

RULES FOR THE ALTA SUMMER LEAGUE 2019

1. **League Format.** The Summer League (SL) comprises of 9 teams in a single league. The teams are: AAC, AGC, Infantry, Int Corps, R Signals, RA, RE, REME & RLC.
2. **Amalgamations.** When Arms/Services have insufficient players to compete in the league they can request to amalgamate teams. The intent remains to have single Arms and Services teams and minimise any amalgamations. The ALTA Secretary is to ensure the ASCB is notified of the formal amalgamation for this SL to allow them to officially participate. The preference remains to have individual cap badge teams but not at the expense of non-participation.
3. **Team Composition.** A team shall consist of 2 pairs from the Arm/Service/Corps concerned and can be Regular or Reserve and of mixed gender, although non-serving veterans are not eligible. A full list of eligible categories (as defined in JSP 660) is listed below:

Category of Personnel (a)	Single Service Events (Corps) (b)
All personnel on a regular engagement ¹	Yes
Personnel Seconded to another Service ²	Yes
Reserves ³	
a. FTRS and ADC	Yes
b. Maritime Reserve List 1	Yes
c. Army Reserve Gp A	Yes
d. RAuxAF (serving on a RAux AF Sqn)	Yes
Ex-Regular Reserves ⁴	No
Sponsored Reserves	No
DTUS Cadets - All 3 Services	Yes
University Cadets at URNU, UOTC and UAS	At discretion of the single Service
Foreign and Commonwealth Personnel appointed to UK Armed Forces units:	
a. for less than 6 months.	Yes
b. for over 6 months	Yes
Defence Sixth Form College (teams)	As 'hors concours' participants
Defence Sixth Form College (Individuals)	No
MOD Civilians	Clearance for RAF only
Other civilians including contractors	No

4. **Fixtures.** The ALTL Secretary schedules all fixtures. Matches are to be played on Wednesdays. All matches must be completed in time to play the final round of fixtures on the scheduled last day of the SL. Secretaries of teams designated as Home (H) teams in the fixtures list shall be responsible for confirming arrangements with the Away (A) Team Secretary by **1200hrs Tuesday** on the week of the match. Secretaries should try to contact each other, preferably by telephone rather than e mail, and if Secretaries are away or out of office should have left an alternate POC or should remain contactable by mobile.

- a. Each team in the ALTL SL shall play all teams once.

¹ Sporting commitment must have no detriment to Phase 1 training and participation requires College Commander/Training Unit CO's approval.

² Personnel are only permitted to compete as individuals in their parent single Service and joint/Armed Forces Championships.

³ Reserves:

a. PTVR trainees conducting Phases 1 and 2 training must be actively committed to the completion of their training in an appropriate timescale.

b. PTVRs in their second and succeeding training years must have met the training requirement in the preceding training year (i.e. be awarded the Certificate of Efficiency and Training Bounty).

c. The following are excluded: Maritime Reserve Lists 2, 3 and Sponsored Reserve List; Army Reserve Gp B and Gp C; RAF (Civilian Component); and RAF Volunteer Reserve (Training).

⁴ Ex-Regular Reserves are no longer serving but may have a liability to be recalled into permanent service if they meet the criteria and are required. Ex-Regular Reserves include:

a. RN - Regular Reserve comprising the Royal Fleet Reserve and Recall Reserve.

b. Army - Regular Reserve.

c. RAF - Reserve of Officers and Reserve of Airmen.

- b. Friendly non-league matches against RMAS or Defence Academy may also be scheduled.
- c. Home teams A and B pair stay on the same court, the away A and B pair switch courts.

