

# North Suburban Tennis Federation

## Playing Rules

### **RULES, SCHEDULING AND SCORING**

Currently the Federation consists of five Leagues. "B" plays on Sunday morning at 9:00 am and "Friday B", "C", "D", and "E" play on Friday evening at 6:00 pm. Tradition has been that as new teams join the Federation, they are placed in the bottom League. When that League gets to eleven members it is split into two Leagues with the higher ranking League having eight teams and the balance forming the new or lower ranking League. When all other situations are right, it is the preference to have all Leagues with ten members. In no event may a League have less than four nor more than twelve members.

Regardless of any written By-Laws or Playing Rules, if the two opposing Captains agree, changes can be made in the match site or time of the match. If the Captains cannot agree, then the rules prevail, and they shall be interpreted and applied by the League Chairman. Only when he and the two Captains cannot come to an agreeable interpretation of the rules shall the League Chairman make a unilateral decision. If his decision is formally protested by either of the Team Captains involved, then and only then, will the matter be brought before the President of Federation or the entire Federation Board. Team Captains have one week from the Date a match was played, or was scheduled if it was not played, to bring their protest to the League Chairman.

The formal protest must be made to the Federation President in writing and it must be accompanied by a \$50 protest fee. This fee will be returned if the protest is upheld and the League Chairman is overruled by the Federation Board. The Captain has one week after filing the protest with the League Chairman to bring his protest to the League President.

### **I. RULES**

- A. Each meet shall consist of five men's doubles matches (2 out of 3 sets).
  1. **Eligibility** - All players must be members of the Club they represent.
    - a. Players must be 21 years of age before playing in a match in the Federation..
    - b. Any player currently deriving income from playing and/or teaching MAY NOT PARTICIPATE.
    - c. Any player participating in Sunday Open League (not sponsored by the NSTF) MAY NOT PARTICIPATE.
    - d. Once a player has played three (3) or more matches on any other team in any other higher League in the Federation during the current season, he MAY NOT PARTICIPATE on the lower level team for the balance of that season.
      - (1). It is in the interest and spirit of the Federation that a player who would ordinarily play on a higher level team not be used on a lower level team for the first two meets of the season or at any other time.

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- (2). *If a Club has two teams in the same League, they will be treated as separate teams. Players may move up to the #1 Team (containing the higher ranked, better players) from #2 Team on only two occasions, but may not move from #1 down to #2.*
- e. Rosters must be turned in to the appropriate League Chairman by the first match of the season **without exception** and no one may participate if he is not on the roster. Any change in the roster after the initial roster must be communicated to the League Chairman promptly and in writing.
- (1). No player may appear on more than one roster in the Federation. In a case where a player belongs to more than one Club, that player must choose which Club he will play for, but he cannot play for more than one Club. It shall be the responsibility of each team Captain to inform each player on his team of this rule and make appropriate adjustments if any player is affected.
- (2). No player may be added to any roster after July 1 unless the player is already on a roster of a lower ranked team of that Club.
- (3). For a player to be eligible the last two (2) weeks of the regular season the player must have played at least one match that year for the team or a lower ranked team of the Club they are rostered on.
- (4). If the two team Captains agree, prior to the match, an otherwise ineligible player may play the match.
- e. A team using an ineligible player shall forfeit all five (5) courts to their opponents if discovered after play begins. If an ineligible player is discovered before play begins the court on which the ineligible player was to have played will be defaulted.

2. **Postponements** - Valid postponements must be made up before the following week's next match at a time and place mutually agreed upon by both team Captains. Individual matches may be played on different days if necessary. If the Captains cannot agree on time and/or place, then both teams will receive a default for matches not played.

- a. Inclement weather shall NOT be considered a valid postponement. Inclement weather shall be defined as rain or temperatures in excess of 95 degrees at match time. It is the responsibility of the home team Captain to arrange indoor court facilities, and to notify the opposing Captain early enough to allow him to contact his team. The court costs are to be shared equally in this situation, but it is still the responsibility of the home team Captain to provide balls and liquid refreshments.
- (1). If indoor facilities could not be arranged, the meet must be played before the following week's next match at a time and place mutually agreed upon by both team Captains. Individual matches may be played on different days if necessary. If the Captains cannot agree on time and/or place, the visiting team Captain will have preference in this case.
- (2). In the unlikely, but not impossible, event of a mid-match "rainout", the two Captains and the League Chairman will rule on the procedures to be followed to complete the match or matches still in progress. However, all sets, games, and

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points will count and the match will resume from that point. If procedures were not clearly defined in advance of a match, and the players do not choose to complete the match before the next weeks match the following Rainout rule will be used:

If a match is rained out during the first set, the match will be split.

If a match is rained out during the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> set, if one team is ahead by 2 or more games it wins the set. If neither team is ahead by 2 games the set does not count.

