

WESTSIDE TENNIS LEAGUE RULES  
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# Westside Tennis League

Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy from all participants. No system of rules will cover every specific problem or situation that may arise. If players of good will follow the principles of USTA Rules, and the Westside Tennis League (“WTL”) Rules and Structure and Organizational Procedure, they should always be able to reach an agreement, while at the same time making tennis more fun and a better game for all. Based on *The Code*.

Refer to USTA Friend at Court Handbook and *The Code* for match play rules and proper conduct. The link to this document is below:

[https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/20180119\\_2018FAC-full.links.pdf](https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/20180119_2018FAC-full.links.pdf)

## I. REQUIREMENTS AND STRUCTURE OF THE WESTSIDE TENNIS LEAGUE

### **A. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING CLUBS:**

1. All participants must be women over 21 years of age, and not a current member of a college team.
2. All participants, line players and substitutes, shall play for one club only. A club is defined as where the team’s home courts are permanently located.
  3. Each team is expected to field three lines for each match. A forfeit of all three lines shows a team’s lack of commitment and will result in a penalty point and will jeopardize the team’s participation in the next season’s play.

### **B. HOSTING CLUBS MUST PROVIDE:**

1. Three courts in acceptable condition, beginning no later than 9:00 am on match day. If repeated complaints are received about playing conditions, the Executive Board may require a club to correct the problem or problems or disallow play at that location.
2. A new can of balls for each of the three courts (three balls throughout the match).
3. Simple refreshments (water, juice, coffee, cake, fruit, cheese or similar).
4. Women’s toilets within reasonable walking distance from the courts being used for matches.
5. One AGC representative and one luncheon representative (it can be the either one person or two persons) from each club. Failure to assign these designated

club representatives or failure of these representatives to complete the duties of the committees to which they have been assigned, may, at the discretion of the WTL Executive Committee, result in one penalty point being assigned to each team at the offending club at the beginning of the following season.

**C. STRUCTURE OF THE WESTSIDE TENNIS LEAGUE:**

1. There are currently five divisions in WTL. The divisions are based on the NTRP ratings and the team’s ability to compete in a particular division.
2. Clubs may field more than one team in any division provided they have sufficient players and substitutes at the appropriate level and there is space available in that division.
3. Designation Guidelines:

Division	Predominant Rating of Players	Maximum Rating Allowed **
1	4.5	5.0**
2	3.5 and 4.0	4.0
3	3.5 and 4.0	4.0
4	3.5	3.5
5	3.0 and 3.5	3.5

\*\* Players may petition the Board for permission to play in a division. Players also may be required to re-petition in subsequent seasons.

5.0 players may play in Division 1 and will be considered asterisked players, with the same rules and restrictions applied – (1) the asterisked player may only play on Line 1 in the highest division; (2) only one asterisked player per team may play per match; (3) a player’s asterisked designation shall remain in effect for two full seasons after which time a player may petition the board for a Line 1 designation, if such player no longer meets the specifications to remain asterisked.

**II. THE PRINCIPLE AND EXPLANATION OF ORDER OF STRENGTH**

It is a fundamental principle of the Westside Tennis League that each club’s three doubles teams compete in order of ability. WTL rules exist to support this principle.

1. The captain shall give each individual line player and substitute a “line designation” based on the player’s ability in relation to the other line players and substitutes on the same team. The strongest players on the team shall be grouped on line 1. The next strongest group of players shall be listed on line 2 and the least strongest players shall be shown on line 3.

