

InterCounty Tennis Association

Mixed League Rules 2019



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SECTION 1 – INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In these Rules:

- “(b) **“Adult”** means a Player over the age of 18 as of January 1st in the current year.
- “(b) **“Advanced Adult”** means an Adult who has an OTA or Tennis Canada ranking in the top ten of the open rankings;
- “(c) **“Advanced Junior”** means a Junior with an OTA ranking, as of December 31st of the preceding year, as follows:
 - (i) Top 10 in U14;
 - (ii) Top 25 in U16;
 - (iii) Top 50 in U18.
- “(d) **“Captain”** means the Adult appointed by his or her Club for the purpose of administering his or her Team’s participation in the League. The Captain may, but need not be, a Player, but shall be listed on the Roster.
- “(e) **“Club”** shall have the meaning set out in the Constitution.
- “(f) **“Club Pro”** means a full-time Club tennis instructor, other than a student, whose major source of income is from tennis instruction and whose Level is determined by his or her Club’s Executive Committee and by other objective considerations. **All club professionals shall have a “PRO” designation adjacent to their names on Team Rosters.**

- (g) **“Composite Team”** means a Team whose Roster comprises Players from different Clubs.
- (h) **“Constitution”** means the Constitution and By-Laws of the ICTA, as amended from time to time.
- (i) **“Default”** means the loss of a Match or Matches by failing to be present for play at the scheduled time.
- (j) **“Disqualification”** means the removal from a Team of a Player deemed ineligible to participate.
- (k) **“Division”** means the geographical area into which a Level is divided and into which Teams are grouped.
- (l) **“Excessive Defaults”** means the defaulting of 12 Matches during the Season.
- (m) **“Executive”** means the ICTA Executive, as provided in the Constitution.
- (n) **“Fixture”** means a series of Matches between the doubles pairs of two Teams, initially scheduled to take place in one evening session, and shall consist of six doubles pairings, comprising three Men’s, two Mixed and one Ladies. The League Director has the authority to use a different six match format if all Teams in a division agree.
- (o) **“Forfeit”** means the loss of a Point or Points for a violation of the League Rules or as otherwise imposed as a Penalty.
- (p) **“Grievance”** means a complaint regarding a Captain’s, Player’s, Team’s or Club’s alleged non-compliance with the Rules.
- (q) **“ICTA”** means the InterCounty Tennis Association.
- (r) **“ICTA Website”** means the official website of the ICTA, being www.intercountytennis.com.
- (s) **“Junior”** means a Player the age of 18 or under in the current year. All Junior Players shall have a JR designation adjacent to their name on the Team Roster.
- (t) **“League”** means the Mixed League, being one of four Leagues in the ICTA, the others are Junior, Ladies and +55.
- (u) **“League Director”** means the Mixed League Director, as provided in the Constitution.
- (v) **“Level”** means the level of play in the League, graduated based on ability, being, from high to low, Majors, A, B and C.
- (w) **“Line-Up”** means the list of Players who will compete in a Scheduled Fixture.

- (x) **“Match”** means any doubles Match played as a part of a Fixture.
- (y) **“OTA”** means the Ontario Tennis Association.
- (z) **“Penalties”** has the meaning set out in Section 2.7.
- (aa) **“Player”** is either an Adult or Junior and shall be a current paid Club member from the date of his or her first Match. Where requested, a Club shall furnish documentary proof of payment (redacted as necessary).
- (bb) **“Promotion”** means the advancement of a Team to the Level immediately above.
- (cc) **“Relegation”** means the demotion of a Team to the Level immediately below.
- (dd) **“Relocation”** means the relocation of a Team to another Division.
- (ee) **“Retirement”** means the circumstance where a Player is unable to continue a Match in progress because of a loss of natural condition, an injury, or a personal commitment or emergency.
- (ff) **“Rules”** means the Mixed League Rules, which shall incorporate, by reference, the Tennis Canada, Rules of The Court, including, but not limited to, The Code: Guidelines for Unofficial Matches.
- (gg) **“Roster”** means the complete list of eligible Players on a Team, consisting of not fewer than 18 Players, 6 women and 12 men, with no maximum, except with permission of the Divisional Chair.
- (hh) **“Season”** means the period of time commencing the date of the first League Fixture and ending on the date of the last League Fixture, both as published on the ICTA Website.
- (ii) **“Scheduled Fixture”** means the date published on the ICTA Website. In the event of rescheduling, the agreed upon time and day becomes the Scheduled Fixture.
- (jj) **“Sub Up”** means a Player who substitutes on a higher Level Team at a Club than the Team on which they are listed as a Roster Player. Sub Ups may not substitute into Men’s 1 or Mixed 1.
- (kk) **“Super Tie-Break”** means a ten point tie break played in place of a third set in which the victor is the first Team to ten points with a margin of not fewer than two points.
- (ll) **“Team”** means, collectively, those Players who participate in a Fixture.

