



**2009 LADIES LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS
THESE RULES MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL MATCHES.**

The Inter-County Tennis Association (ICTA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is the growth and development of tennis in southern Ontario. We offer organized league play for players of all ages and levels.

Tenniscodes is the official system for registering teams, reporting scores and providing standings for all ICTA Leagues.

SECTION I. GENERAL RULES

G1) Player Agreement and Waiver of Claims:

- A. All players participating in the InterCounty Tennis Association Programs, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the ICTA By-Laws; the respective League Regulations; the "Rules of The Court" which includes, The Code for Unofficial Matches; and adhere to the standards of good conduct, fair play and sportsmanship.
- B. Players participating in any InterCounty Tennis Association Program acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the ICTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

G2) All clubs must keep a copy of the "*Rules of the Court*" displayed in their clubhouse. "*Rules of the Court*" is the official rule book of Tennis Canada and can be obtained at a small cost or is free to download and print. Call 416-665-9777 to purchase, or download the [Rules of the Court](#) and [The Code](#) for Unofficial Matches.

G3) Clubs which have not paid club and /or team fees by the Spring General Meeting date and have not submitted up to date information sheets are subject, at the discretion of the ICTA Executive, to either one of the following:

- 1. Be assessed a late entry fee of \$50.00 or
- 2. Be deemed to not be a member of the Association and therefore ineligible to play in the leagues or tournaments for the specific year. All clubs excluded in one year will have to re-apply for entry to the Association at the next general meeting.

G4) The League Director, subject to review by the ICTA Executive, may enact penalties against clubs, captains and individuals arising out of the behaviour and non compliance with the rules both on and off the court. These penalties may include, but are not limited to, suspension of playing privileges, disqualification of teams, alternative placement in standings and/or denial of promotion to higher divisions.

G5) All captains will ensure that ALL of his/her team members obtain both the schedule and ALL of the League Rules.

G6) Coaching while a match is being played is NOT allowed.

G7) Cellular phones and all communication devices are to be turned off during a match. They may only be used in emergencies.

SECTION II. TEAM ORGANIZATION & ELIGIBILITY

T1) TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) eligible players on the roster. There is no maximum.
- B. Teams must play at a member club in good standing within the geographic boundaries of the ICTA.

- C. Composite teams made up of players from different member ICTA Clubs are permitted entry into the League (as defined by Article 1e of the ICTA Constitution and ByLaws) provided that the host club supplying the courts approves of the concept.
- D. The ICTA Executive may enact penalties for those clubs that default teams after schedules have been determined or who fail to pay team and/or club membership fees by the required deadline.
- E. All Ladies League matches must be played on outdoor courts (weather permitting) unless the club is indoor only or special permission has been granted by the Executive or the League Director.
- F. All teams must have a captain and (preferably) a co-captain who are bona fide members of the club. Teaching professionals who are paid by the club and act as captains are considered bona fide.

or less by submitting a *Change Team* request to the Ladies League Director.

- D. Players must play at a level commensurate with their skill:

Must Play Majors:

- a. any person under the age of 55 who is tennis professional or receives money to coach tennis.
- b. any current post secondary team player.
- c. juniors currently ranked in the top 25 of the provincial and/or national rankings.

Must Play A or Majors Level:

- a. juniors ranked between 26 and 100 of the current provincial and/or national rankings.
- b. It is strongly recommended that ladies under the age of 55 who are provincially or nationally ranked in the top 20 of their age category play A or Majors.

T2) PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. All players must be current paid members of their ICTA member club from the date of their first match and through the respective season of play, which includes all playoffs and the Season Ending Tournament.
- B. There is a maximum of two (2) juniors allowed to play per match. A junior is defined as a player over the age of sixteen (16) and under the age of eighteen (18) on the day of the match.
- C. A player may only play on one team in the Ladies League.
 - a. Players may play on one team in each of the different ICTA leagues. ie: Ladies, Mixed and Senior.
 - b. If a player belongs to multiple member clubs they may play Ladies League at one (1) and play on one (1) Mixed team and/or one (1) Senior team from another club, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.
 - c. A player who moves residences during the season and her new residence is not in the same vicinity as her old club may change teams by submitting a *Change Team* request to the Ladies League Director.
 - d. A player can switch teams once per season if they are on another team roster and have played one (1) match

- E. **Appeal for Ineligible Players:** A player who is ineligible may submit an appeal to the Ladies League Director if they wish to play at a lower level or switch teams.