2. It is the captain's responsibility to arrange the doubles teams on their score sheet so that their teams compete in order of ability with the strongest doubles team playing in the line 1 position, and the next strongest team in the line 2 position, etc. Each club's three doubles teams must play in order of ability.
3. A team will be penalized for putting a stronger team on a line lower than their own weaker team (this is called "stacking").
4. A team will be penalized for not playing their three lines in order of strength ("stacking") or not correctly designating the appropriate line for players or substitutes.
5. Regardless of the division, line, or whether a player is rostered or a substitute, all three doubles teams must play in order of strength.
6. If a captain believes that there is an irregularity in the line-up sheet, she should discuss it with the opposing captains, preferably before the match. Only after a captain has discussed the concern with the other captain (before or after the match) and continues to believe there was a violation of the rules, she should e-mail her concern to the AGC Chair. If a violation occurred, the AGC Chair may call a default after the match or refer it to the AGC.
7. It is the opposing captain's responsibility to initiate a stacking grievance if the stacking issue was not resolved at the match. The AGC determines whether stacking has occurred and assigns the following penalties if stacking indeed did occur:
  - a. A one-point penalty is deducted from a team's total points in the standings.
  - b. The line match in which a stronger team played on a lower line will be defaulted. If the point was won by the "stacking" team, it will be taken away and awarded to the opposing team. If the "stacking" team lost, the point is kept by the opponent.
  - c. The line match is not recorded in any of the four-line match players' stats.
8. Rostered line players and rostered substitute players may play up or down one line only. To clarify, players rostered on line 1 can play line 1 or line 2. Players rostered on line 2 can play line 1, 2 or 3. Players rostered on line 3 can play line 3 or line 2. A player who is listed at position line 1 cannot play position line 3 nor vice versa.
9. However, in the event a team only has line 3 rostered players and/or line 3 rostered subs and sub up players from a lower division for a given match, the third line rostered player(s) and/or rostered sub(s) will be permitted to play in line 1 and lower division sub up players will be allowed to play on the lowest line possible. This is so that the principle of playing in order of strength will be upheld.

10. If the above exception occurs, contact the Statistician to report match results. See rule IV.D.2.b. for additional information.
11. In addition to the initial roster submissions in September, there are now three additional roster change periods so that Captains can adjust their rosters to avoid any potential order of strength questions or problems. As the season progresses, Captains are strongly encouraged to review their rosters and available statistics compiled for each player on the WTL web site before every roster change period. Based on this information, Captains may make adjustments to line designations for both line players and substitutes to insure players are rostered in order of strength. Captains should keep in mind that difficulty of matches should be proportionate to the line level the players and substitutes have played, as the most challenging matches in any division are played on line 1. As a result, players in line 1 may have lower statistics than players on line 3, but the line 1 players may still be correctly rostered. Captains should objectively evaluate the relative strength of their players and roster them accordingly.
12. To double-check that you are playing in order of strength according to your published roster is to make sure the higher lines play with a lower or equal number than the line below by considering this simple formula:
  - a. Line 1 player plus Line 1 player = 2
  - b. Line 1 player plus Line 2 player = 3
  - c. Line 2 player plus Line 2 player = 4
  - d. Line 1 player plus Line 3 player = 4
  - e. Line 2 player plus Line 3 player = 5
  - f. Line 3 player plus Line 3 player = 6

An out of order line up would be:

- g. Line 1 player plus Line 2 player = 3
  - h. Line 1 player plus Line 1 player = 2\* This pair should be playing Line 1
  - i. Line 2 player plus Line 2 player = 4
13. The Executive Board does not approve line-ups and, even after reviewing rosters, does not validate every single player recognizing all players' abilities can change over time. If a Captain presents a line-up which is questioned by the opposing Captain, the line-up in question may need to be defended before the Executive Board or the AGC.
  14. A match using an ineligible player (e.g. unlisted rostered players and/or unlisted rostered subs and sub up players in prohibited line positions, etc.) will result in a default of that line if the offending team wins the match. The default point is given to the opponent. An additional point will be deducted

from the offending team's total points in the standings. The match result is not recorded in the affected players' stats. If the offending team loses the match, the results of the match stand and a penalty point will be deducted from the offending team's total points in the standings.

