

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TENNIS LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. BASIC PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULES

1. The League shall consist of Clubs in Fairfield County, divided into divisions based on the result of the previous season except that all teams in divisions below the first division shall be assigned to a geographical division as determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with the record from the previous season. The number of Clubs and divisions may be adjusted subject to League approval.
2. Each team must have a captain who will fulfill League responsibilities as outlined in these Rules and Regulations. A list of teams with the division assignments and their captains will be listed on the League website: www.fctl.org.
3. League competition shall begin in mid-May on a Wednesday, the date as approved at the Annual Meeting, normally between May 13-23, and continue each subsequent Wednesday until the season is complete. Each team in the League will play every other team in its division on one occasion on the dates and places shown on the schedule of matches.
4. Home team captains are responsible for contacting visiting team captains a few days prior to their engagements to:
 - a. acknowledge the engagement;
 - b. advise the visiting team captain whom to contact for last minute weather decisions; and
 - c. coordinate any other arrangements necessary.
5. Each engagement shall consist of four men's doubles matches between four doubles teams from each team. The four doubles teams shall be ranked one through four in the order of their ability, and shall play the correspondingly ranked doubles team from the opposing team. Compliance with this requirement is basic to the integrity of each team and its responsibility to its opponent and other teams in the League. Team captains will maintain a record of team members for each match and order in which their teams played. This record shall be made available to the Executive Committee upon request. To ensure competitive matches, we rely on the principle, "Best against Best". The clear implications of this principle are that captains must play their teams in the order of their ability, and that the clubs must play their better players on their higher- ranking teams. Where a club has two teams in the same division, it should play all its better players on the higher-ranking team. When regular members of a higher- ranking team are unable to participate in a match, the club should send the next most capable players to take their place, irrespective of the latter's usual affiliation with a lower-ranking team. Even last minute unavailability should be handled this way, to the extent possible. The only exception to this practice is that the Captain of a lower-ranking team may properly remain with his team even if his ability as a player would otherwise call for him to play in the match of a higher-ranking team within the club. Where an opposing captain becomes aware of a

violation of these principles, he is encouraged to communicate it to the Executive Committee for appropriate action.

6. Each match will be two out of three sets. When in any set the game score becomes 6-all, a 12 point tie-breaker game will be played.
7. Home team captains are responsible for providing yellow balls and refreshments.
8. A post-season tournament, the Alex Reddin Memorial Tournament (which has no affect on team scoring or ranking), may be played on the second or third weekend of September, as voted at the Annual Meeting.

B. SCORING, RANKING AND DIVISION TRANSFERS

1. One point will be awarded for each match won; no points will be awarded for matches lost. In certain circumstances, as outlined in Rules C1-C6, teams may win a half point for unplayed or unfinished matches, or such other points as the Executive Committee decides.
2. Home team captains shall be responsible for reporting match scores, including which team got the (+) where the teams tied 2-2, to the League website immediately following the engagement, but no later than noon the following day. A "rainout" must also be reported. In the event that the home team captain or his surrogate does not enter the scores on the website by noon the day following the Match, one point shall be deducted from the season's score of the team responsible for reporting the results. That deduction shall appear with an * in the final standings. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the point penalty may be remitted, but only upon petition to the President of the League.
3. The team winning the most points during the season in each division will be the winner of that division; the team with the second highest total, the runner-up. The winner of Division I will be the winner of the League.
4. In the event of a tie for any position within the division at the end of the season, particularly the first two places and last two places, the following procedure will eliminate ties:
 - a. The score of the team match or matches against the team tied will decide the winner.
 - b. If the match score was tied, then the number of sets won by each team during the match or matches between them will decide the winner.
 - c. If the sets were even, then the number of games won by each team during the match or matches will decide the winner.
 - d. If the games were even, the spin of a racket will decide.
 - e. In the event of a three-way tie within a division at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken by adding up the total points earned by each team against the other two teams in the tie. Second place shall be

determined by the regular season head to head result.

If two teams have the same number of points but more points than the other team, the team with the fewest points shall be third and the regular season head to head result shall determine the winners. If all the teams have the same number of points then the number of sets won shall be used in lieu of points. If sets are tied, then the number of games won shall be used. If the number of games are tied, the spin of a racket shall determine first place with the odd team being the winner and second place determined by the regular season head to head results. If more than three teams are tied at the end of the regular season, the above procedure for a three-way tie shall be used to rank the teams.