- (mm) “**Tennis Canada, Rules of The Court**” means the Tennis Canada Rule book, *Rules of The Court*, including, but not limited to, *The Code: Guidelines for Unofficial Matches*, as amended from time to time.
- (nn) “**Tenniscodes**” means the official scoring and scheduling website of the ICTA, available by clicking through the ICTA Website.
- (oo) “**U**” means “Under” as in “Under 14”.

SECTION 2 - GENERAL

2.1 The Rules shall apply to all Clubs, Teams, Captains and Players in the League, each of whom shall, at all times, both on and off the court, uphold standards of good conduct, fair play and sportsmanship, as defined in the Rules.

2.2 The Constitution and Rules are available on the ICTA Website.

2.3 In the event of a conflict between the Constitution, the Rules and the Tennis Canada, Rules of the Court, the Constitution shall prevail over the Rules which shall prevail over the Tennis Canada, Rules of the Court.

2.4 All Clubs shall keep a copy of the Rules on hand, or, alternatively, facilitate online access.

2.5 Captains shall ensure their Players familiarize themselves with the Rules. Ignorance of the Rules is not an excuse for non-compliance.

2.6 Subject to review by the Executive, the League Director may make rulings and enact Penalties against Clubs, Teams, Captains and Players arising out of non-compliance with the Rules.

2.7 Penalties may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) defaults of Matches;
- (b) defaults of Fixtures;
- (c) suspension of playing privileges;
- (d) disqualification of Players or Teams;
- (e) alternate placement in standings;
- (f) relegation;
- (g) denial of Promotion; and
- (h) relocation.

SECTION 3 – LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

3.1 The League is divided into Levels.

3.2 Levels may be sub-divided into further Levels or Divisions.

- 3.3 Divisions shall contain an approximately equal number of Teams.
- 3.4 At the discretion of the League Director, Clubs may enter one or more Teams in a Division, a Level or the League.
- 3.5 Teams shall face each other in a round robin format of Fixtures.
- 3.6 Fixtures shall be played on outdoor courts, weather permitting. Captains may agree to play indoors and share applicable costs. The Governing Council has approved certain Clubs as indoor-only facilities.
- 3.7 Each Player shall play at a Level commensurate with his or her ability.
- 3.8 Advanced Adults and Advanced Juniors shall play at the Majors or A Levels only.
- 3.9** Club pros shall play at the Majors or A levels only. At the discretion of the Division Chair, a club pro may play at the B level provided that she/he requests permission to do so and declares him/herself to be a legitimate B level player. Teams at the B level may play a maximum of one club pro (approved) in any one fixture. Teams at the A level may play a maximum of two club pros in any one fixture.
- 3.10 Teams in the Majors Level may play up to four Juniors in any Fixture.
- 3.11 Teams in the A, B and C Levels may play up to two Juniors in any Fixture.
- 3.12 Except as set out in Section 3.13, a Player may play for only one Club in the Mixed League.
- 3.13 Despite Section 3.12, during a Season, a Player may move to a new Team in the League, either in the same, or in a different Division, and only at the League Director's discretion:
- a. If he or she moves his or her place of residence;
 - b. If he or she plays once for a Team and then chooses, for other than geography, to no longer play on that Team;
 - c. In other exceptional circumstances.
- Any such Player may thereafter play only for his or her new Team for the duration of the Season.
- 3.14 No Player shall play under an assumed name.
- 3.15 Any Player contravening Section 3.8, 3.9 or 3.14, or any Club, Captain or Player having knowledge of an alleged contravention of Section 3.8, 3.9 or 3.14, who fails to forthwith report it to the League Director, is subject to discipline and may be suspended for up to one year.
- 3.16 As visiting Teams are guests of the home Club, home Club policies, except where inconsistent with the Rules, shall apply. Home Clubs shall be permitted to enforce policies relating to, among other things, dress code and footwear.