### **III. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS AND LEADERSHIP**

#### **A. CREATING A TEAM**

1. The intent of a captain to create a team for play in the Westside Tennis League is submitted to the Executive Board June 20. The "intent" must show a viable team of a minimum of 6 rostered line players and a reasonable number of rostered substitute players.
2. A player must be listed on the team roster as a rostered line player, a rostered substitute player or as a player from a lower division who is considered a "sub up" player to be eligible to play for a particular team.
3. A team's roster must list 6, 7, or 8 players as "rostered" or "line" players. A roster must show 2, 3, or 4 players on each line, grouped by the individual players' abilities.
4. There is a limit of 50 names that can be submitted as team substitutes.
5. Initial rosters must be submitted by August 31<sup>st</sup>.
6. Any roster change or addition of any line player or substitute is allowed only during the following revision dates: Changes are effective after Friday matches.
  - a. The first Thursday through Saturday of November. Hours are from 9 AM PST first day through 9:00 PM PST last day.
  - b. The first Thursday through Saturday of January. Hours are from 9:00 AM PST first day through 9:00 PM PST last day.
  - c. The first Thursday through Saturday of March. Hours are from 9:00 AM PST first day through 9:00 PM PST last day.
7. Captains are responsible for the accuracy of their rosters, insuring the eligibility of players in a division and their positions.
8. In addition to making the changes online, Captains must notify the following people of the specific changes during the roster change periods: all Captains in your division and the Executive Board members. Though not required, it is recommended that Captains also contact team Captains at your own club who play in the Division just lower and the Division just higher than your own

Division as well as the Captain(s) from your club who have teams in your same Division so that there are no inaccuracies in listing players as line players, rostered subs or sub up players on your own team.

9. Email addresses can be changed at any time. Captains can update their own phone numbers at any time. No other changes are allowed except during roster revision periods.

There is no grace period on any deadline. A point penalty will be assessed on late submissions or failing to make a roster change after being informed to do so by the Board.

## **B. ROSTERED LINE PLAYERS**

1. Rostered players and substitutes shall be “designated” to the one division and one line closest to their playing ability and in relation to their teammates.
2. A player rostered in a line position on a team may not sub for any other team in their same division. They may sub up to line 3, or the lowest possible line of the next higher division team within their own club.

## **C. ROSTERED SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS**

1. Rostered substitute players shall follow the same rules as rostered line players.
2. Rostered substitutes shall be designated to one division based on the same criteria as rostered line players.
3. Rostered subs in a division may sub up to line 3, or the lowest possible line of the next higher division team within their own club.
4. The substitutes must be listed on the sub list grouped in a division and as line 1, 2, or 3 subs based on their individual ability in relation to all rostered line players on the team as well as all rostered substitutes on the team. Listing the majority of subs on line 2 undermines the rostering rules and is subject to penalties if the Executive Board or the AGC so rules.
5. A club who has more than one team in the same division may share substitutes but cannot share rostered line players.
6. Any player or substitute is limited to playing an opposing team twice during a season, regardless of whether the player or substitute changes teams or clubs. If, however, a division has three rounds instead of two, the player or substitute can play an opposing team three times. It is the responsibility of

the team captains sharing the sub list to assure that this does not occur. If this rule is violated, the irregular match will be defaulted.

#### **D. PLAYERS FROM A LOWER DIVISION (“SUB UP” PLAYERS)**

1. Substitutes who normally play in a lower division as either rostered line players or rostered substitute players shall be listed on the upper division sub list with their own division and line designation. For example, a Division 2 player or substitute appearing on a Division 1 sub list must be listed as a Division 2 sub with their Division 2 line designation. When creating or changing rosters on the WTL web site, these players would be added to the higher division roster as a “Sub Up” player as indicated by the “up” arrow next to the player’s name.
2. If a substitute is shown without the lower division designation, she will be considered an upper division player and will not be permitted to play in the lower division.
3. Sub Up players are limited to playing on lowest line with a vacancy of an upper division player.
4. Sub-ups may never play more than 50 percent of the total matches in a season in the higher division.

#### **E. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEAM CAPTAIN**

1. All captains or team representatives are required to attend the fall and spring Captains’ meeting.
2. Captains will vote on Rule and Structure changes proposed by the Advisory Grievance Committee or Executive Board. Additional responsibilities are listed throughout these Rules and in the Structure.
3. All captains should have a copy of the current Friend at Court (The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations) and be familiar with USTA Rules and the Westside Tennis League “Rules” and “Structure and Organizational Procedures.”
4. It is recommended captains give their team members, including rostered substitutes, a schedule of play and these Westside Tennis League “Rules” and “Structure and Organizational Procedures”. This information is available online at our website: [www.westsidetennisleague.org](http://www.westsidetennisleague.org) than the Westside Tennis League.
5. Captains should be sure their teammates understand the procedures of a league match and these Rules.

