

NAPERVILLE SUMMER TENNIS LEAGUE RULES

Updated: 10/19

1. COURTS

- a) Home teams are responsible for providing 4 courts.
- b) **All matches are to be played on outdoor courts.** There is an exception in the case of Rain – see weather rules in Section 13 for specifics.
- c) ALL teams must be able to provide home courts for 50% of their matches.
 - If a 2-court club has more than two teams, they need to secure the necessary ‘home’ courts **prior to the season** either via rental from the Park District or a preplanned ‘arrangement’ with another club to utilize their facilities.
- d) The league will schedule home court matches at any 2-court club that makes the request. If a 2-court club does not make the request, they should expect to play more matches at the larger facilities so all 4 courts can play at the same time. The home/away match ratio for individual teams may not balance.
 - If the designated “Home” team is playing the match at another club, they are still required to bring the balls and the refreshments.

2. MATCH DAY EQUIPMENT

- a) The home team will provide a new can of balls and a score card for each court.
- b) **The home team will provide timers for the match.** A minimum of one timer per two courts.
 - Cell phones may NOT be used as the official match timer.
 - The home team pro or captain will inform the players of the official match start time.
- c) The home team will provide post-match refreshments for both teams.

3. FORFEITS/DEFAULTS

- a) Home team pro/captain should contact the visiting team pro/captain **by noon on Thursday** to confirm they can field a full team. If either team cannot field all 4 courts, it is their responsibility to inform the opposing team of the forfeit.
 - The lowest court must be forfeited first, followed by court 3, court 2 and finally court 1.
- b) If a team forfeits a court prior to the scheduled match time - and then the match is rescheduled due to weather - the forfeit holds.
- c) If a match is cancelled on Friday due to weather after the roster is submitted, but before the players step on court, each team can change their line-up for the rescheduled make-up match.

4. LINE UPS

- a) Written line-ups including all eight players’ first and last names are to be completed and presented to the opposing team pro/captain before play begins.
- b) Once teams start warming up, no line-up changes can be made.

5. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- a) **Players must be a member of the club they are representing and 75% of the players in each match line-up (6 out of 8 players) must reside within the School District 203 or 204 attendance area.**
- b) **Members of the Tennis Staff (anyone teaching tennis at the club) are not allowed to play in the league unless they are also a regular paying member of the club they represent.** The league also encourages all Pros/Captains to be mindful of the level of play within each division when assigning players to a team. The

goal of this league is to provide fun 'competitive' tennis for all. So players should not be significantly above or below the typical level of play in the division they're assigned.

- c) The minimum age for this league is 18 or a high school graduate.
- d) Players can play for only one team. If they move during the season and join a different club, they may play for the new club. If they belong to two different clubs, they must choose one club to play for before the season starts and stay with that team the entire season.

6. PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS

- a) IF a club has two teams at the same level, players must be assigned to a specific team at the start of the season and remain there for the duration of the regular season.
 - However, if a club with two teams is short players for a match, they may switch a player between **even level teams** with approval from the opposing pro/captain.
- b) IF a club doesn't have a player on a lower team they can pull up to complete a line-up and they need to bring in a non-member sub - or third out-of-district player - they must call the opposing team and ask for permission.
 - If the opposing pro/captain agrees to the substitution, the match proceeds and the score is official.
 - If the opposing pro/captain does not agree with the substitution, the team must forfeit that court (albeit, they can choose to play the match for fun – and are encouraged to do so.)
- c) Players are allowed to substitute for a higher rated team than they usually play on. **Players are not allowed to play for a team with a lower rating than they usually play on.**
E.g. a B level player could play a match for the A team, but cannot play a match for the C team.

7. MATCH TIMING

- a) Matches are 2 hours long and start at either 8am or 10am.
- b) A 10-minute warm-up begins immediately and is to be strictly enforced. All practice serves should be taken before play begins.
 - Any player not on the assigned court at 10 minutes after starting time will forfeit their warm-up.
 - Any player not on the court at 20 minutes after starting time will forfeit the first set for her team.
 - Any player not on the court at 30 minutes after starting time will forfeit the match for her team.
- c) If at least one court from the 8-10am match goes past 10am, all four courts for the 10am match must wait until all the 8am matches are finished to prevent the warm-ups from distracting those players.
 - All 4 courts for the 10am match will start at the same time and play for 2 hours, if possible based on court availability.
- d) No matches shall be played at any other time than their scheduled match time, unless agreed upon by both clubs.
- e) If the match is played at a two court club, Courts 1 & 2 play from 8 – 10 am and Court 3 & 4 play from 10 am – noon. These times can only be changed if both clubs agree in advance of the match.

8. MATCH ETIQUETTE

- a) Play is to be continuous and at the server's pace.
- b) Water breaks should only be taken on side changes. **Each player is responsible for bringing their own water, however, the league encourages the Home team to have additional water available.**
- c) One bathroom break per match is allowed and it is preferred that it be taken at the end of a set. If the match will be held at a facility with portable toilets, the home team captain should inform the opposing team captain during the Thursday phone call as a courtesy.

- d) Cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate. This includes coaches and/or spectators watching matches. Calls are not permitted to be made or answered by players, unless an emergency.

9. INJURY TIME-OUT

- a) If an injury occurs on court, a 3-minute time-out is allowed one time per match. Play resumes after 3 minutes and the match is completed at the original ending time; it is not extended due to the injury timeout. If play cannot continue after 3 minutes, the match is defaulted by the injured player.