SECTION III. TEAM PLACEMENT

- T3) There will be four (4) levels called Majors, A, B, and C. Each level may be subdivided into geographical divisions which will contain an approximate equal number of teams.
- T4) All teams in the Ladies League must be willing to accept promotions, relegations and allocations as determined by the Ladies League Director. The League Director may make other changes that are deemed suitable to the success of the league.

SECTION IV. FORMAT OF PLAY AND SCORING

F1) FIXTURE FORMAT

- A. Each division shall play a round robin format of fixtures, in which each team will play every other team at least twice.
- B. Each fixture shall consist of four individual doubles matches.
- C. A total of fourteen (14) points will be awarded for a fixture.

- D. Each court will receive three (3) points. Plus one (1) bonus point for Courts 1 and 2. Points will be allocated as follows:
 - a) A match won in two (2) sets gives three (3) points to the winner. One (1) bonus point goes to the winner on Court 1 and 2.
 - b) A three (3) set win gives two (2) points to the winner and one (1) point to the runner-up. One (1) bonus point goes to the winner on Court 1 and 2.
 - c) **Indoor timed play only:** In an incomplete set, the team ahead in the set at the end of two (2) hours when time is called will be deemed to have won that set. If, when time is called, the score is tied, the points for the incomplete set will be split between the two (2) teams.
- E. Tenniscores weekly standings will determine division winners, subject to final review by the Ladies League Director.
- F. Defaults, forfeits, retirements, penalties and disqualifications shall be scored according to ICTA League Rules and The Rules of Tennis. *Please see Glossary of Terms on Page 9.*

F2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH FORMAT

- A. The visiting team will be deemed to have won the toss (spin of racquet) at the start of play.
- B. The home team will provide a new can of tournament quality tennis balls for each match.
- C. Warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of fifteen minutes, including serves.
 - ❖ **Comment:** "The Code" states that players "do not practice their service return" during warm-up. They are to catch the ball and serve it back or return the ball easily in the direction of the server.
- D. 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.
 - ❖ **Comment:** This provision replaces the inclement weather rule and can be used for any reason (delayed start, poor weather coming, heat, cold, kids' camps starting soon etc.).
- E. Coaching is not permitted at any time.

- ❖ **Comment:** Coaching is considered to be any communication, advice, or instruction audible or visible to a player.
- F. **Cell phones, pagers, Blackberries etc. should be turned off.** If a phone on your court rings once, request that the phone be turned off and replay the point. If the phone rings again you may claim the point in the game based on a deliberate hindrance.

F3) FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- A. The home team will supply suitable refreshments (food and drink) which will be available at the completion of play.
- B. The home team must provide the use of at least three playable courts as home courts unless prior approval for use of two courts has been granted by the Ladies League Director or an unforeseen circumstance has reduced the court availability **See Rule C6) H in Section 5.**
- C. Any player may deem a court unsafe for play. If an alternate court cannot be provided at that location, players who have not begun their match due to an unsafe court are to wait until a match in progress finishes and play their match on that court.
 - ❖ **Comment:** It is suggested that players who begin late utilize **Rule F2) D from Section IV.**
- D. The home team must pay any required court and/or guest fees for visiting team players. In case of a make-up match or rain on the scheduled play day, visitors *may* share the cost, provided it is discussed and **agreed to** before the visitors arrive.

SECTION V. TEAM CAPTAINS' DUTIES

- C1) It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand all ICTA Ladies League rules and the current rules of tennis. (See the end of the document to locate all additional rules and regulations.)
- C2) Captains must have a current email address in order to receive league information throughout the season.

C3) ROSTERS

- A. All captains must submit their regular rosters to the Ladies League Director for approval using Tenniscores.
- B. The roster deadline is the evening prior to the third match of the season for the division.
- C. A regular roster consists of all players who may play a match for your team, even if that person is only an occasional player.
- D. A regular player is defined as anyone who is on an approved regular roster and/or has played twice for a team.
- E. *Clubs with teams at the same level:* If a club has two (2) or more teams playing at the same level (e.g. two "B" teams), players may play on only one (1) team.
- F. *In order to allow a club with teams at the same level time to solidify rosters,* a player may play one (1) time for each team (noted as a "sub across") prior to the roster deadline. Once a player has played two (2) matches for one of the teams, she is automatically ineligible to play for the other team.

C4) ADDING NEW PLAYERS

- A. To add a new player to a regular roster the name must be submitted to the Division Chair and/or the Ladies League Director for approval before a new player is eligible to play a match.
- B. New players may be added at any time prior to the last regularly scheduled fixture.

