

# **Consolidated Rules of the Pol Roger Trophy, the Field Trophy and the Brodie Cup**

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## **Introductory**

1. These Rules govern the three major inter-club competitions (“the Competitions”), namely, the Pol Roger Trophy (“the Pol Roger”), the Field Trophy (“the Field”) and the Brodie Cup (“the Brodie”). The Pol Roger and the Field shall constitute Division 1 and Division 2 respectively of the National Club Team Championship (“the Championship”) and the Brodie shall constitute a national club team championship for higher handicap players.
2. Any Club in the United Kingdom which has its own court may enter a team for the Championship if invited to do so by the Tennis and Rackets Association (“the T&RA”) and may also enter a team for the Brodie, if so invited, whether or not it has also entered a team for the Championship. Any invitation must be accepted by the due date specified by the T&RA; and by accepting such an invitation, the Club agrees to be bound by these Rules and commits itself to competing in all rounds of the Competition which it has entered (unless and until eliminated) and to provide court time for all matches and practice sessions in accordance with these Rules.
3. The Pol Roger will be limited to teams from eight Clubs; but there will be no restriction on the number of Clubs entering teams in the Field or the Brodie.
4. The Championship and the Brodie shall take place each season between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> July. Each Competition shall be conducted on a knock-out basis; and the winning Club shall be entitled to hold the relevant Trophy or Cup until the conclusion of the same Competition in the following season.
5. Every Club shall nominate a Team Captain for each Competition which it enters and must do so within 14 days after accepting the invitation from the T&RA. The Team Captain shall ensure that his or her team complies with the requirements of these Rules and will be responsible for implementing the arrangements for all matches in which his or her team is involved and for all communications with opponents, the Stewards and the T&RA in all matters connected with the Competition. The Team Captain’s responsibilities in relation to individual matches may nonetheless be delegated in accordance with Rule 28.
6. The T&RA Tennis Tournament Rules and Procedures shall apply to all of the Competitions, except that these Rules shall take precedence over the Tournament Rules and Procedures wherever there is conflict between the two.

## **Eligibility**

7. All players in the Competitions must be amateurs and must have had a current handicap as recorded and published on the RTO web-site for at least six months prior to the commencement of the season on 1st September or, if not, must have six results entered on the RTO website in the six months immediately preceding any match in which he or she has been selected to play. Either or both of these latter requirements may be waived or modified at the discretion of the stewards, either generally or in any individual case.
8. Participation in the Competitions shall be restricted to players who are fully paid up members of the T&RA at the time of each match. In exceptional circumstances, if the Stewards agree, either before or after the relevant match, Clubs competing in the Pol, Field or the Brodie may include one or more players who are not members of the T&RA at the time of the match, provided that those players become fully paid up members of the T&RA within seven days of the match. Any request to include such a player should if practicable be made to the Stewards in good time prior to the match in question; and if such a request is made after the match, it

should be accompanied by an explanation as to why it was not made in advance. If the inclusion of any ineligible player in the Pol, Field or the Brodie is not agreed to by the Stewards or if any player whose inclusion is agreed by the Stewards fails to become a fully paid up member of the T&RA within seven days of the match that player's Club shall forfeit the rubber(s) in which the ineligible player(s) competed and the result of the match shall be adjusted accordingly.

9. Every member of any team in any of the Competitions must be a member of the Club which he or she represents. No country member of a Club or any person in an analogous category of membership shall be eligible to play for that Club in the Pol or the Field but shall be eligible to play in the Brodie. In case of doubt or uncertainty, Clubs should seek an early ruling from the Stewards as to the eligibility of any player under this Rule. Subject to the Stewards' discretion, any Club in breach of this Rule shall forfeit the rubber or rubbers in which the ineligible player competed and the result of the match shall be adjusted accordingly.
10. No player may play for more than one Club in the same Competition in the same season. A player who has played in a Championship match (whether the Pol Roger or the Field) may play for the same or another Club in any subsequent match in the Brodie later in the same season (if otherwise eligible) and vice versa.

