

EAST PENNINE AC LEAGUE RULES 2025

The league was instituted in the 2001 season to replace the previous Northern Confederation League. Clubs from the two East of Pennines Federations (Croquet North and Yorkshire & Humberside) may elect to play in this league *in addition* to participating in their own Federation leagues. Clubs from other Federations may also be accepted with the agreement of all participating CN and Y&H clubs. Only club members are eligible to play and they may only do so for one team in any one season.

- 1 **Matches** shall be played between teams of four players, using two standard lawns.
- 2 **Format.** It is a prime intention of this league that matches include an element of Level Advanced Play (according to CA Law 36). The match shall therefore consist of one Advanced Doubles (usually involving the two lowest handicapped players from each side), two HC Singles, followed by two Advanced Singles and two HC Singles. The lowest handicaps should play the Advanced Singles. The match being best-of-seven games thus avoids a drawn result.

For games in this League where there is a handicap difference of ≥ 5 steps between the players involved the option to play under Advanced Handicap Rules shall NOT apply.

- 3 (a) Handicap games shall be played to current CA HC Singles or Doubles play laws. All players in HC games must play off their current correct CA or Club handicap, subject to a maximum of 20 (singles) or 18 (doubles). It is advisable for all players to have their handicap cards with them should confirmation be required
(b) Modified games (Laws 44-46) shall not be played.
(c) Local laws (Law 54) and smaller courts (Law 2 (b) 6) may be used with the approval of the League Manager.
(d) In the doubles match either team can elect to play Alternate Stroke. Once play has started this cannot be altered for that game.
- 4 **Time-limits** should be 3 1/4 hours for doubles and 3 hours for singles (adding 1/4hr when double-banked). The doubles game should ideally not be double-banked. However these time-limits could be varied by mutual agreement, where circumstances dictate.
- 5 **Dates & venues** will be issued to the nominated club contacts by the League Manager. These may be changed by advance agreement, but the onus lies with the defaulter for getting a new agreed date. The League Manager must be notified of any fixture changes immediately.
- 6 **Defaulting.** Should a club fail to keep an appointment, according to the rules above, a walk-over shall be awarded against that club. Furthermore, if a member of a team fails to turn up, or fails to play to the agreed time limit for any game, that game shall be conceded as lost by the defaulting side (but see 7 below for doubles). Any team that concedes two or more walk-overs in any season shall withdraw from the competition for that year (all previous matches in which it has participated being declared void).

- 7 **Doubles games.** In doubles games one player is not allowed to play both balls for that side. In the absence of one player at the start of the game, his/her ball shall be placed anywhere on either start baulk-line and deemed played. The missing player's ball may then be used by either side until, should the player turn up, he/she shall be allowed to play that ball from whatever position he/she finds it.
- 8 **Results.** Full results of matches must be reported to the League Manager by the captain of the home team as soon as possible by post or Email, using the format of the results sheets sent to the nominated contacts. If a walk-over has been conceded the score will be recorded as 0-5 against the defaulting side, as if some games had been played but without unduly boosting their opponents' final league tally of game wins.
- 9 **League Winner.** At the end of the competition, the team with most match wins shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie on match wins, the winning team shall be that which won the greater number of games in the competition. If there should be a tie on match points and net games won, the result will then depend on who-beat-who of the tied teams. If the results are still tied, then the tie will be split on nett hoops, firstly between the two teams and if still tied then across the competition as a whole.
- This method will also be used to determine CN representation in the Secretary's shield.
- 10 **Bisques.** Team captains shall be responsible for agreeing the calculation of bisques in handicap singles. Any game played off an incorrect handicap shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 11 **Disputes.** In the event of any issue concerning the correct interpretation of these Rules in relation to an incident during a match, the team captains shall endeavour to resolve the problem immediately after the match. If this is not possible, owing to lack of time or availability of a copy of the Rules, the following procedure shall be adopted:
- (i) the home captain shall send a written statement of the facts and send it within seven days to the visiting captain for agreement.
 - (ii) the visiting captain shall send the agreed statement (if not agreed, adding an appropriate statement) to the League Manager without comment.
 - (iii) the League Manager shall decide the issue and send a written decision to each club.