C5) SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

- A. A *substitute* is defined as a player who is already on an approved regular roster at a lower level and is asked to play a match for a higher level team at their same club.
- B. Substitutes from a lower level team may be used in a match without attaining prior approval, but if later the substitute is found to be an ineligible player, the match will be defaulted.
- C. In no case is a player on a regular roster for a higher level team allowed to substitute for a lower level team.
- D. Players may substitute for two (2) matches above their normal level of play. Any player who plays three (3) matches above their level will then be locked into the team who they played the third match for.

C6) ARRANGING MATCHES

- A. The home team captain must contact the visiting team captain **two days** prior to a scheduled fixture to provide information and make arrangements for the matches. If the

- captain listed on the schedule will not be present at the match, they must notify the opposing captain as to who will be acting in their stead, and give the opposing captain the contact information of that person.
- B. Should the home team captain fail to make proper arrangements for the match and any confusion results for the visiting team regarding directions, parking or start times the Division Chair may choose to disallow any claimed defaults.
- C. The official fixture start time is 9:30 a.m. for most clubs.
- D. With the agreement of BOTH captains, and with the certainty of court availability, **the official fixture start time may be changed:**
 - a. To an earlier or later start time on the same scheduled day.
 - b. To an earlier day and time during the regular season schedule.
 - c. Fixtures **shall not be played after the scheduled day** unless there is inclement weather.
 - d. If captains mutually agree to a different start time for match play, the official default time for this court (or these courts) will shift accordingly from the traditional 9:45 a.m. to 15 minutes after the agreed- upon time.
- E. For any changes in fixture start time or day to be official, **BOTH** captains must email their **Division Chair** prior to the fixture.
- F. The home team will determine the number of matches to be played at one time.
- G. If there are less than four (4) courts available for play:
 - a. The visiting team has the choice of order of play.
 - b. The order of play is to be arranged prior to match day.
 - c. All players for lines not starting at the regular time are to be on site and ready to play one (1) hour after the scheduled fixture time.
- H. If, for any unforeseen circumstance, the home team is unable to provide at least two (2) of its home courts for any scheduled fixture, the visiting team has the first option of providing its home courts. If the visiting team does not elect to provide at least 2 of its home courts the responsibility reverts to the home team which must provide the use of at least 2 courts within the approved ICTA geography. If alternate courts cannot be found, the captains must contact their Division Chair.

C7) PREPARING LINE-UPS

- 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.
- C. Moving a winning pair down in order to move a losing pair up is prohibited.
- D. Any pair may move up or down only one position from the last match played together.
- E. An individual may move up or down two positions without a partner. (*this allows a captain to move an injured player down, split a poor partnership or allow a strong person to move up*)
- ❖ **Example:** a pair playing together at line 1 may split; one player may go to line 2, one may play at line 3. However, when the pair play together again, they may not play lower than line 2 for that next match.
- F. Winning and losing shall be determined from results of all matches played to date.
- G. Any team not complying with these rules shall forfeit *all points won from the point of infraction and below*.
- 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.

C8) MATCH DAY

- A. ***In order to start the fixture, complete written line-ups must be simultaneously exchanged.*** If the captain will not be there prior to start time they should send the line-up with a player who is playing in the first time slot. The start of the fixture may be delayed until written line-ups are exchanged.
- B. Once the teams exchange line-ups **no movement of players is allowed. NEVER MOVE PLAYERS ALREADY LISTED ON THE LINEUP TO ANOTHER POSITION.** (See Rules regarding player substitutions). Points may be reversed for violation.
- ❖ **Example:** Written line-ups have been exchanged. One player from the line 2 doubles is over 15 minutes late. Line 2 doubles has defaulted. All other matches are to be played as originally listed on the lineup. Should both teams decide to play the 2 doubles match (rather than claim the default for being late) the match result will stand.
- C. For play to commence – a four (4) court club must have six (6) players present; for a three (3) court club, four (4) players must be present.
- ❖ **Comment:** This means all players must be on the court and ready to play; not merely at

the facility preparing food, going to the bathroom, stretching, etc, no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.

D. Arriving Late:

- a. The default time is **15 minutes** after the scheduled start time of each individual match.
- b. After 15 minutes and up to 30 minutes the late court will forfeit the first set and play can commence with the start of the second set.
- c. 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.
- d. Players arriving late are entitled to a five (5) minute warmup.
- E. A substitute can be used if a player or players listed on the original lineup do not arrive within the 15-minute default time *or* if a player is injured during the warm-up. A substitute cannot be used if a player originally listed on the line up arrives at the match and decides they no longer wish to play or no longer has time to play.

