

# CSRAWTL Rules of Tennis

## I. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

- A. All team members and substitutes must be at least nineteen (19) years of age.
- B. Dues for members and substitutes are twelve dollars (\$12) per team per season. One (1) match point penalty per player will be assessed against the player(s) team(s) if player not listed online by time of match.
- C. Players may join a team in separate divisions one level up or down (example A & B or B&C). A player may participate on only one (1) team roster in a division. The dues fees will be paid for each team registration.
- D. Once the season has begun (after the player has participated in a match), the player may not change to another team in that division. A nonplaying lady may be Captain of a team as long as her dues are paid (e.g., a B Division player has been asked to Captain on that site's C Team. She can still play on her B team and does not pay twice). She cannot play at one site and Captain for a different site.

## II. CAPTAINS

- A. Each team must have a captain or an acting captain present at the beginning of every match. Captains must exchange complete lineups simultaneously prior to starting play. The Captain must notify the Secretary if any or all of the individual matches are postponed. Captains will communicate with the opposing Captains on match related matters.
- B. Win/Loss records will be maintained and kept current by each Captain and League Division Secretaries, using the Team Tracking Sheet.
- C. Pre-match forfeits will occur from the bottom position in ascending order.
- D. Captains will complete their scorecard BEFORE exchanging with the opposing Captain. If a team is not complete when the 15-minute rule has expired, the position where the infraction occurred will forfeit and all other positions will remain unchanged (e.g., a visiting player does not show up for position 2. The home team position 2 and the visiting player who showed up on time will leave the court. The visiting team will forfeit that position and the home team will win 6-0, 6-0). Names of the team not forfeiting MUST be on the scorecard.
- E. After reconciling scores, Captains of each team will sign each other's scorecards, their own, and maintain a copy. Scorecards should be remitted electronically. The Secretaries' *email addresses and phone numbers for texting* are provided on the bottom of the scorecard. Scorecards must be received by midnight day of the match. A penalty of one (1) match point will be imposed if not received on time.
- F. Captains may reschedule individual lines if players have conflicts by participating in USTA League Tennis Championships, such as Georgia/South Carolina State, Sectional, and National.
- G. Lineups must be determined according to strength of players. SANDBAGGING IS PROHIBITED. Players must play within a three-slot range. See Appendix A and III (D). If a violation occurs, points will be deducted from where the infraction occurred in descending order (e.g., violation at position 3 results in positions 3, 4, 5, and 6 being forfeited).
- H. Dual roster players must play within a four-slot range across divisions. See Appendix B and III (E). If violation occurs, points will be deducted where the infraction occurred only.
- I. Players needing to play below their USTA ranking or previous position played (line 1, 2, etc.) due to medical issues must submit a written request to the board on a seasonal basis to be reviewed and approval will be voted on. If permission is granted the secretary will give a written notice to the captain.

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J. Captains will abide by and promote The Code ([www.csrawtl.com](http://www.csrawtl.com)). Violations are grievance worthy. As funding permits, the Board will supply copies of Official Rules of Tennis to each Captain when there has been a revision(s).

K. Captains will resolve protests when they arise. If a protest is not resolved, she will contact the President who will attempt to find an immediate resolution. If unsuccessful, the Captain will be instructed to file a Grievance and send it within three (3) days to the President and opposing Captain. The written protest will conform with the Grievance Template found on the website. The Grievance Committee will convene within five (5) business days and the decision will be sent to both Captains as soon as possible, but no later than the scheduled date of the season's final match.

### III. LEAGUE RULES

A. League matches will be held at A, B, and C Division levels with additional divisions added in the future, as adequate competition will allow. Each A and B Division team consists of six doubles partners. Each C Division team consists of 5 doubles partners. All players listed on the team scorecard **MUST BE DUES PAID MEMBERS**.

B. No 5.0s on A, B, or C Divisions; no 4.5s on B or C Divisions; and no 4.0s on C Division.

C. There is no limit to the number of 4.0s on a B team roster; however, only four (4) 4.0 players may play at a match, and only at lines 1 and 2. There is no limit to the number of 3.5 players on a C team roster; however only 4 (four) 3.5 players may play at a match and only at lines 1 and 2.

D. Each season, a team may move player(s) **ABOVE** the 3-slot rule only twice. Prior to match play, Captains **MUST** notify the Secretary of their intent to invoke this rule. Voice/text messaging, email, voicemail are all acceptable modes of communication.

E. Each season, a team may move a dual roster player(s) **ABOVE** the 4-slot rule only twice. Prior to match play, Captains **MUST** notify the Secretary of their intent to invoke this rule. Voice/text messaging, email, voicemail are all acceptable modes of communication.

