



Men's Sunday Interclub Tennis League Rules

Introduction

Welcome to the new season of the Men's Sunday Interclub Tennis League. The league promotes the ideals of club pride, team spirit and competitive tennis that will hopefully add up to fun for all participants.

Team Format

Team matches consist of four singles matches and three doubles. "A" Division matches are three singles and two doubles. Players may compete in both singles and doubles on the same day. The team that wins four or more of the seven matches is the winner.

Match Scoring

Matches are best two of three sets with regular scoring and tiebreakers played at six all.

Player Eligibility

There is a single Division for all teams this year. The intent is to provide a competitive environment for as many levels as possible. Teams may consist of as many as ten players for a given match so the spread of skill levels between the strongest and weakest players on a team may be wide. The following National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) guidelines are provided: most teams will have the majority of their players falling in the NTRP 3.5-4.0 range. Some stronger or weaker players may also participate.

A 2002 survey of the teams indicated a preference for liberal rules concerning player eligibility. The league is open to all players able to compete at the specified level. There are no age or gender restrictions.

If a club has a player or players who exceed the ability guidelines specified for a particular level they should inform the opposing captain before using such players in a match.

Scheduling

The visiting team captain should initiate contact with the home team at least three days before the scheduled match.



Most clubs schedule the singles matches at 9:00 AM on Sundays, followed by the doubles at approximately 10:45 AM. A few clubs enter multiple teams and need to play some matches later in the day or occasionally on Saturday. Captains should work out acceptable alternatives.

The home team must provide four tennis courts, balls and optionally, a cooler of light refreshments.

The league season usually runs from mid May through early August. No matches are scheduled on holiday weekends including: Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and 4th of July. Teams usually play between 6 and 8 matches during the season.

Reporting Scores

The winning team should report the match results. The visiting team is encouraged to file their scorecard as well, as names are often misspelled or indecipherable.

We encourage teams to make use of the most convenient means of communicating information and results. Rules, schedules, match results and directions will be published on the league web site: <http://sundaytennis.x10.mx/> . Captains are encouraged to report scores by E-Mail to kanemt1@gmail.com . If it is not possible to E-Mail, copy and mail the paper scorecard to:

Mike Kane
2203 Cherry Leaf Ln.
Silver Spring, Md. 20906

If 4-singles/3-doubles Format Is Not Possible

Since the vote for 4-singles/3-doubles was not unanimous, captains should be agreeable to playing the 3-singles/2-doubles format without requiring the opponent to forfeit the other two matches. Captains should contact the opposing captain in advance if they are unable to field a complete team. Teams should agree in advance on the match format. If a captain fails to inform the other team in advance, unplayed matches must be forfeited.

A few of the clubs indicated a willingness to host some of their scheduled "Away" matches if court availability was a problem. Check with the individual captains.



Completing All Matches

Teams are required to complete all doubles matches even if the team result has been determined by the singles results. Modified scoring may be used if both captains agree (e.g., no-ad or pro set).

Breaking Ties in the Standings

The league management encourages teams to break ties on the court, for example by playing an additional match. If that is not possible we will employ the following tie-breaking protocol to determine the winner:

- 1) Team with fewest match forfeits for the season.
- 2) For 2-way ties: head-to-head team matches, individual matches, sets then games
- 3) If still tied or more than a 2-way tie: season match winning percentage, set winning percentage then game winning percentage.

Rules of Tennis

League play should be conducted according to “The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, Friend at Court,” latest edition.

League Exists for the Players

As long as both captains agree, any of the rules above may be modified.