10. MATCH SCORING

- a) All matches will be best 2 out of 3 sets with regular scoring. A first to 7 point tie-breaker is played when the set score reaches 6-6.
- b) Rules for a 12 point tie-breaker:
- Follow serve, first team serves one point from the deuce side.
 - Other team then serves two points starting from the ad side.
 - Continue alternating serves every two points, always starting on the ad side.
 - After six total points are played, teams switch sides of the court.
 - The first team to score 7 or more points with a 2-point lead is the winner of the tie-breaker.

11. TIME EXPIRATION

- a) Matches are played until time expires. If there is as little as one second left when a game is finished, another game must be played and completed (if it could determine the winner.) Even if time expires before the players are actually ready to start the next game, the game is still played.
- b) If time expires in the middle of a game, it is to be completed.
- c) If the teams are tied as time expires, the match is split and each team receives ½ a point. A tie breaker is not played.
- d) If teams split sets with less than 10 minutes remaining, a third set is not started. Players switch sides and play a 12 point tie-breaker for the match.
- e) If more than 10 minutes remains, a third set is started. The team with the most games for the third set at time expiration is the winner.

Clarifications/Examples:

- If a game is in progress when the timer goes off AND cannot be completed due to weather (i.e. lightning strikes), then the match result is based on the last completed game.
- If the timer goes off ending a match during the second set and the game score is tied in the second set, whichever team won the first set wins the match (a tie-breaker is NOT played for the 2nd set).
- If the timer goes off ending a match during the second set and Club A won the first set, but Club B is ahead in the second set, the match is declared a tie.

12. WEATHER – EXCESSIVE HEAT DAYS

- a) Excessive heat is considered any day when the heat index is over 100 degrees.
- b) If any player deems the weather unacceptable to begin the match because the heat index is over 100, their court can decide to reschedule (each individual court can make their own decision). *See Rule 15 for rescheduling rules.*
- c) If all four players on the court deem the weather acceptable to begin the match, then the match must be completed OR forfeited by the team that decides after the match has begun to stop play.

13. WEATHER - RAIN

- a) When it rains the morning of a Friday match, it is up to the Home Team pro or captain to decide whether the match is playable or not.
- The home team pro or captain must call the opponent **1 hour** before stated match time to let them know the status of their courts. *Given the distance between north/south and east/west matches, the home team pro or captain making the decision about the court conditions must be on-site at their Home courts when making the call.*
 - **IF the Home Team pro or captain has access to indoor courts so the match can be played that SAME DAY, they can offer that option up to the opposing club.**
 - The match may move indoors IF both clubs agree and the match can be played the same day.
 - Fees for indoor court rental are to be split between both the Home and Away club.
- b) The Home team must make every attempt to get their courts dry by **8 AM or 10 AM.**
- If absolutely necessary, the Home team can take up to an additional 30 minutes to get their courts dry enough to play (i.e. 8:30am or 10:30am).
 - IF the match starts late, it must be completed by the stated end time (i.e. 10:00am or 12:00pm) unless all players on both teams agree the end time can be extended before starting the match.
- c) If rain begins and the match is stopped 1 hour AFTER the ACTUAL match start time, the team ahead at that time is declared the winner and no rescheduling is necessary.
- d) If rain begins and the match is stopped BEFORE 1 hour of play has occurred from the match start time, an attempt must be made to reschedule and finish the match.
- **The decision to reschedule the match must be made at that time and the date to resume the match must occur within two weeks.**
 - The rescheduled match must be completed **with the same 4 ladies and resumes play at the same score.** All four courts do NOT need to play at the same time or same site. All matches must still be played outside.
- e) If lightning is seen, players must immediately come off the court. Play may resume 15 minutes after the last sight of lightning or sound of thunder. Match is completed at the original ending time. The match is not extended due to the weather interruption unless all players agree.

14. RESCHEDULING MATCHES

- a) IF a match is cancelled due to inclement weather, **the match must be rescheduled and played within TWO weeks or it is declared a rain-out and both teams will receive a 0 score.**
- A rain-out is not a default, so it will not count against either team's standings – it is as if the match never happened. **However, the league encourages ALL teams to try and make-up the match.**
- b) **All four courts do NOT need to play the make-up at the same time OR at the same site.**
- **AND, if BOTH teams agree they can elect to make-up only 1, 2, or 3 courts playing in that match and score the match accordingly.**
 - As standings are based on the percentage of games won divided by number of games played, this option will not negatively impact either team's standings...but allows as many ladies as can, to play in the make-up match.
- c) IF the last match of the season is rained out, the match must be played **by the following Tuesday** or both teams have to take a rain-out (0-0) which will not count against them in the final standings.

15. REPORTING SCORES

- a) **Only the HOME TEAM pro/captain reports the match scores to the league webmaster.**

- b) A photo of the score sheet** should be taken and sent via text to the webmaster **by 5pm on the day of the match**. The photo should clearly show the line-up for each court (with last names), scores and the overall match score.
- c) If no score is reported by this time, it will be considered **a default for the Home team** and they will receive 0 points.
- d) If a match is rained out, the home team pro/captain must send the completed score sheet to the League Webmaster as soon as ALL the courts playing in the reschedule have completed their match.**

16. PROS/COACHING

- a) Pros are not allowed to coach during match play. Once ladies have taken the court, the Pro is there to observe only.
- b) Pros may not aid in resolving disputes on the court unless all 4 players agree to ask the Pro to have a rule clarified.
- c) The Home Team Pro does have the authority to postpone play if he/she feels their playing surface is dangerous.

The USTA “Friend at Court” covers all rules of tennis beyond those pertaining specifically to this league.