

# *InterCounty Tennis Association*

## **Mixed League Rules and Regulations (Updated: April 2009)**

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### **General Rules and Regulations**

- G1** (a) Player Agreement: All players participating in the InterCounty Tennis Association (ICTA) programs, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the ICTA Constitution and 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) WAIVER OF CLAIMS. 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 except in Juniors Mixed League.
- G7** Cellular phones and pages are to be turned off and be only used in emergencies.

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## **League Rules and Regulations**

- L1** There will be four levels called Major, A, B, and C. Each level may be sub-divided into geographical divisions which will contain an approximate equal number of teams.
- L2** Because visiting teams are guests of the home club, home club rules apply and all players must conform to those rules. The home club will retain the right to refuse playing privileges to those players not abiding by their rules. These rules may include court demeanor as well as dress codes including the-type of shoes one may wear.

## **Team Organizations Rules and Regulations**

- T1 a** A team will consist of twelve (12) players each of whom will be a bona-fide member of her/his club (as determined by that club). Composite teams made up of players from different member ICTA clubs are permitted entry into a league as long as it is at the lowest league level providing the host club(s) which is/are providing the courts approves of the concept.
- T1 b** A league fixture will consist of six (6) matches - three (3) men's doubles, two (2) mixed doubles and one ladies doubles.
- T1 c** The Mixed League is primarily an adult league, but each team in the A, B and C Divisions may allow up to two (2) players under the age of eighteen (18) (as of January 1st in the current year) to play in any fixture. In the Major Division each team may allow up to four (4) players under the age of eighteen (18) (as of January 1st in the current year) to play in any fixture.
- T2** Team captains are to abide by the principle that the best players play against best players to ensure more competitive, more enjoyable and fairer competition. The Divisional Chairperson will have the authority to determine if players have been deliberately played in a lower position than they would normally play, and if deemed appropriate, to forfeit that match.
- T3** Teams in the "C" division are not to play club teaching professionals. Clubs executives should have determined before a person plays for them whether or not a player is a club teaching professional or not. All current Canadian Open or internationally ranked players and juniors ranked in the top ten (10) of the current provincial and/or national rankings can only play at the "A" or "Major" levels.
- T4** Players may play for only one club in the Mixed League - except as follows:
- a. where a player has moved her/his residence during the season and their new residence is not in the same vicinity of the original club.
  - b. a player having played only once for any club in any league may, at the discretion of the League Director, switch to any other club in that league, but will play only for that club for the balance of the season.
  - c. in other exceptional circumstances as permitted by the League Chairperson.

In no case is a player to play for more than one club at the same time.

- T5** Players are permitted to play at only one level, but the league does recognize that in those clubs with teams at more than one level it is better for club and team members to allow players who normally play at a lower level to substitute for absent members of a higher level team. To accommodate that situation, the following regulations will apply:
- a. Players may play two matches above their normal level of play. Any player who plays three (3) fixtures above a level will be ineligible to play any further matches at the lower level and is locked into the higher level.

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- b. Where a club has two or more teams playing at the same level (e.g. level B), players may only play on one team. Once a player has played two matches for one of the teams, she/he is automatically ineligible to play for the other team. (Within the context of rules)
- c. A player would be allowed to substitute once for each team at the same level.
- d. During the first three (3) weeks of the season, a player may play for only one team, except with the permission of the Mixed League Director.

Permission to play for more than one team will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