6. The host captain or host acting captain shall contact the visiting captain or visiting acting captain before scheduled play to confirm the match and offer directions and information if needed. Either captain can initiate the contact.
7. All personal information appearing on the website may not be used for any purpose other than the Westside Tennis League.

#### **IV. MATCH PLAY**

##### **A. BEFORE THE MATCH BEGINS**

1. Three courts must be available by 9:00 a.m. for match players only.
2. Any club Pro or Team Coach will leave the match courts by 9:00 a.m. Team warm up with Pros will conclude by 9:00 a.m.
3. Warm-up begins at 9:00 a.m. Players are obligated to warm up the opponents if requested to do so for a minimum of 10 minutes. All warm-up serves must be taken before play begins.
4. The actual match shall start as soon as all players are ready and by the 9:30 forfeit time at the latest. There is no need to wait until the forfeit time.
5. The lineup sheets shall be exchanged as soon as both captains have all their players present or know the players will arrive before the 9:30 forfeit time.
6. The player's names must be written down prior to the simultaneous exchange of the lineups with each player's current line designation specified.
7. The Lineup shall be based on the team's own order of ability, with the strongest team on line 1.
8. Each captain should review the roster against the lineup of the opposing team before play begins to check if all opponents are eligible to play in the indicated position.

##### **B. TARDINESS AND FORFEITS**

1. If a player or doubles team is not on the court and ready to begin play at 9:30 a.m., her team forfeits the first set.
2. The match begins as soon as the late player arrives on the court. There is no late warm-up after 9:30 a.m.

3. If a player or doubles team is not on the court and ready to begin play at 9:45 a.m., her team forfeits the match. There is no grace period after 9:45 a.m. and a team must forfeit due to tardiness at 9:45 a.m.
4. In case of injury or “no-show”, a player may be replaced with a qualified sub within the scheduled time limit.
5. In the event of players arriving after 9:30 a.m., both captains or their representatives are permitted a 5-minute break to attend to the situation.
6. As soon as a captain is aware that her team will not be able to field six players, she shall notify the opposing captain. A team shall not delay notification or obscure information in an attempt to manipulate the opposing team’s line-up.
7. If a line 1 or line 2 player(s) is missing, the captain of the full team has the option to have all lines below the missing player(s) line wait until 9:45 a.m. to start so she can change her line-up if the opposing player fails to arrive. At 9:45, the team with the missing player must forfeit the match. The forfeit is written on line 3.
  - a. In the event of a one-match forfeit, the forfeit is written at the 3<sup>rd</sup> position, regardless of which players are absent. Both clubs may field any players they choose. All league rules are in effect and both clubs must still line up their teams in order of strength.
  - b. If two matches are forfeited, the forfeits are written at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> position; the match is written on the 1<sup>st</sup> line. In these cases, 3<sup>rd</sup> lie players can be shown on line 1. The non-forfeiting team may field any players they choose.
  - c. If the computer will not allow the scores to be entered because of an irregular line-up, contact the league Statistician.
8. In the event of a double forfeit (both clubs missing a team in the same position or otherwise on the day of a scheduled match), both clubs must take a loss.

### **C. RETIRED MATCHES**

1. Retirement is when a match cannot be completed because a player is ill, injured or has a personal emergency.
2. The retirement should be shown on the actual line where the match could not be completed as a loss for the team that retired, and a win for the opponents. The match is recorded in the player’s stats.

### **D. CANCELLED MATCHES**

1. Cancelled matches are those that never commenced.

2. In case of inclement weather or other causes outside the control of both teams, the match may be cancelled by mutual agreement from both captains and should be rescheduled as soon as possible. Captains should notify their respective teams about the cancellation.
3. To reschedule cancelled matches, the home team captain will provide three alternative dates and the visiting captain must pick one of these dates. This re-match date is considered as binding as a regularly scheduled match. The three alternative dates must be offered on the usual day the division plays, but teams can choose to play another day if it is mutually agreeable to both teams.
4. The hosting Captain should notify the WTL Statistician of both the cancellation and of the date the re-scheduled match will be played.
5. The same players do not have to play. Any forfeits that would have occurred on the cancelled day do not carry over to the rescheduled date.
6. All lines should play on the same day and the rematch date is considered as binding as a regularly scheduled match and cannot be changed even with notice.
7. When the re-scheduled match is completed, the scores for the match are reported on the date for which the match was originally scheduled.

