

Northern Illinois Traveling Tennis League Rules 2015-16

Ladies Division Names for 2015-16

Div. 1 – American

Div. 1 – Central

Div. 1 – National

Div. 2 – American

Div. 2 – Central

Div. 2 – Liberty

Div. 2 – National

Div. 3 – American

Div. 3 – Central

Div. 3 – National

Div. 4 – American

Div. 4 – Central

Div. 4 – National

Centre Court Athletic Club – Hanover Park
Challenge Fitness – Lockport
Courts Plus – Elmhurst
Five Seasons Family Sports Club – Burr Ridge
Five Star Tennis Center – Plainfield
Health Bridge Fitness Center – Huntley
HealthTrack Sports Wellness – Glen Ellyn
Hinsdale Racquet Club
Midtown Athletic Club – Willowbrook
Naperville Tennis Club
Norris Recreation Center – St. Charles
Oak Brook Tennis Center
Rush-Copley Healthplex – Aurora
Score Tennis & Fitness – Countryside
The South Barrington Club
The Tennis and Fitness Centre – Oak Park
Vaughan Athletic Center – Aurora
Wheaton Sport Center

I. Line-ups

- A. The home team must have their line-up ready and at the front desk when the visiting team captain arrives to play. The visiting club must immediately turn in their line-up. The visiting team may not look at the home team line-up before writing their line-up. If the home team does not have their line-up the visiting team is under no obligation to turn in their line-up until the line-up of home team is completed and available. If no one from the visiting team has a line-up the home team is under no obligation to show their line-up to the visiting team until they have filled out a line-up sheet. Repeated violations are subject to \$20 fines.
- B. Last minute substitutions are allowed when someone who would otherwise be eligible to play fills in for someone who hasn't showed up for the scheduled match. This player must take the spot of the missing player. The line-up cannot be changed, nor can the court assignments without the approval of the opposing team's captain. The addition of this player cannot jeopardize breaking the stacking rule.

II. Pre-match Rules

- A. Even if your match starts late, you still finish at the scheduled ending time. This rule can be altered only if all players on the court agree to a different ending time, and an authorized person at the home facility allows it. This is meant for matches starting late because an NITTL match is still on court and forces the late start of the next match.
- B. If any of the scheduled courts are open when a match is supposed to begin, they must be used. If court 3 is open, but there is a tense match still going on court 2, the players assigned on court 3 should still start their warm-up on time.
- C. All facilities must have a bell, buzzer, timers or easy to see digital clock(s) of some sort that officially ends a match.

- D. All cell phones should be turned off when the match begins. If a cell phone goes off during a point it is a one point penalty. If a cell phone goes off, but a point is not in progress there is no penalty and the phone should be turned off immediately.
- E. Players warming up before a match should finish and attend to all necessary off-court situations before the start of the match. Players should be going on court at the scheduled match time. It is inconsiderate to finish a pre-match warm-up before the start of the match, and then leave the court to go to the locker room, and then arrive on court late for the start of the match.

III. Match Play Rules

A. Warm-up / Late arrivals

1. Ten-minute warm-up
2. If a warm-up starts late due to rule II. A., the players are still entitled to a full ten-minute warm-up.
3. Late arrival time begins when the player is on court ready to play.
4. The home team clock is the official clock when determining penalties.
5. Players who are late miss as many minutes of warm-up as they are late. (If a player is five minutes late, the player receives five minutes of warm-up; nine minutes late, one minute of warm-up.)
6. Players who are 10-19 minutes late get no warm-up.
7. Players who are 20-29 minutes late, default the first set 6-0, and get no warm-up. You must announce to the late team that they have forfeited the first set. You cannot finish the match and go back and claim that the team was late and forfeited the first set.
8. If a player is 30 or more minutes late, default the entire match.