Thus the possible outcomes are:

Rainout in 1<sup>st</sup> set – Match is split

Rainout in 2<sup>nd</sup> set – If the team that won the 1<sup>st</sup> set is ahead by 2 or more games it wins the set and the match. If the team that lost the 1<sup>st</sup> set is ahead by 2 or more games it wins the set and the match is split. If neither team is ahead by 2 or more games the team that won the first set wins the match.

Rainout in 3<sup>rd</sup> set – If one team is ahead by 2 or more games it wins the set, and the match. If neither team is ahead by 2 or more games the match is split.

3. **Defaults** - When a forfeit occurs due to the inability of a team to produce five doubles pairs, courts are forfeited in inverse order from Court #1. That is, Court #5 is forfeited first, Court #4 second, and so on. The forfeiting team does not have the right to designate the courts to be forfeited.

- a. If an individual match is not started within twenty (20) minutes of the scheduled starting time after play begins on the other courts, the first set will AUTOMATICALLY be defaulted by the offending team. If the second set is not started within forty (40) minutes of the scheduled starting time the entire match will be AUTOMATICALLY defaulted.
- b. IF ANY TEAM IN ANY LEAGUE FORFEITS 35% OR MORE OF THEIR SCHEDULED COURTS FOR THE SEASON, THEY MAY BE EXPELLED FROM THIS FEDERATION.
- c. It is suggested that if a team is going to default a court or courts, the team Captain involved should notify the opposing team Captain by Friday noon (or earlier) rather than late Friday afternoon or at the time of the match. This courtesy, if followed, will prevent players from having to rush to a match and find that they are not going to play.

4. **Rankings** - It is a violation of the rules for a Captain to deliberately rank his players in a sequence that does not coincide with their abilities. This tactic is dishonest and unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated. It is perfectly acceptable for a Captain to use his ten players in any pairings he chooses. Once these pairings are made, however, they must then play in the correct order of their abilities.

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5. **Team Withdrawals Before or During The Season** - When a team withdraws after schedules have been made up, the schedules will be redone if possible or if not possible, a "Bye" will exist in place of the withdrawing team(s). When a team withdraws during the season, the League Chairman will immediately advise all of the remaining clubs in the League and the N.S.T.F. President of the withdrawal. The schedules will not be revised, but it will be understood that the Clubs still on the schedule of the withdrawing team will have a "Bye" the week they are scheduled to play the withdrawing team. The League Chairman shall immediately revise the standings as follows: all points won against the withdrawing team will be subtracted from the totals of those Clubs that played the withdrawing team and the team that withdrew will no longer be listed on the standings.

6. **Playoffs** - If the first two or last two teams in the final standings of any League are tied, then the results of the regularly scheduled meet played between those two teams will determine the final standings. In case of a three way tie for either first or last, the results of the regularly scheduled meets between those three teams will determine the final standings. Should a tie still exist, the League Chairman will set up a playoff system to determine the final results.

7. **Challenges** - In the place of the challenge matches, the last place team in a League will automatically change places with the team that finished first in the League below.

8. **Playing Surface** - When the home Club is unable to provide five courts with a uniform surface for whatever reason, the VISITING CAPTAIN will specify which courts will play on which surface.

9. **Starting Time** - When the home Club is unable to provide five courts with the same starting time for whatever reason, the VISITING CAPTAIN will specify which courts will play at which time.

B. Between the annual Board of Directors meetings, the President and Vice-President - with the consent of the League Chairman of the league or the Chairmen of the leagues affected - may adjust the "Playing Rules" governing this Federation to remedy the situation that necessitated the change. The change(s) may be made permanent at the next Board of Directors meeting.

## II. **SCHEDULING**

A. The Scheduling Chairman shall use the following as a general guideline:

1. Each team will play at least one meet against every other team in their League.
2. Each team will play approximately half of its meets at home and half away.
3. Each team will be the home team to different teams each year, where possible.
4. The season will run from eight to ten weeks in length, with the Scheduling Chairman (with the approval of Federation Board) making the decisions relative to

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the starting dates, playing on the Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekend, and the ending dates for each League. If the Fourth of July falls on Friday through Monday, no meets will be scheduled.

### III. SCORING

A. Scoring will be on the basis of individual doubles matches won in each meet. The final standings will be determined on the basis of the individual match wins during the season. For each league, commissioners and captains will select from one of two scoring methods for the season.

Method 1: One point for each court won

Method 2: One point for each set won.

B. Should any set reach six all, a twelve point tiebreaker system will be employed as follows:

1. The team which first wins seven (7) points shall win the game and the set, provided it leads by a margin of two or more points. If the score of the tiebreaker reaches six all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been reached. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tiebreaker.
2. The team and player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point, which shall be served from the "deuce" court. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winners of the game and the set have been decided. The server of the second and third points (and points thereafter) shall serve from the left, or "add" court and then from the right, or "deuce" court.
3. Players change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tiebreaker. Note that after every change of ends, the server will be serving his second serving point from the right, or "deuce" court.
4. The team that served first in the set that ended in a tiebreaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.