F. Per season, each site plays every other site once. Exception: Six (6) or less teams will play twice. The calendar will be divided into Fall and Spring seasons and schedules will include "rain dates."

G. Any site without a lower division team can pull substitutes from a site having a lower division team, as long as that team does **NOT** have a higher division team. Substitutes are members of a team playing actively on the division below. Players from the Division team below may play one less than half the total number of matches for the higher Division team (e.g., Division A plays eight (8) matches in one season. A substitute player from Division B may play only three (3) matches on Division A. Substitutes must play below regular team members.

H. There will be a designated home team for each scheduled match. The home team Captain will contact the visiting team Captain 48-hours prior to the match to: officially invite her team to their site; inform her of any known forfeits; and if lunch or snacks will be served. Both Captains must disclose if their match roster is incomplete and confirm their final field at an agreed upon time.

I. If the home team is unable to provide its home courts for any scheduled match, the visiting team has the first option of providing its home courts. If the visiting team does not invoke this option, the home team must reschedule the match.

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J. Home team furnishes cans of unopened USTA approved balls with imprinted numbers.

K. Warm up time should be limited to ten (10) minutes including practice serves. If the opposing team refuses to warm up, then partners may warm up together.

L. The 7-point Coman tiebreak will be in effect at any time the score reaches six-all in any set. The 10-point Coman tiebreak will be played in lieu of a third set. The 10-point Coman tiebreak starts two (2) minutes after the second set is complete. Coaching is not permitted. In cases not specifically covered by CSRAWTL rules, USTA rules will govern play.

M. During inclement weather, Captains make every attempt to communicate with each other prior to departure for the match to avoid unnecessary travel. If the courts are unplayable, the home Captain will inform her opposing Captain. A match can be postponed if the temperature is not expected to be above 32 degrees, factoring in the wind chill, or above 95 degrees at playing time. Temperature source is The Weather Channel. Note: If both Captains agree to play in spite of these temperatures, they may do so.

N. If play is suspended due to rain, a reasonable delay will be in effect. If play cannot be resumed, Captains instruct their teammates to record game, set scores, position of players, and which player serves when play is resumed. NO SUBSTITUTES ARE PERMITTED after a first serve has been attempted. Completion of each line will be scheduled by the players of that line within 14 days of the original match, at a time and date agreed upon by all four (4) players. Exceptions to the 14-day rule may be made in individual circumstances with the President, or Division Secretary's approval.

O. Matches start PROMPTLY at 9:30AM. A fifteen (15) minute default rule is in effect. Exceptions may be granted if both Captains agree, individual matches may start at other times. Division play days are A on Tuesdays, B on Thursdays, and C on Fridays. Prior to match play, the home team Captain must notify the Secretary via any of the above listed modes.

P. The Board will review the win/loss records of a team who has won their Division two seasons in a row will strongly encourage players will be moved to a higher division.

## IV. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

A. The winner is the team with the most points. Points are awarded for the individual lines won. In the event of a tie, the team with the least number of sets lost, followed by the team with the least number of games lost, will be declared the winner.

B. Each season, awards will be given to the winner and finalist in each Division.

## V. CSRAWTL TOURNAMENT

Annually, a members' only tournament, planned, directed, and managed by the Board, may be scheduled.

Adopted: August 2022

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## **APPENDIX A (3-slot rule)**

A player must play within a 3-slot range of the position in which her name first appears in a season. That 3-slot range is in effect for the entire season.

### **Example 1**

*Week 1*

Ann plays at #2 position.

Possibilities for the future include slots 1, 2, 3, 4.

*Week 2*

Ann plays at #1 position.

Possibilities for the future include only slots 1, 2, 3 for the remainder of the season.

### **Example 2**

*Week 1*

Jane plays at #5 position.

Possibilities for the future include 3, 4, 5, 6.

*Week 2*

Jane plays at #6 position.

Possibilities for the future include only slots 4, 5, 6 for the remainder of the season.

### **Example 3**

*Week 1*

Sue plays at #3 position.

Possibilities for the future include slots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

*Week 2*

Sue plays at #4 position.

Possibilities for the future include slots 2, 3, 4, 5.

*Week 3*

Sue plays at #2 position.

Possibilities for the future include only slots 2, 3, 4 for the remainder of the season

## **APPENDIX B (4-slot rule)**

A player must play within a 4-slot range of this position in which her name first appears in a season. That 4-slot range is tracked across divisions and is in effect for the entire season.

### **Example 1**

*Week 1*

Ann plays at 1 position on B team

Possibilities for future include slots 2, 3 on B team and 3,4,5 on A team

Ann plays at 2 position on B Team

Possibilities for future include 1,2,3 on B team and 4,5 on A Team (line 3 is no longer possible)