B. On-court rules

1. All matches will be 90 minutes, except those starting late as mentioned in rule II.A.
2. No-ad scoring.
3. Best two of three sets.
4. 12-point tie-breaker at 6-6 of any set.
5. Switch sides at the completion of each set.
6. If Team A wins the first set and the second set cannot be completed within the 90-minute time frame and Team A is losing the second set, then the match ends in a tie.
7. If Team A wins the first set and the second set cannot be completed within the 90-minute time frame and Team A is tied or ahead in the second set, then Team A wins the match.
8. If teams split sets and there is between 10:00 - 5:00 minutes left to play, teams switch sides and play a 12-point tie-breaker for the match. Do not switch sides every six points.
9. If teams split sets and there is between 4:59 – 0:01 minutes left to play, the match ends in a tie. Please note that the time left is determined at the conclusion of the last point. Thus, if there is 5:01 time left when the last point ended, but there is only 4:20 by the time the server is ready to serve, the tie-breaker must still be played.
10. If teams split sets and more than 10 minutes remain, teams switch sides and start a third set and play as many games as possible until time runs out.
11. While playing a game, if time runs out, finish that game and count it.
12. In either the second or third set, if a game ends and there is any time left (even one second), you must play another game even if you cannot begin this game before the 90-minute time limit expires. When a game ends, you must immediately notify your opponent if there is any time remaining. If you notify your opponent of this rule and

they refuse to continue, they will lose the next game and suffer the result of this game forfeit.

- a. Do not deliberately slow down the game as the 90-minute time limit approaches.
 - b. Games are played to the reasonable pace of the server.
 - c. The maximum amount of time between points is 20 seconds.
13. Players are allowed a bathroom break if it is necessary. Players are not allowed to use this rule for the purposes of getting water or some other benefit from leaving the court.
14. Unless everyone on court agrees to allow someone to leave the court for something other than a necessary bathroom break, ANYONE WHO CHOOSES TO LEAVE THE COURT, EVEN FOR WATER, AUTOMATICALLY DEFAULTS THE MATCH. Facilities requiring mothers to change their baby's diaper is an acceptable reason to leave the court without being penalized. The match must have started for this rule to be enforceable. There are other possible reasons that are justifiable to leave the tennis court besides changing a baby's diaper. If a club plans to enforce this rule they should keep in mind that it is possible the reason for leaving the court might be found to be acceptable. Keep in mind the reasoning of this rule, which is to not allow a team a way to intentionally slow down a match they may be leading. Assessing this penalty needs to happen at the time of the violation, not later after the match is completed.

C. Stacking

SPECIAL NOTE: Proving a team has intentionally stacked is very difficult. There is nothing that ruins a match more than playing against people nowhere near the proper ability level of a particular court. In the event a team files a complaint against a team they will need to present clear evidence on paper. Merely saying what you feel is an obvious stack is not nearly enough. At the end of the rules is how stacking complaints will be handled.

In the end, the tennis pros are responsible for team line-ups. It is understood that some teams allow captains to make their match line-up, however it will not be the captain who must answer to any incidents of stacking. It is the pros who will be required to deal with this issue. Please monitor this closely and carefully.

1. Teams are expected to have their line-up in proper order of strength.
2. Minor adjustments in line-ups such as switching your usual #1 court to #2 is not considered stacking. This may occur because of a challenge match victory or the #2 team having a better record than the #1 team.
3. Playing your best player on a lower court with a weak player in doubles is not stacking. Be careful with the interpretation of this rule. Especially if you do this LATE in the season, since it might be determined stacking was clearly the intent.
4. Playing a team on court 3 or 4 that has demonstrated success on higher courts would be an example of stacking.
5. Another form of stacking is playing your #4 team on 1, #1 team on 2, #2 team on 3 and #3 team on 4.
6. Should a team wish to file a stacking complain, we ask that you follow the stacking procedure listed at the end of the rules.
7. Unless the alleged stacking occurred against your club, you cannot file a stacking complaint.

8. Should a team be found guilty of stacking the following monetary fine will be assessed: \$50 + cost of one court (4 players).

STACKING PROCEDURE

Should a team believe another team has is guilty of stacking, the following procedure will be required:

- A. An email must be sent to Jay Huffer and the opposing facility within one week of the match.
- B. The complaining club needs to put down in words the facts regarding why you feel the opposing club is guilty of stacking.
 1. Avoid being subjective. Stick to the facts. Stating, "I've played 3.5 for six years and she is by far the best player I've ever seen at this level...." is not factual. This is merely your subjective assessment of her playing ability.
 2. The history of any club has no bearing on our decision.
- C. The club accused of stacking will be contacted by Jay as soon as the complaint has been received. Jay will make sure they also receive the complaint. The club will have no more than five days to respond to the complaint. The response should only be based on facts.
- D. Once Jay has both sides, they will confer and render a decision. If I rule against the club, they may appeal our decision by following the APPEAL PROCEDURE listed after stacking procedure.
- E. Should a stacking complaint be leveled against HealthTrack, Lori Mills will replace Jay.
- F. On the last week of the season, or in the playoffs, if there is a stacking complaint it must be sent by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the match. The club having the complaint against them must also be included in the email. This team will have 24 hours to respond. Both the complaint and response will be immediately sent to the appeal committee for a decision. Jay will not make an initial decision. The Appeal Committee will respond within 24 hours. Morrie will put a notice up on the website where the standings are located stating that a stacking complaint is in the process of being resolved and the final result will be posted as soon as Morrie is notified.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Should Jay rule against a club and that club wishes to appeal, the following is how to appeal the decision. This decision is final.

- A. Only the information given to Jay will be sent out in an email to the Appeal Committee. Under no circumstances will any additional evidence be allowed to be sent regarding the decision. Jay does not get a vote.
- B. The majority vote is the final decision.

IV. Defaults / Forfeits

Definition: A forfeit is when a team knows in advance of a match that their team will be short at least one court. A default occurs when you are expecting a team (player) to be in attendance for the match, but the team (player) either does not show or shows up after the 30 minute default time.

- A. If you are unable to have a full team, please call your opponent as soon as possible so that they may call their players and inform them that they do not have a match.
- B. Forfeits will start with the bottom court (court 4) and move up.
- C. When you call and forfeit any amount of courts you cannot undo any of the forfeit without the consent of the opposing club.
- D. When you forfeit, your facility is responsible to pay for your half of the court revenue that the home club lost if you call by 5:00 PM the day before the match. Clubs can check their default

money status by logging into their club at the NITTL website and selecting “View Default Money Status”.

- E. If you call and forfeit courts after 5:00 PM the day before the match, your facility is responsible to pay for both halves of the court revenue. One court of ladies doubles will be either \$28 (half) or \$56 (both halves).
- F. A team that forfeits an entire match in the last three weeks of the season must pay both halves plus an additional \$100 fee regardless of when the forfeit is called in.

V. Eligibility

- A. All players must be 19 or older.
- B. College students (19 or older) who play tennis for their school can play after completing their college schedule.
- C. Players may play for one club only in this league, regardless of the division you play in.
- D. Playing someone deemed to be ineligible or illegal results in either a forfeit of that court and all courts below or just the forfeit of that one court. Decisions will be made by Jay and can be appealed to the Appeals Committee.
- E. Tennis teaching pros are eligible to compete. They may participate at whatever level their ability allows them to compete.
- F. You must be a member of the club you play for and have paid the membership dues that the club advertises it charges their members. There is no time limit on catching a player who has violated this rule. Players playing under rule V.E. are not subject to this rule. If contacted by Jay, a club must produce proof of an individual’s membership.
- G. There is a maximum of four weeks from the time a match was played for a team to catch an illegal player and have the rules applied for playing the illegal player. Please note that there is a one-week rule for a stacking complaint.
- H. There is no restriction on the level of play of players who compete at Div. I American.

VI. Rosters

- A. Players cannot be put on a roster unless they meet Rule V.F. which states: You must be a member of the club you play for and have paid the membership dues that the club advertises it charges their members. Teaching pros of the club are not subject to this rule.
- B. Ladies team rosters must be updated and completed online no later than the day and time of their first match. The penalty is \$50 per day the rosters are not completed.
- C. There is no limit to the amount of players on a roster.
- D. If a player had a winning record on the team they ended the season rostered on, that person may only be rostered on a lower team the following season if no team exists at the level they finished the season rostered. If the club has a team at a higher level, it may be required to roster that player on the higher team based on the players results and how much higher the next team is playing. Players must have at least five matches played to apply this rule. If you feel you have an exception to this rule please provide a detailed explanation and email it to Jay for a ruling.
- E. A player with a losing record from the previous season cannot be rostered on a higher level team the following season. Listed below are additions to this rule.
 - Anyone wishing to appeal this rule must send the appeal to Jay. The appeal should detail predominately NITTL data why the player should be allowed to be rostered on a higher team.

