

1. The Houldsworth Cup competition shall be a mixed doubles knock-out event open to all clubs. NB: Clubs may combine to enter joint teams. Players may also represent a different club from that which they have represented in the league; providing they are a bona fida member of that club.
2. A club may enter one or more teams. There shall be a fee for each team entered. At the beginning of each season, the entry fee is set by the North Devon LTA.
3. Each team shall consist of three mixed pairs.
4. DATES. Dates will be as stated with the affiliation form, and the draw done at the pre-season meeting. Matches to be played BEFORE or ON that date. Any rearrangement to be mutually agreed by both teams. The fixtures secretary **does not** need to be notified. If the Home team has insufficient/unsuitable courts, the match can be played at an alternative venue.
5. NOMINATIONS. Where clubs enter more than one team, all teams other than the lowest must be nominated. Nominations must be received by the fixtures secretary at least two weeks **before the start of the competition**. 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 in 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.

6. COURSE OF PLAY. The match shall consist of nine rubbers: two tiebreak sets and a third set championship tiebreak (first to 10 points with 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 – THE SECOND RUBBER AND THIRD RUBBER MUST ALSO BE PLAYED TO COMPLETION.

7. ORDER OF PLAY.

First Round Rubber				Second Round Rubber			Third Round Rubber		
Home team	2nd pair v	3rd pair v	1st pair v	3rd v	1st v	2nd v	1st v	2nd v	3rd v
Away team	1st pair	2nd pair	3rd pair	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd

The Home team pairs change courts after each rubber. Visitors stay.

8. INCOMPLETE TEAMS. If a team is unable to provide a complete team they may field two pairs, plus an ineligible pair (**DECLARING THIS BEFORE THE MATCH**); whose scores would not count. Alternatively, they may field only two pairs, and start the match three rubbers to nil down.

9. WALKOVERS. Should, on the specified day of the match, a team fail to turn up a walkover will be given to the opposing side. 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.

9. ABANDONED MATCHES. a) In the event of a match where the result has not been reached – ie where neither side has a winning lead – the whole match shall be started from scratch at the earliest date mutually arranged by the clubs concerned. The Fixtures Secretary must be notified as soon as possible by the Home team – failure to do so may mean the match being awarded to the Away team.

The rearranged date must be at least one week before the next round is due to be played, and before or on the first weekend in September in the event of the final.

b) In the event of abandonment of a match where the result is decisive – ie where one team holds a winning five completed rubbers or more – the result shall stand.

10. FINAL. The venue for the final shall be decided by the League Fixtures Secretary; with the finalists' agreement.

11. The Home team shall supply balls, refreshments and the scorecard. It is the

responsibility of the Home captain to see that the completed scorecard reaches the Fixtures Secretary not later than seven days after the match. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in forfeiture of the match.

12. TROPHY. Cup winners shall hold the trophy for one year. It will be signed for, and the club is responsible for returning it to the League Fixtures Secretary, by the 31 August.
13. MOBILE PHONES. These are not to be switched on during matches unless otherwise agree beforehand.
14. 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. DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE TO BE TAKEN AS FINAL.