5. **Fixtures Cancellation/Defaulting.**

- a. Secretaries are to inform the opposing Team Secretary as soon as possible if a match cannot be played and ideally inform the ALTL Secretary NLT Tue at 1200hrs.
- b. The date of a fixture **cannot be changed** unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed with the ALTL Secretary (e.g. Court unavailability due to repair). Please note player unavailability, due to conflicting service activities or fixtures falling into formation stand-downs, does not fall into exceptional circumstances. It should be noted the Inter Unit competition is running concurrently and players must manage commitments to both competitions with Corps matches taking precedence.
- c. If a team plays ineligible players, the opposing team shall be awarded the match to love and shall be awarded 2 points. That said, if a full team cannot be raised for any match from within the Corps concerned, then to prevent cancellation, other players, service or civilian may be included. Opponents shall be informed, before the match commences, of the inclusion of such players. Rubbers in which these other players participate shall be awarded to their opponents 6-0, 6-0 irrespective of the actual score.
- d. If a team only fields only one pair, they will forfeit 2 rubbers but can play both 1st and 2nd pair of the opposing team.
- e. If both teams choose to field only one pair they both automatically concede 2 rubbers and one point. Therefore, the competing pair is playing for half a rubber per set. Examples of outcomes can be: A vs A only 6-0, 6-2 (1 rubber) score 1-0, and one point only awarded. Alternatively, A vs A only 6-0, 0-6 (1 rubber), score 0.5-0.5, and half a point each only awarded.
- f. If a match is cancelled by agreement (e.g. both sides unable to raise a team) both teams forfeit the points.
- g. If one team concedes and the other team would have two pairs available then the opposing team shall be awarded 2 points. This action relies on honesty and sportsmanship of the secretaries ensuring that they have 4 players available to justify claiming the points.
- h. Any team that confirmed their attendance on the Tue and fails to provide a minimum of one pair for the fixture on the Wed must notify the opposition as soon as possible. Subsequently the Secretary of the team concerned is to inform the ALTL Secretary Sec of the reason for forfeiture and are at risk of being deducted 1 point depending upon the justification and review by the ALTA Committee. Players have 'on duty' status and are expected to turn up to represent their respective Corps. If an individual is selected by his Corps and his/her release is authorized/approved by his/her unit and fails to show up for the fixture this is effectively failing to attend a duty, and this must be followed up by Secretaries. Teams that consistently fail to meet the fixture schedule are at risk of ALTA to withdraw the allocation of Wimbledon tickets to that Corps and and review the suitability of the team to remain in the league depending upon the frequency of the occurrence.

- 6. **Withdrawal.** If a team withdraws from the league, the complete record of the matches played by that team shall be expunged from the ALTL table.

7. **Balls.** Two tubes of four balls are to be collected from the ATC Reception or Allan Saul for each match based on one tube per team. Play is to be with the *Slazenger Wimbledon Ultra-vis* or equivalent tennis ball. The ALTA Secretary is requested to provide the balls for each fixture. It is recommended team captains bring spare balls in the unlikely event that the balls are not made available.
8. **Venue/Courts.** SL matches are to be played on the outdoor courts at the Aldershot Tennis Centre (ATC). Outdoor courts Nos 1 - 5 and 7 - 9 are allocated for SL matches as annotated on the fixtures list. Court 6 is not annotated on the court list.
9. **Order of Play.** All matches are the best of four x 2 set rubbers with a tie-break determining the winner of each set where necessary:
- a. Round 1: Away 1st pair v Home 2nd pair fb Away 2nd pair v Home 1st pair
 - b. Round 2: Away 1st pair v Home 1st pair fb Away 2nd pair v Home 2nd pair
10. The home team (denoted H on the fixture list) will stay on court and the away team will move to play the opposite pair.
11. **Start of Play.** Match play is to start at **1400hrs**, if the players have not turned up by **1420hrs**, play must either start with reserve(s) or the first rubber must be conceded at the discretion of the opposition. No matches can commence after **1445hrs**, and the defaulting team will automatically concede those rubbers.
12. **Match Scoring.**
- a. The team scoring 2½ or more completed rubbers shall be declared the winner of the match and will be awarded 2 points. In the event of a draw in rubbers on completion of the 2nd round each team will be awarded one point each.
 - b. Only completed sets will count towards the match score, with a team being awarded ½ rubber for each completed set it wins.
 - c. A tie-break is to decide uncompleted rubbers at 6 - 6 used to decide an incomplete rubber and to allow play to finish NLT 1700hrs. Rules for the tie-break are
 - (1) The pair who first wins 7 points shall win the game and the set provided they lead by a margin of 2 points. If the score reaches 6 points all, the game shall be extended until a margin of 2 points has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-break game.
 - (2) The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for consecutive points, in the same order as previously in the set, until the winner of the set has been decided. From the first point, each service shall be delivered alternatively from the right and left courts, beginning from the right court.
 - (3) Players shall change ends after every 6 points and after the tie-break game.
 - (4) The pair who served first in the tie-break game shall receive service in the first game of the following set.