- Players in this category who are rostered properly (at the same level or lower from the previous season) cannot, by use of subbing up, be re-rostered to a higher level team than the previous season.
 - Players who fall in this category of having a losing record the previous season are allowed to sub up to any higher level teams (from the previous season) as long as they only sub up a maximum of six times.
 - There may be circumstances that would allow a player in this category to sub up a seventh time and join a higher level team from the previous season, however it would revolve strictly around match play results in the current season.
- F. There will be a ROSTER APPEAL COMMITTEE consisting of three individuals who will consider appeals from clubs regarding players they wish to roster who fall into Rule VI.D. and Rule VI.E. The three individuals for 2015-16 are Jay Huffer (HealthTrack), Dali Mahajlovic (Hinsdale) and Conni Stinek (Crystal Lake). Should any of these clubs need to make an appeal on behalf of their club Carey Powell (SCORE) will be the third member of the committee.
- G. There will be an APPEAL COMMITTEE consisting of three individuals who will consider appeals from clubs regarding players who fall into Rule VI.M. and Rule VI.N. The three individuals for 2015-16 are Jay Huffer (HealthTrack), Dali Mahajlovic (Hinsdale) and Lori Mills (Wheaton). Should any of these clubs need to make an appeal on behalf of their club Mike Lange (Rush Copley will be the third member of the committee.
- H. Players whose appeals were granted will be listed on the NITTL website in the standings tab.
- I. When a team has four matches (or less) left to play in the season, they cannot roster any NEW players. Ladies subbing up a seventh time from an existing team can be rostered.
- J. If “NOT ROSTERED” is selected for a player name on a score sheet in the online system, a system email will be sent to the team that has the unrostered players. The coordinator of that facility has five days to respond or that player will be rostered on the team for which they played.
- K. Playing a non-rostered player who is “in level” will be a one court forfeit. Playing a non-rostered player who is determined by the appeals committee to be “out of level” will be a four-court forfeit.
- L. At the NITTL preseason meeting in August, all teams are subject to being moved to a different level than a club may wish. Some factors that determine possible movement include whether a team has close to the same roster as the previous season, what place they finished the previous season, what was the team’s winning percentage the season before, who are the new players on a team and how many teams are in the division above and below them.
- M. Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule:
AUTOMATIC FORCED MOVEMENT UPWARD:
 A player must move to a higher NITTL team if she meets the following criteria for her last season played:
 - She played in at least half the scheduled matches
 - Of the matches she played, she played court one in at least half of them.
 - Her OVERALL winning percentage was 75% or better. This means counting the matches when she played on courts below court 1.
 - Matches only count at the level the player is rostered. Match results from subbing up do not count towards the overall percentage.**AUTOMATIC FORCED MOVEMENT DOWNWARD:**
 A player must move to a lower NITTL team if she meets the following criteria for her last two seasons played:

- Each season she played in at least half the scheduled matches
- Of the matches she played, she played court four in at least half of them.
- Each season her OVERALL winning percentage was 25% or lower. This means counting the matches when she played on courts above court 4.
- Matches only count at the level the player is rostered. Match results from subbing up do not count towards the overall percentage.

The UPWARD movement rule does not apply to Div. 1 American. The DOWNWARD movement rule does not apply to Div. 4 National.

Any player who is forced to move upward or downward because of the Automatic Forced Player Movement rule can have it appealed. In this case we will use the following procedure:

- The Appeal must first go to Jay Huffer explaining why the person should not be subject to the forced movement.
- The three-person Appeal Committee (which Jay is on) will vote and make a final decision.

N. POST SEASON PLAYER COMPLAINT RULE:

At the completion of the 2015-16 postseason, there will be a 30 day time frame to make a player complaint to either force a player to move up (or down) even if they do not meet the criteria of the Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule. The complaint must be made by a pro at a club, and not by team players or captains. In 2016, the 30 day time period will be May 14 – June 15. Here are some examples of possible legitimate complaints:

- An individual plays ten matches. She plays all of them on Ct. 1 and wins them all. None went three sets. This player did not play half the scheduled matches so she is not subject to the Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule.
- Same as above, but a clever captain played her five times on Ct. 1, four times on Ct. 2 and once on Ct. 3.
- An individual is a match or two short of playing court 1 to qualify for the Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule, but she has a winning percentage of 88%.
- An individual qualifies to have the rule applied to her, but her overall winning percentage is 73%, but she subbed up six times and won all six only losing one set. Remember, those six wins are not counting towards her winning percentage (73% in this case), only at the level she is rostered does it count.
- A lady plays Ct. 2 all season long. She never plays court 1, but also never plays court 3 or 4 and her overall winning percentage is over 90%.
- In season 1 a lady meets the criteria to move down. In season 2, she does not qualify for the rule because she was played one extra time on a higher court so that she didn't quite play half her matches on court 4, and her winning percentage is again at .250 or lower.