5. It is mandatory that the winner and runner-up of a lower division move into the next higher division in its geographical area the following year, trading places with the two teams with the lowest point totals in the division above it, except in Division II, the single winner of each region shall advance to Division I. This rule remains in effect even if it results in two teams (e.g. 1&2) form the same Club being placed in the same division. Provided, however, a team may apply for a lower division placement if, in its judgment, its team strength has been materially affected by the loss of one or more top players. Said application must be made before or during the League's Annual Meeting to allow opportunity to prepare the schedules for the upcoming season. This application is subject to approval by the Officers of the League.
6. When a change in the number of teams in the League or other circumstances make a change in the rules of division transfer advisable, the Directors will make a recommendation at the Annual Meeting, and this recommendation will be subject to voted approval.

C. UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. All-engagements not started due to weather or other unusual circumstances shall automatically be rescheduled to the first Monday or Tuesday following the scheduled match. The home team Captain shall make the election of whether the rescheduled match shall be played on the following Monday or Tuesday, and shall communicate his choice to the captain of the opposing team on the same day that the original match was scheduled. If the home team can't schedule the match for the following Monday or Tuesday (assuming they are not national holidays), the opposing team has the option of being the host and electing whether the match will be played on the following Monday or Tuesday. In the event the home team Captain selects a Monday or Tuesday that falls on the observance of a national holiday (Memorial Day or July 4th), the opposing captain may opt to not play on that day. The following Monday or Tuesday shall then be selected by the home team Captain. In the event a rescheduled match must again be postponed because of bad weather, the home team captain shall again make the election and communicate his choice within the time specified above. Since available daylight decreases rapidly in August and the likelihood of rain increases, all captains are urged to make-up postponed matches on other evenings/weekends throughout the season. The captain of the home team and the captain of the away team need to agree on playing indoors in the event of inclement weather. This is true even if the home team has indoor courts.

2. When it is known in advance that a match or matches must be defaulted due to a shortage of one or more players, the defaults must start with doubles team four and proceed up from the bottom.
3. Matches should begin at 6:00 p.m., but in no event later than 6:45 p.m. For the purposes of this paragraph C-3, a doubles team will be "ready to play" if both team members are on the court in tennis attire. If the team members of one of the teams are not ready to play at 6:30 p.m., one set of the match will be defaulted to the team which is ready to play. If the team members of one of the teams are not ready to play by 6:45 p.m., the match will be defaulted, with one point awarded to the team which is ready to play. If both teams are not ready to play by 6:45 p.m., then that particular team match will be considered a default with no point awarded to either team and with no option by either team captain to reschedule.

For clubs with lighted courts, home matches may begin after 6:00p.m., if both the home team Captain and opposing Captain agree. The first set default time will be 30 minutes after the agreed upon start time and the match default time will be 45 minutes after the agreed upon start time.

4. It is mandatory that captains shall include in their weekly report of match results to the League website: www.fctl.org, the number of defaults that occurred in connection with the match. The Board is authorized to take appropriate action, including suspension, where any team has defaulted excessively.
5. Any scheduled match begun but interrupted because of rain, darkness, or other unusual circumstances may be settled by:
 1. Continuation of the match that evening indoors or substituting a 10 point tiebreaker for the third set, with the agreement of both the home and away captains.
 2. Continuation of the match at a mutually agreeable time and place within eleven days.
 3. The default of either team at that time.
 4. If other than the final week of the season, scoring each team a half point if mutually agreeable to both captains at that time.

In the continuation of an interrupted match, it shall begin at the point the match was interrupted, with the same score and the same teams (the same four players). All of the continued matches for a team do not need to be played at the same time or date.

6. In the event that match has not been completed according to paragraph C-1, then, the Division Secretary shall make a reasonable effort to confer with each team captain and shall promptly set a date for the match to be played. In the event that either team does not appear on such date, it shall be

defaulted. In the event of a rain-out or rain interruption, the Division Secretary shall reschedule the match.

7. If the teams leave the court in an interrupted match without agreeing on any option as outlined in Rule C-5, or if the match should not be played in eleven days, the Executive Committee will make a prompt determination of how it will be scored and may include a penalty of up to two points per match for failure to play the match.
8. Teams which do not have courts, or sufficient courts, may play "away" more than normal. For the purpose of providing balls, these teams will be designated "Home Team" for half of their engagements and will be responsible for contacting the other team captain and for providing balls at these engagements as indicated on the schedule.