C9) RECORDING SCORES

- A. Captains should print a scorecard from Tenniscores before each match to use for lineup exchange (although any paper will suffice).
- B. Home team captains (or their designate) must enter the completed scorecard (line-ups, scores and points) into Tenniscores within 48 hours of each match.
- C. Visiting team captains must review the scorecard for accuracy prior to the next match.
- D. If there is a scorecard dispute, the visiting team captain must contact their Division Chair prior to the next match.
- E. Captains should keep a signed hard copy of each of their scorecards.

SECTION VI. INCLEMENT WEATHER

See Page 8 (End) for Makeup Deadlines

W1) Prior to the Start of the Fixture:

- A. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to decide to delay or cancel a fixture. Communication to the visiting captain should be made **at least** one hour prior to the start time.
- B. If the start of a fixture is cancelled due to inclement weather any forfeits awarded in advance may now be played.

- C. It is the decision of the home team captain whether or not to clean the courts. It is strongly encouraged that the visiting team assists with court preparation.
- D. For delayed matches 11.00 a.m. will be the latest scheduled time to commence and all players must be available to play until 1:00 p.m. or they may be defaulted.

W2) Once a Fixture has Started:

- A. A fixture has started once the line-ups have been exchanged and the first ball has been struck after warm-up.
- B. All completed matches will stand.
- C. Matches not completed will be re-scheduled in their entirety on another day, using the same players or if necessary, other players who have **NOT** already played in the completed matches.
- D. Line-ups for matches not started may be changed provided they do not conflict with the lineup rules.

W3) If both Captains agree any match may be played indoors, with court costs being shared. Indoor timed match rules may then apply. See Section IV. Rule F1) D. c.

W4) Individual make-up matches can be played at different days and times provided both captains agree and communicate that information to their Division Chair.

W5) Arrangements for make-up matches must be agreed upon within **48 hours** of the original match start time, or assumed rescheduled for the make-up deadline time.

W6) Once a time, day and location for any make-up match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match **MAY NOT BE CANCELLED**, for any reason other than inclement weather.

SECTION VII. DIVISION WINNERS, PLAYOFFS RELEGATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

P1) **The division winner shall be the team with the most points in division competition.** In the event of a tie for division winner or other place positions, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods:

- a. Sets won.
- b. Games won.

P2) Playoffs:

- A. Playoffs may be instituted by the League Director to determine promotions, relegations or tournament eligibility. Playoffs not listed in

these rules will be communicated no later than three (3) weeks prior to the end of the season.

- B. The home team for a playoff match is the team with the largest number of prorated points.
- C. In order for a player to be eligible to play in a playoff match, **that player must have played three (3) times during the entire season** Receiving (3) forfeits will count as matches played.
- D. The visiting team shall be deemed to have won the toss and shall supply the balls.
- E. The home team shall supply the courts and refreshments.

P3) RELEGATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

- A. For 2009 the "A West" winner will play off against the "A Midwest" winner. The "A East" winners will playoff against the "A Centre" winner.
- B. The winner of each of these playoff matches will play each other at the Season Ending Tournament and be promoted to their respective Majors division.
- C. The winner of the "B East", "B Centre" and "C West" divisions and the top two (2) teams of "C East" and "B West" are promoted to the next higher level.
- D. The bottom team of each division in Majors, "A" and "B" are relegated to the next lower level.
- E. All other decisions will be at the discretion of the League Director.

SECTION VIII. FORFEITURES, PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS

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.

D2) Any team found playing an ineligible player may immediately be retired from league play for at least the remainder of the league year. A grievance may be filed against the ineligible player and/or team. No refund will be given to a disqualified team.

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 disqualified player may join a team

at their new level provided they meet eligibility requirements.

Disqualifications and eligibility violations are handled by the Division Chairs with final authority resting with the Ladies League Director.

SECTION IX. LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

- D4) The Ladies League Division Chairs will have the authority to rule on general complaints or questions. It is strongly recommended that captains work with their Division Chairs to resolve all issues.
- D5) All complaints alleging a rule violation during league competition shall be filed in writing with the Division Chair within forty-eight (48) hours of a match.