In these instances, if a complaint is made against an individual, the club will be notified that a complaint has been made about a certain player and they will have a chance to respond. The complaint and response will then be sent to the Appeal Committee for a final decision.

VII. Substitutions

- A. Once placed on a roster, a player may not sub down.
- B. Players may “sub up” on more than one team.
- C. When a player subs up a seventh time, they are now officially rostered on that team. They are no longer eligible to sub again.
- D. Subbing up a seventh time is not allowed under the following conditions:
 - The player falls into Rule VI.E. (had a losing record the last season they played)
 - The team they’d be subbing a seventh time for is higher than the level they played their last season.

After subbing up six times a club can appeal that player to the Roster Appeal Committee to determine if the player should be allowed to play that seventh match and be rostered on the higher team.
- E. A player may “sub up” a total of six times during the season. If you sub up three times on one team and three times on another team, you are at your maximum. This is six total substitutions.
- F. If a player is eligible to sub up a seventh time, the team they play for in the seventh match is now the team they are rostered. They can’t be rostered on another team they subbed up for.
- G. Players may not sub to another team at the same level they are rostered.
- H. When subbing a player up the opposing team has the right to file a stacking complaint if they feel they can prove the sub played on too high a court.

VIII. Match Postponements / Rescheduling

- A. Either team may call the opposing club for the postponement of a match due to inclement weather. Rain is not an acceptable reason for postponement.
- B. Postponed matches must be rescheduled within three weeks. This doesn’t mean the match must be played within three weeks. It means the clubs must agree upon any date in the future, but they only have three weeks to determine that date.
- C. It is the home team’s responsibility to contact the away club and decide upon a reschedule date. Both clubs must agree to the rescheduled date. The home team must immediately notify Morrie Marino of the rescheduled date.
- D. If an effort was made to reschedule a postponed match but it was not possible, the match result will be 0-0. The home team does not have to give up the “home”.
- E. When a facility has two or more teams in the same division and those teams are scheduled against each other, they must play the match on the scheduled date or earlier. If a team does not have enough players for the match, then they need to forfeit courts just like a regular match. The penalty will be one of two decisions. Decision #1 will be to give one team a 4-0 victory and it will be the team we feel hurts the club the most. Decision #2 will be to officially declare the match 0-0 so neither team can benefit. The decision will be decided by the Appeal Committee.
- F. Failure to have a match rescheduled within the three-week time period, results in the home team forfeiting the match. The visiting team must contact Jay and notify him that three weeks have passed and the home team didn’t contact the visiting team about a reschedule. The visiting team is not required to make the initial contact to reschedule the match. If the home team claims they did attempt to contact the visiting team, an email must be a part of the initial contact. This provides proof. Without the email proof, the ruling will be in favor of the visiting team. Even sending an email to Jay saying you called the visiting team on that date will be considered acceptable. In order for the visiting team to claim the forfeit they must contact Jay

within four weeks of the three-week time period. If this doesn't happen the match will be recorded as 0-0.

IX. Enforcement of Rules / Appeals Committee

- A. Regardless of the circumstances, if a rules violation has a specific penalty associated with it, the penalty will be applied.
- B. Should a penalty be applied for a rules violation the facility has the right to appeal the decision.
- C. The APPEAL COMMITTEE for 2015-16 will be Jay Huffer (HealthTrack), Lori Mills (Wheaton) and Dali Mahajlovic (Hinsdale). The first and second alternates will be Mike Lange (Rush Copley) and Ginger Boyce (Naperville), respectively.

X. Match Fees

Match Fee for 2015-16: \$14.00

XI. Babysitting

- A. Every facility must offer babysitting during match times.
- B. A club notified of babysitting needs 24 hours or more in advance is required to provide the service. Failure to provide the service will be the home team forfeiting one court. If the babysitting service is notified less than 24 hours before the match, the home team bears no responsibility if it has to turn down the request.
- C. Facilities that require advance notice of babysitting cannot turn down the visiting team if the person calls within the prescribed time. If a player is denied babysitting, that club (person) should immediately contact Jay Huffer (630) 348-5381 and they will try to remedy the situation.
- D. Any club having special babysitting rules is required to email a copy of those rules to Morrie Marino at morrie@nittl.com
- E. Facilities are not allowed to charge more than \$8.00 per child (not per hour).

