

RULES OF THE 3.5 / C DIVISION OF COUNTRY CLUB MEN'S DOUBLES TENNIS LEAGUE

As revised through July 19, 2011 (revised Rules 1b, 4b and 12)

1. League Participation: Participation in the 3.5 / C Division of the Country Club

Men's Doubles Tennis League shall be limited to clubs:

- a. Approved for inclusion by a majority of C Division member club captains;
- b. (revised 7-19-11) That they have a minimum of 6 soft (clay or particulate) courts available simultaneously for all matches;

2. All team members must be:

- a. Permanent residents of Clay, Duval, Nassau or St. John's County;
- b. Members of the club they represent in their own right, not dependents of a club member or any other type of sponsored membership;
- c. At least 21 years of age, and
- d. Certified by the club tennis professional to be:
 - i. Ranked no higher than 3.5 under the USTA National Tennis Ranking Program, and in the opinion of the certifying club tennis professional, accurately ranked as a 3.5 or less.
 - ii. Or, if not currently ranked, merit a ranking of no higher than 3.5 under the USTA National Tennis Ranking Program.
- e. A player who is also a member of a B League team may also be on a C League team roster, provided he meets the criteria set forth above. However, a player in the C League may only be on one C League roster, regardless of how many teams his club or clubs, if he maintains multiple memberships, may field within the League.
- iii: Rating change after roster submission (amendment approved 4-20-10):
Should a player's rating improve at any time during the season such that they are recognized as a 4.0+ or better player, they will remain eligible for the balance of that season's matches, including any play-off matches. Their 4.0+ rating would make them ineligible for a team roster the next season.

3. Ineligible players: No player who in the preceding year won 80% of their matches or more on courts 1 or 2 shall be eligible to play in the C League.

4. League Structure:

- a. The League will be divided into a maximum of two divisions at the discretion of the League Coordinator, provided each division shall have not less than 4 teams;
- b. (revised 7-19-11) Each match will consist of 6 doubles court contests. In the case of a 3-3 tie among the 6 partnerships, 2 players from each team will be chosen by the respective team captains to play each other in a deciding tie-breaker. In the case of the tie-breaker, the winner will be the first partnership to a minimum 6 points, winning by a margin of 2 points;
- c. Schedules will be on a home-and-home basis, with some inter-divisional matches, to be determined by vote of the captains. Since a majority of teams in the league are affiliated with clubs that field other tennis teams, the match schedule can create logistical problems. The League Coordinator is authorized to use the lot of chance and/or make a judgment call to determine the host or visiting team - this may result in one or more teams hosting an inordinate number of home matches. Every effort will be made to avoid this.

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5. Dues: Annual team dues of \$125 per team (approved 4-20-10) must be paid to the League Coordinator before the team can participate in League play. Dues will be exclusively used to cover League expenses and to provide cash awards (checks) for the League Champion and three runner-up teams in the four team tournament.

6. Team Rosters:

a. **Roster submission before season starts:** Participating teams must submit a copy of the team roster to the League Coordinator *14 days prior to the start of season* play to allow time for distribution to all other team captains. Such rosters shall list the name, address, home and work telephone, of each team member and shall include a certification by the club pro regarding each player's ability, as defined in Section 2.(d).

b. **Adding players after season starts:** Additional players may be added to the initial team roster by the giving of such notice to Coordinator accompanied by a copy of the *pro's certification on league roster form*. Additional players may be added by telephone to Coordinator, but such additions must be confirmed in writing.

c. It is strongly recommended that each team's roster have not less than 20 players to avoid court forfeitures.

7. Host requirements: The host team will furnish new balls for each of the individual doubles matches and refreshments for the visiting team.

8. Number of sets per match: Team matches will the best of two (2) of (3) sets. A twelve (12) point tiebreaker will be used to determine the winner of a set in which the game score is six (6) games each.

9. Match line-ups: Captains must exchange match line-ups immediately prior to the start of the match to give the opportunity, if desired, to check the line-up against the team rosters.

10a. Strength against strength: Captains should be responsible for arranging the match line-up to match strength against strength; i.e., visiting team 1 should be paired against host team 1 and visiting team 2 should play host team 2, etc.

Amendment to Rule 10 approved 4-20-10:

10b. Match Positions (Amendment approved April 20, 2010): No player shall be allowed to play more than 2 positions up or 2 positions down from match to match

11. Forfeitures: If either team has one or more doubles teams missing at match time, such team will *forfeit matches from the bottom up*". If the missing team reports for play after the matches have started they may play a match with the team next below the lowest match position being played. If the fifteen (15) minute time limit has expired the match shall be forfeited unless there is agreement between the captains to waive the fifteen (15) minute rule. Amplification of Rule 11 regarding *forfeiture from the bottom up* in connection with the use of ineligible players, added 3/19/91, reads as follows:

a. (when) a(n) ineligible player(s) is/are fielded and the team in question insists on playing that/those individual(s),

b. match forfeiture will involve the loss of matches up to and including the ineligible player(s) level. This rule (amplification) is in place to discourage the use of ringers to fill out a match roster and give an unfair advantage by allowing the offending team a way to keep its weaker players at the lower end of the ladder, thus increasing their odds of winning.