D. QUALIFICATION

1. Each team may play one junior player during each engagement. Different junior players may play during the season, but never more than one per engagement. A junior player is defined as a non-dues paying member who will not have reached his 25th birthday during the current year (There is no lower limit of age). In the event a team plays more than one junior in any engagement, or plays a player who is otherwise ineligible without announcing this fact to the opposing captain and forfeiting the match in which such ineligible player participates, it shall forfeit all four matches of the engagement. Forfeits must start at position #4 and move upward.
2. Where a Club has more than one team in the League, the eight highest ranked players in rank order, including a junior, must be designated for play on only each higher team (#1 team and #2 team if there is a #3 team, and #3 team if there is a #4 team). The designated players may not play for a team lower than their designation. All other interchanges may be made as needed. #1 team captains (and #2 team captains if there is a #3 team and #3 captain if there is a #4 team) must send to the League website a list of their team's six designated players for the current season, and #2, #3 and #4 team captains should have a copy of the list or lists of higher teams available to show on request to any opposing captain during the season. Undesignated players that play for a club with 3 or 4 teams, may not play down more than 1 team from where they normally play (an undesignated player that normally plays on the club's # 1 team, could play for the club's #2 team, but not for their # 3 or #4 teams). The designated players must be posted on the League website by the start of the season. The team will only earn points for matches played after the designated players are posted on the League website.
3. Where a player belongs to more than one Club, that player may play for only one Club during the season, except that he may play for another Club in the Masters League.
4. Because Clubs have conflicting rules regarding tennis apparel, players must abide by the dress code of the home team Club or be defaulted.

5. Two doubles teams from each team in the League in Division I, and one doubles team from each team in the other divisions may play in the post-season tournament. After reasonable notice, other teams may enter on a first come basis if openings are available.
6. A player who participates in any playoffs or in the post-season tournament must have played in at least one match for his team during the regular season.
7. No person will be allowed to play in a League/team match if his job title is that of head or assistant tennis professional or equivalent title (ie., tennis director, etc.). An aforementioned tennis professional will be allowed to play under the following circumstances:
 - a. He is at least 40 years of age
 - b. He has been a full dues-paying member of the club for at least a year
 - c. He can not play for the club at which he teaches
 - d. Division I teams will be allowed to field (2) tennis professionals and Division II teams will be allowed (1) professional
 - e. The professional will be included on the team's designated player list (if one is required) and indicated as a teaching professional

A junior may teach tennis in the summer as long as it is not year round (this rule is intended to allow high school and college students to teach tennis as a summer job). Students may not play for the club at which they teach.

8. Teams will not be admitted to the League unless 4 HarTru or equivalent courts are available at the Club for home matches. A third (#3) team from a single Club can be admitted if the Club has and can use 8 courts each week for home matches.

E. ORGANIZATION

1. A membership fee to be determined annually is payable promptly on June 1st. Fee should be sent to the League Treasurer, payable to Fairfield County Tennis League.
2. Any disputes concerning these rules or concerning matters not covered by these rules should be directed at once to the Division Secretary. If the Division Secretary is unable to resolve the dispute, he will refer the matter to the Secretary of the League and, if he is unable to affect a solution agreeable to the disputing parties, the Secretary of the League shall convene a Grievance Committee to arbitrate a solution which shall be final. The Grievance Committee and/or the Board shall have the power to place a team or player on probation or suspension.
3. It's Board of Directors shall govern the League, subject to the powers of the Annual Meeting.
4. The Annual Meeting, by a majority of those team captains present and voting, shall elect a Board of Directors and the Officers of the League.
5. The Board shall have the power to admit new teams, remove existing teams,

- realign divisions and move teams between divisions.
6. The Board shall receive the Treasurer's report and establish annual dues.
 7. The Board shall have the power to amend these Rules and Regulations.
 8. The Board shall consist of 11 participants in the League, six of whom shall be Officers of the League:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary for Scheduling
 - d. Secretary of the Open League
 - e. Secretary of the Masters League
 - f. Treasurer
 8. The President shall be responsible for the proper functioning of the League. He shall preside at the Annual Meeting and at meetings of the Board of Directors. He shall not vote at any meeting, except to break a tie vote.

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