#### **E. INTERRUPTED MATCHES**

1. Interrupted matches are those that must be stopped after they have begun because of causes beyond the control of both teams.
2. To reschedule interrupted matches, the home team captain will provide three alternative dates and the visiting captain must pick one of these dates. This re-match date is considered as binding as a regularly scheduled match. The three alternative dates must be offered on the usual day the division plays, but teams can choose to play another day if it is mutually agreeable to both teams.
3. Each individual from the original match must play in the re-match. The scoring, service order, end of court, etc. must start at the same point that the original match left off.
4. All lines do not have to play on the same day or at the same time. Each line may schedule their own re-match and they must convey all information regarding their rematch to their Captain.
5. The hosting captain will coordinate with the visiting captain so that all lines complete the re-match as scheduled and agreed upon.

6. If for any reason, a rescheduled line cannot be played at the time agreed upon, the line that cannot play must forfeit.
7. When a match is interrupted and cannot be completed, the forfeit should be shown on the actual line where the match cannot be completed.
8. The hosting Captain should notify the WTL Statistician of both the interrupted match and of the date(s) the re-match will be played.

#### **F. EFFORTS TO AVOID CANCELLED MATCHES DUE TO DAMP COURTS**

1. A match may be cancelled because of damp courts due to rain or heavy mist and additionally because of situations out of the control of the hosting team such as broken pipes, park court maintenance, etc.
2. Should both teams be at the match location at the appointed time and it is only then that the court conditions are assessed by the Captains to be unsafe, both teams must wait until 9:45 if there is any possibility that any of the courts will dry and be safe for match play. A longer wait is acceptable provided BOTH teams agree to wait.
3. If any available courts are playable, the teams should play on the playable courts and reschedule any line matches that could not be played. The matches should be played from the higher lines down unless otherwise agreed by both captains.
4. If there are insufficient playable courts, matches that need to be rescheduled may use different players. Any forfeits that would have occurred will carry over to the rescheduled date.
5. The matches that could not be played should be rescheduled on the same day and the re-match date will be considered as binding as a regularly scheduled match and cannot be changed even with notice.

#### **G. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATCH**

1. All match results are to be reported on-line by the home team captain within 48 hours of the match.
2. The visiting team captain must verify or dispute the scores within 24 hours of the score posting or match results will stand as recorded.
3. Repeated failure to correctly report scores or repeated failure to report scores in a timely fashion may result in a point penalty.

4. If a question occurs, the captain must contact the league statistician prior to submitting the match results.

## **V. RULES GOVERNING PLAY**

Westside Tennis League Rules shall prevail with USTA Rules and Regulation applied in all other matters.

Scoring shall be tournament “ad” scoring and best two out of three sets.

A set tiebreaker will be used at 6 games all using the Coman tie-breaker method as used in USTA play.

During a tie-break game, points are scored “Zero”, “1”, “2”, “3”, etc. The first player/team to win seven points wins the “Game” and “Set”, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent. If necessary, the tie-break game shall continue until this margin is achieved.

The player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point of the tie-break game from the deuce court. The following two points shall be served by the player in the same order as during that set and the serve shall start from the add court. After this, each player shall serve alternately for two consecutive points until the end of the tie-break game.

Ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the tiebreak.

The team whose turn it was to serve first in the tie-break game shall be the receiver in the first game of the following set.

### **A. CONTINUOUS PLAY**

1. Play shall be continuous and at a reasonable pace, in accordance with USTA Rules and the following provisions. Deliberate slowing between points and games is poor sportsmanship and should be discouraged.
2. Teams change ends at the end of the first game of each set. There is no rest period on the changeover after the first game of any set.
3. Teams will change court ends on odd games. At changeovers (other than the first of each set), players are entitled to a 90 second rest (from the last ball struck to the first of the next game).
4. At the end of the first set, a break of no longer than 120 seconds is allowed.