## **Match Rules and Regulations**

- M1 a** Each match will consist of the best of three sets with a 12 point tie-breaker at six games each.
- M1 b** One point will be awarded for each, match won with a maximum of six (6) points per fixture. In the Major Division each team will be awarded one point for fielding a complete team (twelve players), thus providing a maximum of 8 points for each fixture. (6 points for matches and 1 to each club for a full roster).
- M1 c** The visiting team will be deemed to have won the toss at the start of play. The visitors may choose to be Server or Receiver in which case the home team will choose the side, or the Visitors may choose the side in which case the home team will choose to be SERVER or RECEIVER.
- M2** All Mixed League Matches must be played on outdoor courts, weather permitting, except with mutual agreement of Team Captains. This rule does not apply to those few clubs whose membership in ICTA is as an indoor club.
- M3** Home teams will supply new sets of yellow balls (tournament quality) for each match.
- M4** The home team will supply suitable refreshments (food and drink) to be available at the completion of play.
- M5** The visiting team will have the choice of order of play. The host team will determine the number of matches to be played at one time, except that there must be a minimum of three courts in use until matches are completed. For the benefit of all players, it is suggested that the order of play be arranged prior to match time. Similarly, host captains should inform visiting captains of club rules (ie. dress code) prior to the day of the match.
- M6** Each team will have a captain to be in charge of the line-up. Opposing captains are to exchange line-ups prior to the start of play. Changes are not to be made after the line-ups have been traded unless by mutual consent of captains or unless a match has been defaulted by one team.
- M7** All league matches will start at 7:00 p.m. When it is known that the start may be delayed, the home captain will endeavour to inform the visiting team captain of that fact. When fewer than six courts are to be used, the start time for all other matches will be deemed to be 5 minutes after the completion of the earlier match. When a player is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for her/his match, the match will be defaulted at the request of the opposing captain. Visiting captains must phone the host captain at least two days ahead indicating which teams will start at 7:00pm sharp.
- M8** Should a team have fewer than twelve (12) players, one match will be declared forfeited either third men's, second mixed or ladies and the score entered as 6-0, 6-0. Should a team have less than ten (10) players the whole fixture will be forfeited, and provisions of rule M12 will apply.
- M9** No substitution will be made for any player once that player has commenced play. In the event of a player retiring during play, the match will be scored as if the opposing team had won all the remaining games in that set and subsequent sets.

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- M10** Should a fixture be abandoned after play has started any completed matches will stand. Matches not completed will be re-scheduled in their entirety on another night using players who have not already played in the completed matches.
- M11** Any matches of fixtures which are re-scheduled must be re-scheduled by the host captain within three weeks of the cancelled date. Any matches or fixtures which are re-scheduled must be played within six (6) weeks of the originally scheduled date, except with the specific permission of the League Chairperson. In any event all rescheduled fixtures/matches will be completed within two weeks of the final scheduled match for that league. Matches that involved teams that are potentially involved in playoffs, should be completed prior to the end of the regular schedule. When these conditions are not adhered to, the League Chairperson and/or the Mixed League Director has the discretion to default the fixture/match.
- M12** When matches or fixtures are defaulted:
- a. the offending team(s) (as determined by the Divisional Chairperson) will be given zero points for the match/fixture and may be subject to discipline by the Association.
  - b. the team offended because of defaults will be awarded points based on the percentage of possible points that they won during the balance of the schedule, or points equivalent to those obtained in the other fixture played between the two teams the choice at the discretion of the Divisional Chairperson.
- M13** Balls hitting lights, wires or other fixtures protruding over court surfaces will be declared a fault.
- M14.** There will be at least three (3) courts available for play in any fixture.

### **Division Rules and Regulations**

- D1** **Home captains** will enter on line on the ICTA Mixed League website at [www.intercountytennis.com](http://www.intercountytennis.com) the match results along with the player roster within twenty four (24) hours of the match.
- D2** The winner in each division will be the team with the most points at the completion of the playing schedule. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the tied team winning the most sets.
- D3** The Mixed League Director will have the authority, subject to the review and/or approval of the Executive, to determine promotion and relegation policies, which may vary from level to level depending on the number of divisions at each level. Generally the winner of each division will either win promotion or participation in a playoff: the bottom two teams in each division will be relegated.
- D4 a** Where a level has been divided into two or more divisions, playoffs may be instituted by the League Director to determine promotion entitlement. If playoffs are required, only those players who have played at least three (3) fixtures with that team are eligible for the playoffs.
- D4 b** The winner of playoff will be the team that has won the most matches. If teams are tied the winner will be the tied team that has won the most sets. If still tied the winning team will be the tied team that has won the most games.
- D5** Teams will have the right to refuse promotion in the Mixed League.
- D6** Divisional Chairpersons will have the authority to rule on specific complaints or questions, subject to the approval of the League Director.
- D7** Plaques will be awarded to all League Division winners and will be presented at the October

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General Meeting. Team photos (5 x 7) are to be submitted to the president of the ICTA

- D8** When appropriate the Mixed League Director will convene a meeting of all Mixed Divisional Chairpersons at the end of the season and before the Fall Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the purpose of reviewing the year's play, reviewing complaints and making recommendations at the Fall AGM.