### **Handicaps**

11. For the purposes of these Rules the handicap of any player shall be determined by reference to his or her handicap as recorded on the RTO web-site at the date or dates specified by these Rules. Clubs are reminded of their responsibility to ensure that the handicaps of their members are kept up to date and that they fairly reflect their current ability and form.
12. Singles handicaps shall be used for all singles rubbers and doubles handicaps for all doubles rubbers. For the purposes of the Championship all handicaps shall be determined as at a date 28 days before the match in question; and for the purposes of the Brodie, they shall be determined as at 1<sup>st</sup> September in each season. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the handicap of any player falls by 5.0 points or more below the minimum level prescribed for the purposes of the Brodie at any time after 1<sup>st</sup> September in any season but not less than seven days before any match in the Brodie in which his Club is involved, his or her eligibility for that or any subsequent match in the Brodie during the course of the same season shall be determined by his or her current handicap as at a date seven days before the match in question and not by his or her handicap as at 1<sup>st</sup> September.
13. All handicaps shall be taken to one decimal point for the purposes of any calculations required by these Rules. Any player who does not have a doubles handicap as at any relevant date shall be allocated a doubles handicap, which will be equal to the player's singles handicap unless the Handicaps and Rankings Sub-Committee of the T&RA otherwise directs.

### **The Championship**

14. There will be a system of promotion and relegation between Division 1 (the Pol Roger) of the Championship and Division 2 (the Field) based upon the previous season's results. The winning Club and the runner-up in the Field shall be promoted to the Pol Roger in the following season's competition; and two of the four Clubs whose teams lost in the first round of the Pol Roger shall be relegated to the Field. There shall be a play-off between the first-round losers in order to determine which two Clubs should be relegated in the following season. The play-off

matches shall take place on the same date as the Pol Roger semi-finals and shall be played between the losers of the first and third matches in the main draw and the losers of the fourth and second matches.

15. The Draw for the Pol Roger will be seeded on the basis of the previous season's results. The winning Club in the Pol Roger shall be the first seed in the following season's competition and the runner-up shall be the second seed.
16. The Draw for the Field will not be seeded
17. There shall be no handicap restrictions on the selection of teams for the Pol Roger and the Field.

### **The Brodie**

18. There shall be no system of promotion or relegation for the Brodie and the Draw will not be seeded.
19. The handicap of each player in the Brodie shall be equal to or greater than the following minimum level:
  - First Singles: 30.0;
  - First Doubles: 35.0 (each player);
  - Second Singles: 40.0;
  - Second Doubles: 45.0 (each player);
  - Third Singles: 50.0.

### **Dates**

20. The dates for each round of the Competitions shall be those set out in the Tennis Competitions and Fixtures List ("the T&RA Fixture List") published annually for each season by the T&RA. The date so fixed for any match shall not be altered without the express approval of the Stewards.

### **Venue**

21. The draw will determine which club for each match will be the home club (subject to Rule 23), save that all Finals will be played at a neutral venue.
22. The Finals of the Pol Roger, the Field and the Brodie will be held at the venue shown in the T&RA Fixture List, unless the designated host Club is playing in the Final, in which case the Final will be played in a neutral court nominated by the T&RA.
23. A Club which has not played a home match in two consecutive seasons shall wherever practicable be given a home fixture in its first match of the following season unless Rule 24 applies.
24. A Club which has been drawn to play away from home in its first match in the Field or the Brodie in any season and fails to fulfil that fixture shall play away from home in its first match of the following season.

### **The Draw**

25. The Draw for each Competition shall be made by or under the auspices of the T&RA and shall be publicised on the T&RA website no later than the first Friday following 1<sup>st</sup> September in each year. Copies of each Draw shall be sent electronically to all participating Clubs. The Stewards may nonetheless extend this timetable if they consider it just and convenient to do so.

## **Format**

26. The Match Managers may agree to vary the start times of each rubber. But unless otherwise agreed, the rubbers shall be played sequentially in accordance with the following schedule:
- 10:00 a.m. Second Doubles
  - 11:00 a.m. First Singles
  - 12:15 p.m. Second Singles
  - 1:30 p.m. Third Singles
  - 3:00 p.m. First Doubles

But the start time for any rubber in a Final may not be varied without the express consent of the Stewards. Times after 10.00 a.m. are approximate; but all matches must start as soon as reasonably practicable after the conclusion of the previous match.

