

Grove LTC Championships
Description of the Draw & Operating Guidelines
Updated May 2025

Contents

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

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.

2. The Draw Process

The 2022 season saw the first use of “ItsPlainSailing” for entries. Prior to commencement of the draw, the captains by encouraging may seek to increase or balance the entries in doubles in particular, by encouraging additional members to enter specific events. Following the closing date, the Championship sub-committee meets to review the entries and complete the “starring” and seeding process is described in detail in the next and later sections.

3. “Starring” and Seeding Procedures

3.1 From season to season, there can be an imbalance in the numbers of entries in the double's 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 In such circumstances and, on a random basis (see Apologies section 4.2), a number of entrants must be withdrawn from the affected competitions.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 double's 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 season to the next, this type of randomised draw can lead to the possibility of a partnership in one season recurring in a subsequent season. However, a check will be made to ensure that, in so far as possible, no repeat partnerships will occur over at least 3 successive seasons.

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 and minimum numbers permitted to enter the Championship competitions are normally 32 and 4 respectively for the singles events, and 64 and 8 respectively for the doubles events. Registration will be effective from the date of entry 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
- (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 members will be permitted to enter for those competitions in their age group and, with the exception of Under 16, in the next level up (e.g. Under 14 as well as Under 12) up to a maximum of 4 competitions, but they are prohibited from entering any of the Senior (i.e. over 16) competitions.
- (d) Entry to Junior competitions is determined by your age on January 1st in the current year and eligibility is based on the year in which you were born. In any given year, a Club member is deemed to be a Junior member if he/she is 16 years or younger on December 31st of that year (or, equivalently, the transition from Junior to Senior occurs in the calendar year of his/her 17th birthday).
- (e) In order to complete the draw in reasonable time, it is vital that the deadline for is respected. However, the Captains should be given the discretion to make exceptions in cases where additional entries enhance the overall situation (e.g. to reduce the length of apology lists) and this should be made known to all concerned.

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 timeframe 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 revisited 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 they will therefore 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 Under 8 matches are played on a short court (to the service lines). 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. This is one possible example of a round robin format:

5.5 This is one possible example of a round robin format:

Best of three sets as per 5.6 below.

Winner and Runner up based on highest number of match wins.

If two players have an equal number of match wins, the winner of their match in the round robin will determine the outcome.

5.6 The Under 8 and 10 singles finals will be the best of 3 sets and must be played with a modified scoring system, i.e. the 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 with tie-break operating in all sets. 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 available on the Member website and may be displayed on a separate sheet in the Clubhouse.

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 The winner(s) of each match is responsible for recording the result on the relevant Championship sheet in the clubhouse. If the opponent for the next round is already decided, the player must make contact with the next opponent without delay.

6.9 If you reach a final, you must be available to play at any time on both the Saturday and Sunday afternoons of Finals Weekend. 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.

Indicative Saturday Schedule

12:00 O45 Men's Singles. U10 B Singles. U14 Boys Singles. U14 Girls Singles

13:15 Men's Doubles. U16 Girls Doubles. U10 Girls Singles. U16 Boys Doubles

14:30 Ladies Singles. U12 Girls Doubles. U12 Boys Doubles

15:45 O16 Mixed Doubles. U16 Mixed Doubles.

Indicative Sunday Schedule

12:00 O40 Ladies Singles. U12 Boys Singles. U12 Girls Singles. U16 Girls Singles.

13:15 Ladies Doubles. U16 Boys Singles. U8 Girls Singles.

14:30 Men's Singles. U10 Mixed Doubles. U8 Boys Singles

15:45 O40 Mixed Doubles. U14 Mixed Doubles.