5. A rest period of no more than ten minutes is allowed between the second and third sets.
6. Play is at a reasonable pace and both the server and receiver have up to 25 seconds to prepare for the next point.
7. Bathroom visits should be taken prior to warm up and during the set break.
8. Emergency bathroom breaks are permitted anytime during a match, pursuant to USTA rule.

#### **B. RESTRICTIONS FOR COACHING AND SPECTATORS**

1. "Coaching" includes any advice given by teammates, spectators and coaches.
2. Once a match has started, coaching is permitted only between the second and third sets.
3. Coaches and players should not converse with each other during or pertaining to the match. If a coach needs to be consulted or serve as a lines person, players from their own club should approach them.
4. Teammates, coaches, and spectators are permitted to observe the match from no closer than the centerline of the adjacent court or an equivalent distance at the ends of the court. Players may request that spectators move further away.
5. No one (i.e. spectators, children, teammates, coaches or pets) is allowed on the court while play is in progress.
6. Players and coaches shall not cheerlead. A simple 'good shot' or a polite clap is appropriate. Captains are responsible for informing their teammates and coaches of this courtesy. Additionally, cell phones and pagers are distracting and are not permitted during Westside Tennis League matches. They must be made inaudible or turned off prior to the start of a match. There are no exceptions. If a cell phone or pager rings on a court during a WTL match, the opponent may claim a let for the first occurrence and the player must make the phone or pager inaudible or turn it off immediately. The offending player/team receives a penalty point if there is a second occurrence.

#### **B. LINE CALLS**

1. Any question about line calls, foot faults, etc. is to be resolved courteously. The USTA Code describes how to amicably resolve any question that may arise during a game.

2. Players are encouraged to ask someone to observe the match as a linesperson, if this is needed for the game to be played in a sportsmanlike manner.
3. Anyone may act as a linesperson. It is the presence of an observer that is important, not who it is. The linesperson must be acceptable to both teams
4. The linesperson's sole function is to uphold or overrule a call **only** when a player asks for an overrule of a call. The linesperson shall not call lines, nor give assistance in making a call nor give any opinion, unless specifically asked to overrule a call. Additionally, the linesperson may not converse with any of the players in the match even during changeovers as this could be interpreted as "coaching".
5. If an agreement cannot be reached, the match may be stopped and rescheduled when an agreed upon linesperson is available. If needed, captains may interrupt their own game for 5 minutes to be of assistance.

### **C. DISPUTED SCORES**

Methods of settling disputed scores, in order of preference.

1. Count agreed upon points and games and replay only disputed points or games.
2. Resume play from a mutually agreed upon score.
3. Flip a coin.

## **VI. GRIEVANCES, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND INTERPRETATION OF RULES**

Grievances and questions regarding interpretations of rules should be referred to the Advisory/Grievance Committee Chairperson.

If the Board or a WTL volunteer is treated abusively by a team member or team through correspondence or in person, the Board has the authority to file a grievance to the AGC.

### **A. RESOLUTION OF GRIEVANCES**

1. All players should make every attempt to resolve any conflict in a courteous manner.
2. Players should be able to amicably resolve any question that may arise during a game by referring the WTL and/or USTA rules or by any mutually agreeable solution, including asking someone to act as a linesperson.

3. If a situation cannot be resolved by the players while a match is in progress, the teams may halt their game to notify their respective captains. Team captains may interrupt their game for five minutes to help resolve the dispute. If the situation cannot be resolved in five minutes, the match should be played to completion. After the match, the captains and players should further attempt to resolve the issue, but if a resolution is not reached, either team may file a grievance after the match using the WTL website.
4. Every attempt should be made to resolve any conflict in a courteous manner and complete the match. Failure to complete the match will result in a forfeit by one or both teams as determined by the AGC.
5. If a formal grievance is filed with the AGC Chair, all pertinent information must be presented at the time the grievance is filed.
6. The AGC Chairperson will attempt to resolve the issue, consulting with the Executive Board as needed. If an agreement is still not reached, the Advisory Committee will meet and rule on the complaint. Prior to the meeting, the captains must send the AGC Chair a one-page summary including all pertinent details. At the committee meeting, the captains will be present only to answer any questions. No additional information can be presented at this time. The AGC will determine penalties in accordance with WTL and/or USTA rules.
7. All written grievances will be on record with the League indefinitely.