- D6) The requirement that a grievance be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by fax or email.
- D7) All complaints shall be filed against a player or team, (a) by the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred or (b) by a league coordinator.
- D8) A **copy** of such complaint shall be forwarded to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been made.
- D9) The Division Chair will work with the Ladies League Director as necessary and will aim at all times to resolve the dispute within one week's time of the alleged infraction.
- D10) Resolutions will be communicated in writing and are binding. Resolutions may be posted publicly in order to educate all captains and players. Names will be removed to protect privacy.

Additional Information

Ladies League Rules, Instructions for Using Tenniscores, Guidelines for Team Captains may be found at www.intercountytennis.com

**Links to the following information can be found at www.tenniscanada.com
Rules of Tennis
The Code for Unofficial Matches**

ICTA Ladies League Tennis Summer 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

 May 6th	First Match of a 14 week schedule
 May 13th	First Match of a 10 week schedule
 July 1st	BYE for all teams
 July 13th	Season ends for a 10 week schedule
 July 20th	Makeup Match Deadline for 10 week schedule
 August 12th	Season ends for a 14 week schedule
 August 19th	Makeup Match Deadline for 14 week schedule
 August 26th	Playoff Deadline
 September 10th	Captain's Meeting
 September 12th	ICTA Championship Tournament
 September 13th	Championship Tournament rain date

START TIMES & MAKEUP DEADLINES

Start Time	Wednesday 9:30 AM
Makeup Deadline*	Second Tuesday 10:30 AM

If inclement weather occurs on the makeup deadline day (second Tuesday), the new deadline moves to the following Tuesday at 10:30 AM.

***Exception:** If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season, the makeup deadline is Wednesday at 9:30 AM and continues weekday-to-weekday at 9:30 AM until weather permits the matches to be played.

If inclement weather occurs during the **playoffs** the makeup deadline is Wednesday, August 26th at 9:30 AM and continues weekday-to-weekday at 9:30 AM until weather permits the matches to be played.

Glossary of Terms

All **Inter-County Tennis Association** play is organized into leagues, levels and divisions as defined:

Leagues – Adult Mixed, Adult Ladies, Senior Mixed and Junior Boys, Junior Girls and Junior Mixed and any other league created by the ICTA Executive Committee.

Levels – The first category of play within each league, which is graduated based on ability. Playing levels offered in each league from Majors at the highest, A, B with C at the entry level.

Divisions - The subdivision of play used to divide a level into smaller sections of equal ability of play and geographic proximity. A level may have one or many divisions.

ICTA WEBSITE -

The official Website of ICTA is www.intercountytennis.com.

APPROVED FACILITY -

Member clubs with the required number of tennis courts that are located inside the ICTA boundaries which have been accepted for league play by the general membership.

THE CODE -

The current printing of THE CODE by N. E.Powell, rules for unofficiated matches.

DEFAULT -

The loss of a match or matches by failing to be present for play within 15 minutes (default time) after the scheduled starting time. In staggered start times, when the previous match extends beyond the default time, play must begin immediately when a court becomes available.

DISQUALIFICATION -

Action taken to remove from a team a player deemed ineligible to participate.

FIXTURE-

A series of matches between the doubles pairs of two teams.

FORFEIT -

The result of a default or disqualification

GRIEVANCE –

Written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.

LEAGUE DIRECTOR –

Person voted in by the general membership to implement and administer a league.

MATCH -

Any doubles match played as a part of a fixture.

MATCH FORMAT -

The best 2 of 3 sets shall complete a match or in particular leagues, a super tiebreaker may be used in lieu of a 3rd set.

PENALTY -

The loss of point(s) or other action expressly imposed by these rules or by the Division Chair and/or League Director for a violation of these rules.

RETIREMENT -

Any player who is unable to continue a match in progress because of a loss of natural condition, an injury or who has a personal commitment or emergency.

SCHEDULED MATCH -

Date published on the Tenniscores Schedule. In the event of inclement weather or scheduling matches early, the agreed upon time and date of the new match becomes the scheduled match.

SET -

A series of not fewer than six nor more than twelve games played under the USTA Rules of Tennis, excluding the seventh game which is a 12-point tie-break, between opponents in which the first winner of six games by not fewer than a two game margin, or in the case of a tie the winner of the 12-point tie-break, is the victor.

SUPER TIE BREAK -

Used in lieu of a third set, a super tie break is played like a regular tie break except the winner of the set is the first to 10 points (must win by two points). As it is a new set, either partner may begin serving and partners may switch sides to receive.

RULES OF TENNIS -

The current printing of the “Rules of the Court” and Cases and Decisions. All other current Tennis Canada Rules.