13. Completion of Matches.

- a. All matches shall be played to a conclusion and full sets completed. If a team does not wish to complete all rubbers once the match has started, the defaulting team shall forfeit the remaining sets or rubbers to love. Should a player be absent for a prolonged period (15 minutes maximum by agreement with the other Team Captain), the rubber will be conceded.
- b. Reserves can be introduced at the start of a match but not during a rubber. e.g. player gets injured during the warm up before Round 1, 1st pair v 2nd pair. Once the match has started the same players must complete these 2 rubbers. A team could then introduce a new player for the second match e.g. 1st pair v 1st pair but cannot swap existing players between the teams. Note any injury **does not allow** replacements during matches once they have commenced.

14. Weather Implications

- a. When it has not been possible to start a match due to the weather, the match will be declared a draw and each team will be awarded one point. The latest matches are permitted to start is 1445hrs, if weather prevented the start of play.
- b. When a match has started, and play must be stopped by inclement weather, or for reasons beyond the control of both teams, and no team has obtained 2½ rubbers, the match shall be declared drawn and each team will be awarded one point.
- c. If one team has obtained 2½ points when play is stopped, that team shall be declared the winner and awarded 2 points. All rubbers played, in either case, shall count towards the aggregate.
- d. If outdoor matches are cancelled due to weather, no matches are to be played indoors and the single indoor fixture also becomes void. Indoor courts can be used for friendly fixtures only if they are available following outdoor court cancellation.
- e. Matches can be completed on alternative courts if the original courts become unplayable (i.e. rain pools on one court and not another) if all matches can be completed, and it does not interfere with other teams matches.
- f. It is likely that the weather will impact on some fixtures throughout the summer season. Team Captains, should where possible attempt to play the fixture e.g. if it is very light rain which is not lying. If there is any pooling of water or Captains have any concerns about the safety of players either commencing or continuing the fixture, then the decision to stop is to take precedence. If one team does not wish to continue then the match is to stop. This action again relies on honesty and sportsmanship of the team captains. If teams chose to play on and others chose not to play in the rain it is up to team Captains to decide on the day. If all fixtures are cancelled and are not played due to bad weather all results become void which includes any pre-conceded fixtures. Therefore, only one point will be awarded for all weather cancelled fixtures less any teams who have already conceded who will get no points.

15. **Results.** The scores are to be sent by both team Secretaries to the ALTL Secretary after the match, preferably the following day but ideally before 1200hrs on the Friday, allowing results to be published before the next fixtures. The full score is to be in the following format:

Home vs Away (0-0) **A vs A** 0-0, 0-0 **B vs A** 0-0, 0-0 **A vs B** 0-0, 0-0 **B vs B** 0-0, 0-0. If Corps secretaries wish to include rank/player names these will also be published.

16. **League Position.** The ALTL Secretary will publish the ALTL SL league positions to all Secretaries weekly where possible.

17. **League Winner.** The winner of the ALTL SL 2019 will be the team with the most points and be declared the SL Champions for 2019. Individual prizes will be presented to 6 players of the winning team and the runners-up. If there is no outright winner, the winner will be determined under the following rules:

a. If two or more teams score an equal number of points, the winner of the ALTL SL will be decided on the result of the head-to-head match.

b. If this does not produce a winner, (e.g. 3 teams on equal points who have beaten each other) the decision will be taken based on the greatest number of rubbers **won** from the matches played

c. Should the number of rubbers won also be equal, the A pairing scores for each team involved in the head to head will be assessed firstly on a win, draw loss ratio then on the totality of rubbers for.

d. In the unlikely event of a mathematical dead heat then a play-off will have to be played to determine the SL Champions.

18. **Protests.** Any problem, protest or dispute arising during the season shall be referred for arbitration to the ALTL Secretary and ALTA Secretary. If required this can then be taken to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding upon all teams. Should any individual who is a serving on the Executive Committee, who has a direct involvement in the protest or dispute the said member shall not be eligible to vote on a decision, while such problem, protest or dispute is being considered.