1 Each competition is assigned a Monitor with whom contact should be made in the event of a query.
- 6.2 All matches are the best of 3 sets. The tie-break does not operate in the final set. Please refer to Section 5 for Under 8 and 10 variations.
- 6.3 Under 12 entrants may, by mutual agreement, either umpire their own match or have it umpired by a Tennis Leader (or a person nominated by a Tennis Leader or Monitor). In the event of disagreement, the match should be umpired by a Tennis Leader (or a person nominated by a Tennis Leader or Monitor).
- 6.4 Championship matches must be played by the due date. The date by which each round of the championships must be played, normally a Saturday or Sunday, is displayed on each competition sheet.
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of all players to arrange the playing of their respective matches before the due date. Telephone numbers are displayed on a separate sheet.

6.6 If, because of injury or other unavoidable circumstances, the match cannot be played by the due date, it is the responsibility of the first-named player (or pair) to inform the Monitor before the due date. *Players should give a walkover in a timely manner if they consider that, for whatever reasons, they cannot meet the published schedule.*

6.7 The outcome of any match not played within one week of the due date will be decided by the Championship Sub-Committee in one of the following ways:

- (a) where, in the opinion of the Monitor, one party has attempted to arrange the match and been available to play, they will be awarded the match; or
- (b) otherwise the result will be decided by the toss of a racquet.

All matches in that round will therefore be completed 7 days after the due date (except under exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Monitor and Club Captains).

6.8 If you reach a final, you must be available to play at any time on both the Saturday and Sunday afternoons of Finals Weekend in August. If you are not available, your place will be given to the losing semi-finalist as it is not possible to schedule Finals Weekend matches to suit individual players.

Saturday Schedule

12:00	O40MS	U12BS	U12GS	U16GS
13:15	MD	U16BS	U8GS	U21MD
14:30	LS		U8BS	
15:45	O16MD	U10MD	U14MD	

Sunday Schedule

12:00	O35LS	U10BS	U14BS	U14GS
13:15	LD	U16GD	U10GS	U16BD
14:30	MS		U12BD	
15:45	PMD	U12GD	U16MD	

Table 3: Indicative Finals Weekend Schedule

The Championship Sub-Committee reserves the right to amend the Finals Weekend schedule under exceptional circumstances.