

# CLTC Mini-league Frequently Asked Questions

## Introduction

This document has been written to supplement the formal mini-league rules. Nothing in it is actually a 'rule'; I have written it simply because I have been asked the same questions or had to deal with the same questions quite regularly.

If you have a dispute with another player or with how the mini-league is run, please bear in mind that the league is run on a voluntary basis, and that the participants all want different things from it. Some people take the various competitions very seriously. Many are simply keen to be playing matches at a challenging standard. Still more simply want to play some tennis and are not too concerned with either of these aspects. It is not always possible to get these groups of players to agree on what the rules should be and how strictly they should be applied.

## Section 1: Failure to Arrange or Complete Matches

**Q1.1:** *I have been unable to arrange a match with someone in my division. It is their fault. I demand justice and/or conciliatory points.*

**A1.1:** The general rule is that players can only gain points from actual games of tennis won on court. There is seldom a fair way to resolve the score lines when matches are not played in a way that is acceptable not only to the two players involved but also to the other players in the division, whose promotion / demotion prospects might be affected by the outcome.

**Q1.2:** *But since person A beat person B who drew with person C with whom I had a close game 3 months ago, it clearly follows that my score against person D would be etc. etc.*

**A1.2:** Dozens of matches are not played at each round in the mini-league. It is unreasonable to expect the mini-league coordinator to arbitrate or extrapolate results in each case, hence the blanket rule that no score is entered. Besides, if the outcome of any tennis match could be arrived at by a process of logical deduction there would be little point in anyone ever playing.

**Q1.3:** *Getting zero score against someone with whom I was unable to arrange a match affects my chances in the competitions. How can this be fair?*

**A1.3:** On average, most players will be unable to arrange at least one or two matches during the season. Generally speaking things will balance out in the long run. You will have to accept this as part of the game.

**Q1.4:** *One of my opponents has been behaving unreasonably with regards to arranging games – e.g. repeated late cancellation, failure to turn up. What can I do about this?*

**A1.4:** Thankfully this sort of behaviour is rare. Strong grievances should be reported to the mini-league administrator, and repeat offenders will be penalised. Do **not** write imaginary scores on the score sheet, as this will result in you being penalised yourself.

**Q1.5:** *I did not play enough in the last round and have now been dropped from it. Why is this and what can I do about it?*

**A1.5:** It is frustrating for your opponents if they can't play their matches due to your unavailability. As well as robbing them of the chance to do what they have payed money to join the club to do, it can also adversely affect their chances in the competitions. You should have a very good reason for not playing matches; if you have failed to give your opponents and the mini-league organiser a satisfactory explanation for not having played matches by the end of the round, you will be dropped from the next one and will be forced to wait some time to rejoin, as it says in the 'rules'.

**Q1.6:** *We were part way through a match when my opponent was forced to withdraw. What score should we submit*

**A1.6:** The rules state that the score should be agreed by the players. The normal recommendation is that the score at the time the match was abandoned should be used.

## **Section 2: Failure to Complete the Joining Form Correctly**

**Q2.1:** *I did not fill in one or both of the 'division' or 'referee' columns on the joining form and I was not entered for the following round. Why was this?*

**A2.1:** Please see the introduction above. Simply for the want of taking a few minutes to get a member of the club to assess your standard, you avoid the following problems:

- a) It is a waste of your opponents' time to come down to the club and have unbalanced games (one way or the other)
- b) Uneven scores resulting from someone entering in the wrong division disrupts the competitions.
- c) Historically, those people who have not made the effort to fill in the form properly have frequently been people who are subsequently difficult to arrange matches with.

**Q2.2:** *But I only wanted to join in at the bottom of the ladder. Surely I do not have to get someone to sign me off to do this?*

**A2.2:** The bottom divisions of the ladder are genuinely populated with players very new to tennis. If you are rusty or lacking in confidence, you might believe that starting at the bottom to inevitably work your upwards is a selfless act of humility on your own part but your opponents will not thank you for it. Joining at an appropriate division is the only way to ensure your own and others' enjoyment of the matches.

**Q2.3:** *But I am well known at the club / a coach / the Lord of All Things and therefore had no need to fill the column in.*

**A2.3:** Most people filling in the form are just joining the club and won't know who you are. As soon as one person leaves a column blank, everyone else thinks it is OK to do so regardless of how unambiguously it is written on it that it is not. Frankly, this is so irritating that the rule is applied very strictly.

## **Section 3: Late Entry / Late Modifications to Scores**

**Q3.1:** *I wish to correct a score from a previous round. Why can't I do this?*

**A3.1:** The simplest answer is that the scores are managed by a computer program that does not allow for this to be done easily. Such corrections will only be considered if they were an error on the part of the coordinator, as they are painful to do.

**Q3.2:** *I wish to join midway through a round. Why can't I simply add myself to one of the divisions?*

**A3.2:** Too many people would like to do this during a round for it to be manageable. It would be a dangerous precedent to set even if there are extenuating circumstances. Also see A3.1

## **Section 4: Promotion**

**Q4.1:** *I feel that I am not in the appropriate place in the ladder and should be promoted more than one division*

**A4.1:** Exceptional promotion like this will sometimes be applied if scores of mostly 9 or above are consistently achieved during a round. If your scores do not meet these criteria then please make an effort to objectively assess the actual numeric facts of your performance before plying the coordinator with anecdotal rhetoric.

**Q4.2:** *I came first or second in the my division in the previous round but still find myself in the same (or even a lower) division. Why is this?*

**A4.2:** This happens frequently especially in the lower boxes as more people join the league above you. You should find that the players in your new division are players that were previously immediately above you; please do not pay much attention to the actual division numbers.

## **Section 5: Email distribution**

**Q5.1:** *I do not seem to get the emails about the mini-league. Why not?*

**A5.1:** If your email is correct on the mini-league list, the most likely explanation for not receiving the emails is that you have a spam filter that is blocking them. You could try reconfiguring it if possible.

**Q5.2:** I cannot open the attachments to the mini-league emails. Why not?

**A5.2:** This could be due to very strict security / spam filter settings, that you do not have .htm files associated with the correct application (a web browser such as Internet Explorer) or that you have a very old web browser.

**Q5.3:** Can you send me the mini-league email to a different email address or in a different format please?

**A5.3:** No. Quite a few people on the distribution list have various problems reading the attachments and it is impractical to cater for all of them each time the list is sent out.