

## RPTC STANDING RULES

### RPTC Policy for fielding Women's league teams

League play is, by definition, a competitive TEAM sport. Decisions regarding placement on teams will be made for the *benefit of the team as a whole*. To accomplish this, players will be placed at a level where they will most likely achieve success, which will best benefit the teams. The League Coordinator, with input from the players, will determine criteria for the composition of the teams.

#### A. Criteria for determining a Player's Team Level:

1. Player statistics. (Win/loss record) An ongoing statistical record will be used in gauging a player's ability and success. The club will keep track of recent win-loss records, keeping track also, of positions played.
2. Captains' recommendations. Outgoing Captains will meet and provide a report of player's performance and any extenuating circumstances that might have impacted the player during the season.
3. Which team level has the greatest need for that player? There will be seasons when players are needed at a certain level in order to field a complete team at that level. Additionally, there must be enough strength at each playing level in order to field *competitive* teams. The Captains Committee is responsible for making sure all levels have enough players and enough strength to form competitive teams.
4. Player's preference. A player's preference will be taken into consideration as part of the equation.
5. New members, current members becoming active league players, and players who develop new partnerships will be given individual consideration by the Captains Committee and the League Coordinator, regarding placement at appropriate levels.

#### B. Assignment of Players to a Team Level:

1. First Criterion is player statistics or USTA rating. The goal is to follow uniform methods of measurement to ensure the fairness to everyone while keeping personalities, politics and friendships out of the decision.
  - a. 75% or higher wins playing primarily **in positions 1 or 2 throughout the season**, generally makes a player eligible to be considered for moving up a level if there is room at that level (keeping in mind the other criteria listed above)
  - b. 50%-70% wins indicates that player is currently playing at her correct level
  - c. Less than 50% wins playing primarily **in positions 5 or 6** indicates that player's stats should be watched for an additional season before determining whether she would be more successful playing a level down.
  - d. USTA ratings written guidelines
2. Captains Committee decision.

A committee made up of outgoing captains meets at the end of each season to rank players at their levels of play (AA, A, BB, B, CC) in an effort to make sure there are enough players and enough strength at each level. This ensures all teams will be competitive. The Committee does not field the actual teams. When re-drafting is necessary, team drafts are conducted by incoming captains.

- a. The Committee ranks all players each season. The win/loss statistics that are studied by the Committee are those from the **current season**. However, the committee will look at the immediate previous season statistics on a player if they feel they still need more information on that player. Additionally, players' individual requests are addressed by committee whenever possible.
- b. If a player's stats are unusually low, her Captain can point out if the problem was due to an injury or a "partner issue" or that she was "sacrificed" several times or some other reason why her stats may not tell the whole story. If a player is recovering from an injury, the committee will generally not be inclined to drop that player down a level, but rather give the player a reasonable amount of time to recover and get back to her normal stats.
  - Consideration will be given to players requesting to "play up" a level. At a minimum the upper-level team must have an available slot (after the sign-up deadline) and the team captain's input will be given consideration.
  - USTA policy is that at least 50% of the players must hold the level rating prior to the league start.
3. If there is more than one team being fielded at one level (e.g. two 4.0 teams) a Highly Competitive team (HCT) might be used one time a year (see section G below). If the HCT approach is not being used, player assignment will be at the discretion of the League Coordinator, in collaboration with the captains, who will consider the following factors:
  - a. Team balance
  - b. Player preference
  - c. Player availability (e.g. some players may be available only every other week)

#### C. The Captains Committee's make-up

1. The captain's committee changes every season and it is determined by the current season. Committees are made up of outgoing captains as described below:
  - a. Fall Committee: Leah's League Captains and Fall Tennis Competitors Captains rank players for Winter League
  - b. Winter Committee: Winter League Captains rank players for Spring League
  - c. Spring Committee: Spring Tennis Competitor's Captains and Spring USTA Captains rank players for Fall Leagues
2. It is the responsibility of the committee to address any problems that have arisen during

the seasons and if necessary, the League Coordinator will present the issue and possible recommendations to the Board of Directors.

#### D. Partnerships

- 1. Players may choose to sign-up with partners and will be allowed to play with each other unless, one is absent then the other player might be assigned to play with another player.**
- 2. Players who sign up without a partner must be willing to play with whomever the captain places her, which will typically be *other* players who do not have a partner. If a player feels strongly about whom she partners with, it is *her* responsibility to find a partner to sign up with *before the season begins*.**

#### E. Substitutes

*Players listed as “regular players” shall have priority in the line-ups over players who are listed as “subs.” Exception: If a Line 1 or 2 regular player is not available to play the Captain may use a sub to fill that position.*

*Subs with the same ranking as the team level shall have priority in the line-ups over subs from lower level teams.*

#### F. Line-up Positions

1. Line-ups are set solely at the discretion of the team captain, whose job is to set a strong line-up in order to earn the most points for the team. Each team member is expected to respect her captain’s decisions.
2. A player who is only available to play the early position must be listed as a sub so that the captain may use her at the team’s convenience. Alternatively, that player can sign up for a lower level team to have more opportunities in the 9:00 a.m. slot.
3. Club members who wish to compete with players *above* their level, have several options:
  - a. Independently arranged social games with more advanced club members
  - b. open round robin opportunities
  - c. several advanced clinics offered by pros within the club

#### G. Highly Competitive Team (HCT) vs. Balanced Team

1. When RPTC has enough players to field more than one team at a level (e.g. two 4.0 teams), the League Coordinator may decide to field one of the teams as a Highly Competitive Team (“HCT”).
2. HCT may be used once per year, at the discretion of the League Coordinator and based on input from players.
3. Selection of players for an HCT will be as summarized below:

- a. League Coordinator announces the HCT season and solicits self-nominations.
- b. Interested players self-nominate for either singles player or doubles team.
- c. League Coordinator, in collaboration with recent Captains, determines the initial HCT roster.
- d. League Coordinator then directs a challenge period during which other players may attempt to play their way onto the HCT.
- e. At the end of the challenge period the roster is final.

#### H. Grievances: Escalation Process

1. Team Captain
2. League Coordinator
3. RPTC Board

These policies are intended to meet the needs of a large, diverse group of women and interest levels, while continuing to keep our league teams competitive.