

Hovingham and District Mixed Tennis League - 2024 Knockout Cup Tournament Rules.

1. Only teams registered to play in the Hovingham and District League are eligible to play in the Knockout Tournament.
2. Teams are to consist of two men and two ladies who are regular players for their team . The ability to substitute boys for ladies, ladies for men, and single players for pairs is not available in the Knockout Tournament. A-team nominated players are not permitted to play for their B or C teams at any stage. The home team will supply the tennis balls and refreshments. Start time is 6:30pm unless otherwise agreed.
3. Players shall be eligible to play in the Tournament semi-finals and final only if they have played at least two Hovingham League matches that season. If an A-team is unable to field a team because of this rule, they can use their B or C team players who meet this playing criterion.
4. All matches will be played on Friday evenings according to the schedule laid out by the Secretary. The draw will be regularly updated on the Hovingham League website and it is the responsibility of each team captain to know which game is due next and when. If both teams agree to an earlier date, this is more than acceptable.
5. Each match will consist of two sets of men's doubles, two sets of ladies' doubles and four sets of mixed doubles, a total of eight sets. Each set will be won by the first pair to obtain six games.
6. The sequence of play will be as follows but can be changed if both teams so agree:

Home Mixed 1 v Away Mixed 1 (one set) and Home Mixed 2 v Away Mixed 2 (one set)
Home Mixed 2 v Away Mixed 1 (one set) and Home Mixed 1 v Away Mixed 2 (one set)
Men v Men (two sets) and Ladies v Ladies (two sets). Total 8 sets.
7. The winner of the match will be decided by the team which wins the most sets. If there is a draw in the number of sets then the number of games will be taken into account. The Home team is to inform the Secretary of the result and score within 24 hours of the outcome of the match.
8. A scheduled match may only be cancelled in the event of bad weather and for no other reason. The rearranged match shall be played on the following Friday (or earlier if both teams agree).
9. In the event of a player being injured during a match and being unable to continue, no other player may be substituted. Any games already played by the injured party must stand and remaining games not played must be scored to the opposing team.
10. The draw is carried out by the Committee (in public in May) and follows the format prescribed by the Secretary. The first-named team in each match will generally play at home, excepting the final which will be played at a neutral ground.
11. **Spirit of the Cup**
These rules are not exhaustive and it is up to clubs and captains to ensure that there is a spirit of fair play. Clubs should remember that that this is a social league. In particular:
 - a) Teams should play players of an appropriate standard in all matches;
 - b) Teams are responsible for applying Rules 2 and 3 fairly.

Breaches of the Spirit of the Cup will be considered by the Committee who have the power to apply sanctions.