XII. Division Winners

- A. Division winners will be based on the best won/lost percentage. Ties remain ties regardless of tiebreaking procedures detailed in the playoffs.
- B. Any team finishing with a winning percentage of 70% or higher, must move a minimum of two players off the team to a higher level if you have a team at a higher level. If you don't have a higher team, some players may be deemed ineligible because of their record on higher courts. This will be decided on an individual basis.
- C. Any team finishing with a winning percentage of 30% or lower, must move a minimum of two players off the team to a lower level if you have a team at a lower level.

XIII. Playoffs

- A. The week after the final matches, playoffs will be held in all divisions.
- B. The higher seeded team will be declared the home team. Morrie will notify both the home and away teams who their opponent is.
- C. On the last Friday afternoon of the regular season all home teams must email Morrie their clubs home match day/time. This also applies the following Friday for all teams hosting matches in the playoff finals.

- D. If a team knows they have to forfeit a first round playoff match, the next best team is added to the playoffs and all seeding is redone based on the teams that are participating.
- E. If a team wins its first round match, and has to forfeit its next match, the team they defeated in the first match is reinstated in their place.
- F. You must have played in at least five matches to be eligible to compete in the playoffs. Your five matches can include matches played at a different level.
- G. Playoff teams may have players “sub up” who have met the five matches played rule.
- H. In the playoffs, the matches will be under the same rules as regular season matches unless both facilities agree to a different set of rules. This may include having no time limit, or removing no-ad scoring.
- I. As in the regular season, stacking in not allowed in the playoffs.
- J. Teams must play their playoff matches on the same day as they played their regular season matches. The time may be changed to whatever they want. The home team may contact the opposing team and request a day change, but the opposing team is under no obligation. Teams in first and second place near the end of the season should make sure this does not become an issue by making sure the court availability is there. The one exception to this rule is if too many teams from a particular club earn a home playoff match and there isn’t enough court availability, then a team can schedule a home match on a day different than it’s normal home match day.
- K. In the event of a 2-2 tie, the winner will be determined in the following order:
 - 1. The team that lost the fewest sets wins.
 - 2. The team that lost the fewest games (total of all courts) wins.
 - 3. Each team picks any two players to represent their team in a 10-point match tiebreaker. In this instance the players will switch sides every six points.
- L. Players who show up for a match, but win by default may count this as an official match towards being playoff eligible. This does not apply when matches are forfeited with proper notification. Matches that end in the retirement of a player also count towards an official match and being playoff eligible. A retirement is when a match starts (including warm-up) and a player cannot finish the match.
- M. If there are 5 or more teams in a league division the top four teams will be in the playoffs. If a division has four teams an email will be sent to see if all four want to play. If they do, the rules will be the same. If one club does not want to play the top two teams will play a finals playoff match on the first week of the playoffs.
- N. If the regular season ends in a tie between any teams the official standings remain as a tie. However for seeding purposes, or to determine if a team qualifies for the playoffs, the following tiebreakers are used in this order to determine playoff seeding order:
 - 1. Head-to-head vs. the team(s) you tied with during the regular season. This means adding up the points won and lost. If Club A played Club B four times and the results from Clubs A’s perspective were 1-3, 0.5-3.5, 4-0, 2-2 then Club B wins 7.5 to 8.5. If three or more teams tied you would still see if this method separates them to make a clear order.
 - 2. Overall sets won to sets lost vs. the team(s) you tied with during the regular season. Tiebreakers played to determine the winner of the third set counts as a set.
 - 3. Overall games won to games lost vs. the team(s) you tied with during the regular season. Tiebreakers played to determine the winner of a third set counts as one game.