27. Each match in each of the Competitions shall consist of three Singles rubbers and two Doubles rubbers. Seven different players must be used. All rubbers shall be the best of three six-game sets, played level in the Pol Roger and the Field and played with the home player or pairing owing half 15 (irrespective of the actual handicaps of the players, but with full deuce and advantage being played in each game) in the Brodie. It is not obligatory to play the best three players of a team in the Singles, but those nominated for the Singles must play each other in ascending order of handicaps as determined in accordance with these Rules, so that the highest-ranking players on each side meet in one match, the next highest in another match and the lowest-ranking in yet another. Likewise, the Doubles pairs must play in ascending order of their combined doubles handicaps, as determined in accordance with these Rules and calculated by means of the T&RA Doubles Handicap Calculator.

## **Match Arrangements**

28. The Team Captain shall act as Match Manager for each match in which his or her team is due to play, unless in relation to any particular match he or she has appointed another player who is playing in that match to act in that capacity and has notified the opposing Team Captain and the T&RA of the name and contact details of the person so appointed not less than ten days before the date of the relevant fixture.
29. The Chairman of the Stewards shall nominate the match organiser or organisers for the Final of each Competition, but for all other matches, the host Club's Match Manager or Head Professional shall act as match organiser on the day of the match. The match organisers, together with the Match Managers, shall be responsible for the smooth running of the match.
30. It is the responsibility of the Match Manager of the visiting team to contact the Match Manager of the home team not less than ten days before the scheduled date of each match in order to discuss the detailed arrangements for the match. For a Final which is to be played on a neutral venue it is the responsibility of the Match Manager of each visiting team to contact the Head Professional of the venue not less than ten days before the scheduled date of each match in order to discuss the detailed arrangements for the match. The Match Managers (and, if applicable, the Head Professional of a neutral venue) may seek to agree the start time for each match in accordance with the provisions of Rule 26, and any such agreement shall be confirmed by e-mail exchange (which must be copied to the Chairman of the Stewards) not later than 10.00 am on the Friday preceding the day of the match.
31. Subject to the agreement of the host Club, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, visiting teams shall be entitled to have two hours of practice on the court where the match is to be played at a reasonable time during the week preceding the match. Visiting teams shall also be entitled

to have use of the court for one hour immediately preceding the start of the match. All practice court bookings must be confirmed by e-mail not less than seven days before the match and must be paid for by the visiting team.

32. On the day of any match other than a Final, the Match Managers or their deputies shall provide full details of their teams to each other (by way of mutual exchange) before the start of any practice session, or, if none, not less than thirty minutes before the scheduled start of the first rubber. Once team details have been so exchanged, they shall not be altered without the agreement of both Match Managers. Should a player not turn up for his or her allotted rubber in any match including a Final, Rule 42 shall apply.
33. For the Final of each Competition, the Team Captains must submit full details of their teams to the Chairman of the Stewards not less than seven days before the match. Once team details have been submitted, substitution will only be allowed in the case of illness, injury or other exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Stewards. The replacement shall not have a better handicap on the day of the match than the player he or she is replacing. The Stewards will then decide whether there should be any amendment to the original order submitted. No change will be allowed after the first ball of the Final has been served. On the day of the Final, the Match Managers or their deputies shall provide full details of their teams to the match organiser or organisers and to each other (in the latter case by way of mutual exchange) before the start of any practice session, or, if none, not less than thirty minutes before the scheduled start of the first rubber. Once team details have been so provided or exchanged, they shall not be altered otherwise than in accordance with this Rule.
34. The host Club's duty professional shall be responsible for deciding whether its home court is safe for play. If the condition of the court makes it impracticable to start or finish the match, a new date shall be fixed as soon as practicable thereafter so as to enable the match to be played or continued as appropriate. If the Team Captains are unable to agree on a new date for the match, the Stewards shall decide when and where the same is to be played.
35. If a Club withdraws from any of the Competitions in which it has agreed to compete or fails to provide a team for any match which it is due to play, it will be in breach of its obligations under Rule 2, and will be required to meet any reasonable costs incurred by the opposing Club and its members unless it notifies the Team Captain of the opposing Club and the T&RA not later than 10.00 am on the Friday preceding the match.