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12. Match reporting: (revised 7-19-11) The results of the team matches must be entered by the home captain at tenniscores.com within twenty-four (24) hours after the match has been played, and verified by the visiting captain. A signed paper score sheet should be kept by each captain for back-up records should tenniscores.com have a technical issue.

13. Match Postponement: In the event a match cannot be played when scheduled due to forces beyond the control of the host captain (bad weather, conflict with a club event, courts not in shape for play, etc.) The host team shall offer the visiting team two alternate dates that fall in a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date the match was scheduled for play. If these dates are not acceptable to the visiting team, they may offer the use of their facilities to the host team and suggest two (2) alternate dates for playing the make-up match (these dates must also fall within the thirty (30) day period following the date for which the match was originally scheduled). If agreement cannot be reached between the captains for a mutually convenient make-up date, the circumstance must be reported to the League Coordinator. If the matter cannot then be resolved the winner will be decided by a coin toss. The winner of the toss will get credit for winning a simple majority of matches.

14. Championship Playoff Tournament: The League will have an end of season Championship Tournament. Seeding for the Tournament will be the top four teams in the case of a one division League, or the top two teams from each division in the case of a two division league, based on overall win-loss record from the current regular season in that division. Teams would be seeded in the play-offs based on their overall W-L and play 4 @ 1 and 3 @ 2. The only exception to this is that the second place team would not have to play the first place team in their division in the first round. This tournament will be scheduled after all regularly season matches have been played, to determine the League Champion. The winners of the first round matches will play each other to determine which team will be the League Champion. The losers of the first round of the tournament will also play each other to determine the 3rd and 4th place teams. In case two or more teams have identical W-L records, the NFL tiebreaker system will be used:

- a. The results of the regular season matches (between them) will be used to decide which team in the play-offs will be the host team;
- b. The winning percentage against division opponents only;
- c. Overall winning percentage not counting forfeits;
- d. Coin toss. No tournament matches may be determined by forfeiture or coin toss.

Arrangements must be made to allow all teams to play in each tournament event. To be eligible for the playoffs, a team must account for all match scores, and any player participating in the Tournament must have played not less than two regular season matches. The Tournament winning team receives 40% of the cash set aside for the Tournament; the 2nd place team receives 30% of the cash, the 3rd place team 20%, and the 4th place team, 10%. The cash set aside for the Tournament shall equal the then current cash balance of the League, less a \$400 reserve for league expenses.

15. Standing Grievance Committee (revised 7/18/95):

a. Grievance Committee membership: The League Coordinator shall name three Captains to a standing Grievance Committee before the start of each season. These members shall serve for the duration of the season. The Coordinator shall replace any

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member of the Committee whose team is a subject of a grievance, or who is a member of a team who has filed the grievance, on the committee for that case. Any member of the committee, whose team it has been determined by the committee violated a League rule may not return to the committee after that case and their team may not have a representative as member of the grievance committee for two seasons after the season in which the violation occurred. The Coordinator shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Grievance Committee and attend all meetings.

b. Grievance reporting: All grievances shall be delivered in writing by the filing team Captain simultaneously to the accused violating team Captain, the Coordinator and the Committee members within 7 days of the alleged offense by the filing team. A response should be returned to the committee, *and filing captain*, by the alleged violating team Captain within 7 days of receipt. A determination of the matter shall be made within 7 days of receipt of the grievance statement and reported in writing to the Coordinator. This report will be mailed to all team Captains within 7 days of the Coordinator's receipt of the report.

c. Appeal of Grievance Committee determination: *Either* Captain may appeal the decision to the League. However, the decision of the committee shall be binding unless overturned or amended by a 2/3 vote of all Clubs.

16. Asst. Coordinator and Treasurer: The League Coordinator may appoint someone to serve as Assistant Coordinator and also as the League Treasurer.

17. Rule addition and amendment: To add a rule, or amend a League Rule, and 80% quorum must be present with a 2/3 majority to win, with no proxies, and only one vote per club. Meetings, including action on rules and amendments may be conducted via written or electronic correspondence.

18. Match communication between captains: To avoid miscommunication, it is the responsibility of each captain to call the other by the *Thursday* preceding an upcoming Sunday match, whether they are host or guest, to confirm the date, time and location of the match.

19. League Coordinator: The annual election of the League Coordinator will occur within six (6) weeks following the season ending tournament, but no later than May 31st. Vote will be by ballot with one vote per club. Qualifications: 1) Coordinator cannot be a captain. 2) Coordinator only votes at league meetings in case of a tie. 3) Motions or proposals on agenda to be attributed to a captain. 4) Agenda will be emailed in advance of meetings. Captains must submit agenda material at least two weeks in advance.

20. Merged Teams: (approved unanimously 2-26-2008 although allowed without specific Rule previously) The League may accept application to the League by partnerships of clubs where the individual rosters of each club cannot fill the League required minimum roster of 20 players. In these cases, merged teams of more than one club may be accepted to the League by a majority vote of the then current clubs.

21. Conditional approval of 4.0 players (approved unanimously Sept. 7, 2010): A team captain may propose club members as a players on their C League team who are, although USTA rated 4.0, in the opinion of their Club Pro and all the other League Captains, in practice, essentially 3.5 or less given consideration of their previous year's match history of position played and outcome. Submission deadline for acceptance of such players is a minimum 2 weeks before the first match in which they are proposed to play.