XIV. Miscellaneous

- A. Rules decisions

1. Refer all rules questions to one of the home team's tennis pros. If you believe the home team pro to be in error, or if you cannot resolve the matter call Jay Huffer at (630) 348-5381 or his mobile phone at (630) 899-9307.
- B. Match starting times, days and number of courts played
 1. Matches are played at no earlier than 10 AM and cannot start later than 1:30 PM.
 2. All divisions may choose a Thursday or a Friday home match time, except Div. 1 American which must have a Friday time.
 3. Ladies Div. 4 National is three courts.
- D. Results of a match
 1. All results will be entered through the NITTL website. Our website is www.nittl.com.
 2. Either team may have a captain or club representative enter the match scores no later than Monday at 12:00 PM. If the scores are not entered an email will be sent to BOTH clubs warning them that the result has not been entered. If the match results have not been entered by Thursday (three days later) the home team may be assessed a \$20 penalty. This will happen if it's a repeat offender. If there is a dispute in a match result it should still be entered by the home clubs version of the result.
 3. If there is a dispute over entered results, an email must be sent to Morrie ASAP. Morrie can correct simple errors, or if the dispute needs a decision over a more complex situation, Morrie will forward the problem to Jay. Upon Jay's decision, an email will be sent to Morrie and the disputing clubs. For this matter Morrie's email is morrie@nittl.com.
- E. Change in the schedule

If the schedule for any division is modified, but not completely redone, the matches that have changed will require an email to each club (from Morrie Marino) listing the change and this email must be returned acknowledging the change.
- F. Dropping a team out of the league

Any facility that has a team drop out of the league once league play has begun is required to pay a \$250 drop out fee. Until the fee is paid, scores from any other teams at the facility will not be counted in the standings.
- G. Court dividers

Should any player on either side of a court divider wish for the divider to be opened, it must be opened. This is only applicable on courts that have NITTL matches being played on them.
- H. On Court Injury/Illness

Based on a 90 minute match, if a person is either injured or ill they can have up to five minutes to resume play in the first hour of the match. In the next 20 minutes a person can have no more than two minutes. In the final 10 minutes of the match there can be no time out for injury or illness without forfeiting the court.
- H. On Court Breaks

With only 1.5 hours to play our matches we do not switch sides on odd-games. However normal breaks in a tennis match occur on odd-game side changes. Since we don't switch sides on odd games, our rule is that when a game is completed and it's an odd-game, this is the time to get a water break or minor rest break. This time is not to exceed 30 seconds and the players must remain on-court. Do not have water breaks on even-games played.
- I. Playing in good faith

If you play a match and there was a rules violation that would have an impact on the match, but you continue to play the match without knowledge or care about the infraction, you have played the match in good faith.

- J. On court disputes/disagreements/rulings
1. To avoid the “playing the match in good faith” ruling that could go against any player/team, you must protest the match if you feel a dispute or ruling by the home pro/team is being incorrectly applied to you or your team. Let the home pro know you are playing the match under protest and make sure the opponents know you are playing under protest.
 2. Do not complete the match and then protest something that occurred earlier in the match. If you protest something at the end of the match make sure it’s because something occurred at the end of the match.

Good examples of protests:

1. The home team finds out shortly before a match begins that one of their ladies can’t make it. One of the home team ladies tries to contact others who might be able to make it on short notice. After she is done trying she goes to her court only to find that she is 21 minutes late. She claims she was at the club and merely trying to get someone to fill in on short notice. The visiting team claims that doesn’t matter, they have to forfeit the first set. The lady says her team doesn’t have to under these circumstances. Since they’re already late and the visiting team ladies don’t want to waste any more time seeking a pro, she must tell her opponents that she is playing the match under protest. As long as she does this, she is not bound by the “playing the match in good faith” rule.
2. Teams split sets and there are five minutes and 20 seconds left and Team A points out the remaining time. Team B claims that it’s a split and they’re done. You should protest. When you come off the court you should seek a pro. The pro comes and says that the courts aren’t open anymore and that even though Team A was correct the match will be a split. Team A feels this is wrong. Protest it.

Water/Food

1. Home teams are not required to provide water on court. As such, it is up to each individual to have her own water (or other approved drink) on court.
2. Most ladies in the NITTL enjoy having a lunch or snack spread after a match. This IS NOT REQUIRED. The minimum that is required is to provide a drink for your opponents.
 - A small percentage of teams would like to have a rule to eliminate a lunch altogether. This goes against what the vast majority want.
 - A team should not feel pressured or guilty if all they wish to do is provide a drink. The decision lies with each team as to what they wish to provide at the conclusion of a match.