## **B. SPORTSMANSHIP**

1. If an individual, team or club receives one written grievance regarding sportsmanship, the Advisory Grievance Committee Chairperson will discuss the grievance with their Captain and ask that the Captain discuss the situation with those involved.
2. If an individual, team or club receives two written grievances regarding sportsmanship, occurring during different matches within a two-year period, the Advisory Grievance Committee shall meet to decide the penalties. Should the Committee find valid cause, it may suspend the individual, team or club from League play for a period of time to be determined by the Committee.

## **C. IRREGULARITIES FOUND AFTER FINISH OF PLAY**

1. If an irregularity occurs that was not known prior to the start of play, the irregularity should be brought to the attention of the opposing captain prior to contacting the Advisory Chairperson.

2. If the irregularity is a violation of the League rules, the Chairperson may call a default after the finish of play or refer it to the AGC to decide whether to issue a penalty.

## **VII. WINNING TEAMS**

1. A winning team is the team with the highest cumulative scoring during the season.
2. In case of a tie, only the scores from the two matches played between the tying teams are compared.
3. The team with the most points (a maximum of 6), wins.
4. If there is still a tie, the winner shall be the team with the fewest sets lost from the two matches played between the tying teams.
5. Forfeits are counted as a two-set win/loss. In case of a tie at that point, the tied teams shall share the win.
6. In the event that there is a tie at the end of the season, only the head to head round between the two teams in which the ineligible player was not used will be counted.

## **VIII. REQUIREMENTS TO MOVE UP OR DOWN A DIVISION**

### **A. REQUIREMENTS TO MOVE UP AND DOWN FOR INDIVIDUALS**

1. Statistics are kept on all players, including substitutes. The statistics are reviewed in June.
2. Players meeting the requirements listed below may only play at, or above, a designated division in the following season in which they participated. They are not permitted to play below that division without board approval.
3. Participation in a division will be defined as any players who played in 49% or more of the matches in a division per season. This rule applies to both rostered line players and rostered substitutes.
4. Any player who:
  - a. played in 49% or more of the matches at the highest line during a season and;
  - b. won 85% or more of those matches on the highest line will be required to play no lower than the next higher division.
5. The exception to "4" above is in the case of a player in the highest division, whereby such a player shall be asterisked, and her play limited as follows:
  - a. the asterisked player may only play on Line 1 in the highest division;

- b. only one asterisked player per team may play per match;
  - c. a player's asterisked designation shall remain in effect for two full seasons, after which time a player may petition the Board for a Line 1 designation if such player no longer meets the specifications to remain asterisked.
6. The requirement to move to a higher division remains in effect for up to two years. If a player does not participate in WTL for two years following being required to move up, her placement is subject to review by the Board upon her return.
  7. The Executive Board's approval is required for any player moving down a division. The board may prevent a player from moving down a division, before or during a season if the player is deemed too strong for the lower division. Requests to move down a division must be sent in writing to the WTL President.

#### **B. REQUIREMENTS TO MOVE UP FOR EXISTING TEAMS**

1. Only a team that has won their division may apply to the Executive Board to move up to the next Division.
2. The Executive Board will evaluate whether a team can move up a Division by considering the guidelines in "4" below and other pertinent information, as well as what would be in the best interest of the entire league and each division.
3. The President will notify the teams of the level at which they may play in a timely manner.
4. Some of the guidelines are whether the winning team:
  - a. Won their division two consecutive years;
  - b. Has a minimum of four players with 80% or higher overall percentage;
  - c. Has a winning percentage of at least 20 percentage points higher than the team which finished in second place behind the winning team.
5. The Executive Board has the discretion to move the last place team down if there is no room in a level and to move an existing team up a level based on the proposed roster, level of play and diversity of clubs at the level.

#### **C. REQUIREMENT FOR NEW OR RECONFIGURED TEAMS**

1. A reconfigured team is defined as two existing teams combining to form one team or an existing team splitting into two with the addition of new players.

2. The level at which a new or reconfigured team play will be determined by the Executive Board, based on the proposed roster, level of play, and diversity and number of clubs at that level.