## Results

36. All match results must be notified to the T&RA [executive@tennisandrackets.com](mailto:executive@tennisandrackets.com) and the Chairman of the Stewards [npmb76@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:npmb76@hotmail.co.uk) by the Team Captain of the winning team, together with the handicaps of each player in the match and for each player in the winning team details of his or her T&RA membership status and membership status within the winning club, on the evening of the match or, if that is not practicable, no later than 12 noon on the day following the match.
37. The Team Captain (or in respect of a Championship Final played on a neutral court the Head Professional) of the host Club must ensure that all match results are recorded on the RTO web- site by 6.00 p.m. on the Wednesday following the match.
38. A Club wishing to appeal on any matter connected with a match must lodge its appeal with the T&RA and the Chairman of the Stewards at the email addresses in Rule 36 no later than midday on the eighth day after completion of the match. Each appeal and any supporting evidence must be in writing. The decision of the Stewards on any appeal shall be final and not be subject to subsequent appeal.

## **Match Regulations**

39. Subject to Rule 6, play in all matches shall be subject to the T&RA Laws of Tennis.
40. Predominantly white clothing shall be worn during match play (although coloured track suits are permissible during the warm-up). In this context “predominantly” shall mean not less than 80% of each article of clothing.
41. Players late on court are liable to be penalised. A player is deemed to be late if he or she arrives on court more than ten minutes after the scheduled start time of the match or, if the previous match has run over time, ten minutes after that match has finished. At the sole discretion of the opposing Captain, a player who is late on court shall be penalised one game initially and a further game for each subsequent period of five minutes. In any case where a player has a valid reason for being late and has given reasonable prior warning thereof, the ten-minute allowance shall be increased to twenty minutes.
42. 42.1 If in the Pol or the Field:
  - 42.1.1 a singles player fails to turn up for any reason that player’s team shall forfeit the third singles and the remaining singles players in that team shall play first and second singles in handicap order.
  - 42.1.2 two singles players fail to turn up for any reason their team shall forfeit the third and the second singles and the remaining singles player shall play first singles.

The foregoing provisions of the rule shall be strictly applied and captains may not agree to forfeit the first singles or the first and second singles and only to play the second and third singles or third singles. Similarly, captains may not agree to forfeit the first doubles and only to play the second doubles.
- 42.2 If in the Brodie a singles or doubles player fails to turn up for any reason that player’s team shall forfeit the singles or doubles rubber in which the absent player was selected to play but the other singles and/or doubles rubbers shall not be affected.
43. If one player wishes to play under artificial lighting, his or her wish shall prevail.
44. Players shall be permitted a warm-up period ending not more than five minutes after the match’s start time, or completion of the previous match, whichever is the later. Should a player suffer from cramp, or sustain an accidental injury during a match he or she shall be entitled to a five-minute suspension of play during which he or she may receive treatment. Should the player be unable to continue play after this time he or she shall forfeit the match
45. Coaching and tactical advice may be undertaken only by a team’s Captain and by a player’s partner in a doubles match. The Captain may delegate this responsibility to another member of the team, but not to a professional or a non-player, at any time or for any length of time, provided that Captain of the opposing team is advised of the change. Coaching and tactical advice may only be given when players change ends and must not interrupt the natural flow of play. The coach may not go on to the court.

## **Breach of Rules**

46. In the event of any failure to comply with any of the provisions of these Rules, the penalty or sanction (if any) shall be determined by the Stewards in their absolute discretion, save as otherwise expressly provided.
47. The Stewards shall have discretion to rule upon any issue, question or controversy that arises from the construction, operation or application of these Rules
48. Any determination under Rule 46 or ruling under Rule 47 by the Stewards shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Stewards:

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