



Minutes
ICTA Ladies League Captain's and Division Chair Meeting
September 2nd, 2009
Updated after online voting October 5th
(Result of all Voting including Online are highlighted in yellow)

1. Attendance

22 captains and 8 division chairs were in attendance.

- 2. Appreciation** for Tennis Canada who provided the meeting place at no charge, Setsuko Pye who baked muffins and scones and the captains for volunteering their time on behalf of their clubs and teams.

3. Presentation of Awards

Plaques for the Division Winners were presented to the winning captains along with division winner tags for each team member to display on their tennis bags. (Bag tags were delayed and will be delivered separately.)

4. Director's Report

"Considering the rule changes we implemented for this year and a few changes to Tenniscores I think the season went remarkably well. It certainly helped that we had only two rain dates and about two truly hot days. Yet, it is remarkable that those 4 out of 14 weeks could cause 80% of the workload for captains and division chairs!

Let me share with you a few stats before we move on.

- 11 divisions with 79 teams
- 1465 players:
 - 263 Majors
 - 556 A
 - 409 B
 - 237 C
- 142 great captains and co-captains!

5. Sportsmanship Report

See document entitled Sportsmanship Report in the league forms section of Tenniscores. Although the team sportsmanship rating system was not utilized as much as we would have liked the feedback did provide the league with ways to improve and important reminders for players.

- 6. Discussion of proposed changes to the 2009 Ladies League rules:**



Lineup Violations:

Adwynna MacKenzie asked the group “Imagine this scenario. It’s week 4 of the season and you just played a team that moved their player from court 4 to court 1. Would you ask that the league take action on this lineup violation? Would you be happy if the league came back and told you that the captain was new, hadn’t read the rules all that well (or at all) had made a mistake and won’t make it again and we aren’t going to remove any points won?”

Imagine this scenario. It’s week 13 of the season and you just played a team that moved their player from court 4 to court 1. The results of the match do not affect who wins the division or who loses the division. Would you ask that the league take action on this lineup violation? Would you be happy if the league came back and told you that the captain was an acting captain, hadn’t read the rules all that well (or at all) had made a simple mistake we aren’t going to remove any points won because it really doesn’t matter at this point in the season?”

Result of Discussion:

Captains unanimously agreed that penalties for improper lineups needed to be consistently applied throughout the season and that ignorance of the rules or “it doesn’t affect the standings” was not an acceptable excuse.

Super Tie Break Usage:

The Division Chairs counted the use of the third set super tie break on the hottest match day of the summer, June 24th. The temperature that day was 30 degrees with a higher humidex. Let’s look at the numbers...38 of the 152 matches went to a third set, 25%. Of those 38 matches 16 played a super tie break, a mere 11% of the three set matches. Which leads me to ask...why do we have it if people are opting not to use it the majority of the time and when used it causes uncertainty and controversy?

The biggest problem seems to arise from the need to gain agreement from all 4 players. We have had feedback about the following:

1. “Getting 4 women to agree on anything is impossible, let along 4 hot, almost delirious women in a competitive situation.”
2. That the decision about whether to play a complete third set is often determined by one person “who believes they are more fit than the others, which creates bad feelings” on the court and after. Accusations of players deliberately risking other people’s health are never easy for volunteers to handle.
3. That people feel pressured to play the super tie break by people who have not left themselves until the required 1:00 pm as the rules state and have to leave to pick up children or go to work.



4. That home teams with less than 4 courts won't agree to play a super tie break and let visitors get on the road, even though the later matches started after 11:00 am.

Result of Discussion:

Current Rule:

- A. Matches will be best 2 out of 3 sets. Prior to a third set, provided there is a unanimous decision by all four players involved in the match, a **10 point super tiebreak** can be played in lieu of a complete third set.

Captains agreed that it be clearly communicated that the format for the Ladies League is best 2 of 3 complete sets. The captains voted to keep the 10 point super tiebreak option but change when agreement must be reached. The following is to be put to an online vote:

1. Prior to the start of each match, provided there is a unanimous decision by all four players involved in the match, a **10 point super tiebreak** can be played in lieu of a complete third set.

or

2. Prior to the start of each match, provided there is a majority decision of the four players involved in the match, a **10 point super tiebreak** can be played in lieu of a complete third set.

- a. If a majority cannot be reached (ie: 2 want to play a complete set and 2 want to play a super tiebreak) then the decision will rest with the visiting team.

or

- b. If a majority cannot be reached (ie: 2 want to play a complete set and 2 want to play a super tiebreak) then the third set will be played to completion.

Rule Clarifications Voted on by Captains:

1. All items listed as "**Comment**" in the rules are explanations of a rule or suggestions. (re: serve, catch and serve back)
2. Section V, C7 H If a team knowingly begins a fixture without a full complement of players for the lineup (i.e. six players rather than eight) they must forfeit Court 4.