3.17 Clubs shall post their policies in a conspicuous manner, shall communicate them in accordance with Section 5.2, and may deny playing privileges to Players who do not comply

with them.

SECTION 4 – TEAM ORGANIZATION

4.1 Captains shall submit a Roster using Tenniscores not less than two days prior to the start of the Season.

4.2 Captains must add Players to their Roster during the Season by submitting their names with Tenniscores prior to the Player's Match. Captains may not delete Players from their Roster during the Season.

4.3 Composite Teams may enter the League at the League Director's discretion.

4.4 Teams shall have a captain and co-captain with valid email addresses.

4.5 Captains and/or co-Captains and/or Acting Captains shall prepare Line-Ups for Fixtures.

4.6 In preparing Line-Ups, Captains and/or co-Captains and/or Acting Captains shall have adhered to the following:

- a. They shall consider the strength of all available Players on their Roster;
- b. Players' relative strengths shall be determined by the results of all Matches played that Season and, where necessary and available, prior Seasons;
- c. They shall strive to ensure fair and competitive play for all;
- d. Scheduling stronger pairs below weaker pairs is prohibited;
- e. Player availability, including as to rain-out Matches, shall not dispense with compliance with a., b., c. and d.

4.7 For the purposes of Section 4.6, the strength of pairings is:

- a. Men's 1 is stronger than Men's 2;
- b. Men's 2 is stronger than Men's 3; and
- c. Mixed 1 is stronger than Mixed 2.

4.8 Teams whose Captains, in the discretion of the Division Chair, feature Players in Line-Ups in a lower pairing than that contemplated by Section 4.6 and 4.7, shall be subject to Section 4.9, together with such further Penalties as may be determined by the League Director.

4.9 Cascade Rule. Teams whose Captains contravene Section 4.8 shall be subject to the following sequence of defaults:

Pairing in Which Contravention Occurs	Pairings Which Are Then Automatically Defaulted and Scored 6-0, 6-0
Men's 1	Men's 1, Men's 2 and Men's 3
Men's 2	Men's 2 and Men's 3
Mixed 1	Mixed 1 and Mixed 2

4.10 Players may Sub Up a maximum of two matches.

SECTION 5 - MATCH ORGANIZATION

5.1 All Clubs shall ensure that not less than three tennis courts are available for the entirety of the Fixture.

5.2 Home Captains shall notify visiting Captains not less than three days prior to the Scheduled Fixture of:

- a. Home Club policies, if any;
- b. Number of courts available at the start of the Fixture, in all instances not fewer than three.
- c. The home team may make more than three courts available at 7 p.m. but more than three 7 p.m. matches will require the consent of the visiting team captain.

5.3 Visiting captains shall notify Home captains, in writing, not later than by 7 pm two days prior to the Scheduled Fixture which lines will be playing the early matches.

5.4 Failure by visiting Captains to comply with Section 5.3 shall entitle the Home Captain to determine the order of pairings for the starting matches.

5.5 Fixtures start at 7 p.m. with play to start promptly within a maximum 10 minute warm-up.

5.6 Home Captains shall notify visiting captains of a delay to the start time caused by weather.

5.7 Where fewer than six courts are to be used at 7 p.m., the start time for all Matches not commenced at 7 p.m. will be deemed to be five minutes after the completion of the first of the early Matches, but, in any event, not before 8:15 p.m.

5.8 Matches featuring Players who are late arriving on the court ready for play shall be subject to the following penalties:

- a. 10 minutes late: lose warm-up;
- b. 25 minutes late; lose first Set;
- c. 40 minutes late: lose Match.

5.9 Each Team shall have a Captain or acting Captain. Captains are to exchange Line-Ups prior to the start of the first Match of the Fixture. No change may be made to a Line-Up thereafter except with the consent of the opposing Captain. No substitutions may be made once the warm-up starts.

5.10 The home Team shall supply a new can of yellow balls, tournament quality, for each Match.

5.11 The home Team shall supply sufficient food and refreshments for all Players.

5.12 The visiting Team is deemed to have won the toss at the start of each Match.

5.13 The Match format is the best two out of three sets, with a Tie-Break played at a score of 6-6 in any Set.

5.14 A regular third Set shall be played in all matches except in any one or more of the following circumstances: a) If the number of courts being utilised at the beginning of the Fixture is three and inclusive of warm-up the Match has exceeded two hours; or b. If the score is tied one set all and 30 minutes or less remain before the court becomes unplayable due to lighting or other court restrictions.

5.15 If a Team fields less than twelve Players it shall, at its election, Forfeit one of the following Matches: Men's 3, Mixed 2, or Ladies. In that event, the score will be entered 6-0, 6-0 in favour of the opposing Team.

5.16 If a Team fields less than ten Players, it shall Forfeit the entire Fixture.

5.17 Forfeited Matches count zero points per Match for the forfeiting Team and one point for the opposing Team and game scores are to be recorded as 6-0, 6-0.

5.18 Forfeited Fixtures count zero points per Fixture for the forfeiting Team and up to six points for the other Team.

5.19 Teams that Forfeit Matches or Fixtures may be subject to discipline by the League Director.

5.20 A Team committing Excessive Defaults shall have all its points to date nullified and shall be treated as a bye for the entire Season. The League Director, at his or her discretion, may invoke suspensions for the next Season.

5.21 The League Director, at his or her discretion, may suspend the Captain or Club that withdraws after the deadline set out in Section 4.1.

5.22 In the event of a Player Retirement, the Match shall be scored as if the opposing Team won all remaining games in the Match.

5.23 Coaching during a Match is prohibited.

5.24 All electronic devices are to be turned off during a Match and may only be used in an emergency.

5.25 One point will be awarded for each Match won with a maximum of six points per Fixture.

5.26 Home Captains will post match results on the ICTA Website within 24 hours of completion. Thereafter, visiting Captains may enter the results.

5.27 Where a Fixture is not completed, Captains are to submit to the Division Chair the scores for Matches as and when subsequently completed within 24 hours.

5.28 If a Fixture is abandoned after play has started all completed Matches will count. Incomplete matches shall be rescheduled in their entirety using Players who have not already played in a completed Match in that Fixture. Sections 4.6 to 4.9 shall continue to apply. Defaults will count as completed Matches.

5.29 All Fixtures must be completed. Any Team determined to have committed Excessive Defaults shall be subject to Section 5.20.

5.30 Communication between Captains regarding make-up dates for Matches shall be initiated by Captains within 2 days, with the Division Chair being copied on all correspondence, with make-up dates arranged within 10 days and played within 19 days of the original Fixture date. If necessary, make-up Matches may be individually rescheduled to different dates within the 19 day period.

5.31 No make-up Matches may be rescheduled a second time, except due to inclement weather.

5.32 Teams not completing their Matches by the 19 day deadline may receive zero points for unplayed matches and cannot, for greater certainty, agree to 'split points'. Teams that split points shall be deemed to have committed an Excessive Default and shall be subject to Section 5.20.

SECTION 6 - DIVISION STANDINGS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

6.1 The League Director shall have the authority, subject to the review of the Executive, to determine Promotion, Relegation and Relocation policies.