A. **Captains voted to change to:** Teams must have a minimum of 6 players in order to play a fixture or the entire fixture is forfeited. If a team knowingly begins a fixture without six (6) players for the lineup they must forfeit Court 4.

3. **Lineups:** Captains voted to isolate the first two lineup rules as a way to emphasize that these are the guiding principles for preparing lineups in the league:

- a. Teams must determine line-ups according to strength of players in order to make fair and competitive play for all.
- b. Scheduling stronger pairs below weaker pairs is prohibited.



Even though the player movement rules did tighten things up those first two rules should always guide the actions of captains. Penalties can still be imposed by the league even if player movement rules were adhered to.

4. **Late Players:** Captains voted to remove Section C8 D a) under Arriving Late as it was redundant with the other rules. "The default time is **15 minutes** after the scheduled start time of each individual match." This section will now read as:

D: Players Arriving Late:

- a) After 15 minutes and up to 30 minutes from the start of the scheduled match the late court will forfeit the first set and play can commence with the start of the second set.
- b) After 30 minutes a default of an individual match may be claimed by the opponents. If players agree to wait and then play the match, the match result stands. No default may be claimed after the fact.
- c) Players arriving late are entitled to a five (5) minute warmup.

5. **Ineligible Players:** Section I III D3 Any player who is found ineligible must immediately cease participation on that team. All points earned by the ineligible player will be reversed.

A. Captains voted to add: All rules from Preparing Line-ups, Section V, C7 A-H shall apply.

New Rule Proposals from Captains:

1. **Juniors:** To change the age from 16. Captains voted not to put this to an online vote as there was no interest in changing it.
2. **Medical Timeout.** Captains voted to put the following to an online vote:
 - a. A player may take 1 (one) medical time out of a maximum of 10 (ten) minutes for an injury or illness experienced during a match. During this time the player may receive on court treatment or leave the court for assistance. The match is assumed to be retired once the 10 (ten) minute time period has elapsed.
3. **Bonus Points:** Captains voted to put the following to an online vote:
 - a. To remove the bonus points for Court 1 and 2.

or

 - b. To remove the bonus points for Court 2.
4. **-6 point penalty:** revise Section VIII, D1: If a total fixture is defaulted, the "offended against" team will be awarded, a minimum of eight (8) points, or points equivalent to its seasonal average, whichever is greater. The "offending" team will not only receive zero (0) points for this fixture but will also have a six (- 6) penalty points removed from its total point count.



Captains voted to put the following to an online vote:

1. Provided best effort has been made to field a complete lineup, teams can play line 1 and line 2 before being penalized for fixture forfeiture. The decision will be made by the Division Chair.
2. That the -6 point penalty for teams that forfeit the fixture be removed.
3. That the points allotted to the "offended against" team be changed from a minimum of 8 to a minimum of 11 or the equivalent of winning lines 1, 2 and 3 (11 points)

or

4. That the points allotted to the "offended against" team be changed from a minimum of 8 to all 14 points.

Dates for the 2010 Season:

Calendar for May–September 2010 (Canada)

<u>May</u>							<u>June</u>							<u>July</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1						1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
30	31																			

<u>August</u>							<u>September</u>											
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25					
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30							

When choosing the dates for the 2010 season consider:

- Start date...summer clubs usually open on Friday, May 1st which means many have not had time to do team tryouts.
- That we need two weeks (in case of rain) for playoffs prior to the ICTA Tournament which is typically the weekend after Labour Day.

14 week season

May 5th – Aug 4th

May 12th – Aug 11th

10 week season –Majors West

May 5th – Jul 9th

May 12th – Jul 14th



7/8 team division-14 week season, start first week of May

Week 1 May 5th

Week 2 May 12th

Week 3 May 19th

Week 4 May 26th

Week 5 June 2nd

Week 6 June 9th

Week 7 June 16th

Week 8 June 23rd

Week 9 June 30th

Week 10 July 7th

Week 11 July 14th

Week 12 July 21st

Week 13 July 28th

Week 14 August 4th

Makeup Day August 11th

Playoffs August 18th



Procedures and Deadline for Online Voting

The Captain's Meeting is a forum for discussing proposed rule changes. Each proposed rule will then be properly written after the meeting by a Rules Committee.

Each proposed rule will be voted upon using an online voting form that will be posted, along with an email notification, by September 18th. There is one vote per captain on behalf of her team.

The minutes from the meeting will be posted online by September 18th and will contain the background discussion for each proposed rule.

The deadline for completing the online voting will be midnight on October 4th, 2009. Vote changes will be allowed provided they are submitted before the deadline.

Results of the voting will be posted by October 9th and each rule that receives the greatest amount of votes will be incorporated into the draft of the 2010 Ladies League Rules. The draft remains subject to the approval of the ICTA Executive. Once that approval is granted the final rules are voted on by the general membership at the Fall AGM.

Respectfully submitted by Adwynna MacKenzie, Ladies League Director on September 16, 2009 and updated with all vote results on October 5th, 2009