6.2 These policies will vary by Level and will depend on the number of Divisions in the Level.

6.3 Generally, the winning team of each Division will be Promoted and the second to last and last place teams of each 8 team Division will be Relegated. All teams' point counts and the relative strengths of Divisions and Levels shall also be used by the League Director in making determinations.

6.4 Teams shall accept Promotions, Relegations and Relocations.

6.5 The Division winner shall be the team with the most points during the Season.

6.6 Ties for Division winner or other place positions shall be resolved in favour of the Team winning more sets during the Season. Failing a resolution by this method, the Teams shall be viewed head to head and the victor shall be the Team ahead by the first of the following metrics:

- a. Matches won;
- b. Sets won;
- c. Games won;
- d. Coin toss.

6.7 Plaques will be presented to Division winners at the Fall Annual General Meeting.

6.8 The League Director will convene a meeting of Division Chairs following the Season and prior to the Fall Executive Meeting.

6.9 The purpose of the meeting referred to in Section 6.8 shall be to:

- a. review the Season's play;
- b. study Grievances and Penalties; and
- c. make recommendations.

SECTION 7 - GRIEVANCES

7.1 Grievances may be filed by Captains, the League Director, the Division Chair and the Executive regarding Captain's, Player's, Team's and Clubs' alleged non-compliance with the Rules.

7.2 All such Grievances shall be made in writing to the Division Chair within 48 hours of the Match, with a copy to the opposing Captain.

7.3 All Grievances, in the first instance, will be reviewed by the Division Chair, who shall resolve it in accordance with the Rules.

7.4 The Division Chair shall communicate his or her decision in writing to the Captain who filed the Grievance, with a copy to the opposing Captain within one week of receiving it.

7.5 Penalties may be imposed by the League Director or by Divisional Chairs.

7.6 Penalties imposed by the Divisional Chairs may be appealed to the League Director within three days of notification.

7.7 Despite Section 7.1, the Division Chair and League Director shall have the authority to initiate their own investigation into non-compliance with the Rules and shall receive written

submissions from the affected parties prior to reaching a decision or, in the case of the League Director, enacting a Penalty.

Appendix "A"

Guide for Recording Scores in Tenniscores for ICTA Mixed League

1. A **tie break** at the end of a standard set is scored 7-6 for game score with the tie break point score entered into the small (tie) box.

Line 3

Away	Maureen Marcus John Smith	6	3	7 ⁷
Home	Susan Jones Ricky Racquet	3	6	6 ⁴

2. A **super tie break** played in lieu of a third set is recorded as 1-0 for game score with the tie break point score entered into the small (tie) box.

Line 1

	1	2	3
Janet Monaco Sally Thomas	6	4	0 ⁶
Amy Smith Jane Yi	0	6	1 ¹⁰

3. When a player **retires** a match that is in progress, record the actual scores up until the point of retirement and choose ("name of team" by retired) from the drop down menu.

Line 3

Donna Martini Stella Campbell	6	2	6
Mary Reilly(Retired) Carolyn Smith(Retired)	2	6	3

4. When a team **forfeits** a line(s) because they do not have enough players, the team receiving the forfeit should put in the names of the players they would have played. This will count towards the number of matches played for a person should their team make it to the playoffs or the year end Tournament. Choose ("Team that won" by forfeit) from the drop down menu.

Line 4

Away	(Forfeit)	0	0
Home	Cleo May Sam Yee	6	6

5. When a team **defaults** a line because ST - a player or players are over 15 minutes late, all names should still be entered as they appeared on the lineup sheet that you exchanged prior to the start of the fixture. Choose ("Team that won" by default) from the drop down menu. You can use the "comments" section if you want to put "no show" or "arrived 45 minutes late". Enter the scores as 6-0, 6-0.

Line 2 - No Show			
Away	Michelle Weather(default) Carol Smyth(default)	0	0
Home	Janet Smith Lori Martin	6	6