

TENNIS COMPETITORS OF DALLAS – LEAGUE RULES

- I. GENERAL.** All participants in TCD Ladies Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles leagues are bound by TCD Rules, as well as those of the USTA and The Code. Not all possible incidents and ramifications are covered in the following rules. Participants in unusual or undocumented situations will have to abide by the decisions of the Rules Committee and/or the Board of Directors. If there is a conflict in an interpretation of any rule, TCD Rules shall supersede. Rules are the same for all leagues (Ladies Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles) except where noted.

The TCD Rules as provided herein shall apply to all TCD members unless such rules are revised, amended, or otherwise changed by the TCD Board of Directors. In such event, the TCD Rules shall be updated on the TCD website.

II. ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

A. MEMBERSHIP FEE. All team members must pay a semi-annual membership fee to TCD prior to participation. Any returned check payable to TCD will be dealt with at the discretion of the TCD Board of Directors.

B. PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

1. A player may be listed on only one (1) roster in each league.
2. Ladies Doubles League
 - a. No one under twenty-one (21) years of age may participate in the Ladies Doubles league.
 - b. A team will consist of at least eight (8) members and no more than sixteen (16) members.
 - c. A player with an NTRP rating of 5.0 or higher is restricted to playing level 1B or higher.
3. Mixed Doubles League
 - a. No one under twenty-one (21) years of age may participate in the Mixed Doubles league.
 - b. A team will consist of at least eight (8) members and no more than twenty-eight (28) members.
 - c. A player with an NTRP rating of 5.0 or higher is restricted to playing level 1B or higher.
4. Love-50 Doubles League
 - a. No one under fifty (50) years of age may participate in the Love-50 league.
 - b. A team will consist of at least six (6) members and no more than sixteen (16) members.
 - c. A player with an NTRP rating of 5.0 or higher is restricted to playing Open flights only.
5. Love-60 Doubles League
 - a. No one under sixty (60) years of age may participate in the Love-60 league.
 - b. A team will consist of at least six (6) members and no more than sixteen (16) members.
 - c. A player with an NTRP rating of 5.0 or higher is restricted to playing Open flights only.
6. ILLEGAL PLAYER
 - a. An illegal player is defined as someone played by a team who is not on that team's roster, not a member of TCD, or otherwise deemed illegal by TCD Rules or the Rules Committee.
 - b. The team playing the illegal player shall receive a one-time four (4) point penalty. The line(s) played by the illegal player shall be treated as a default. Any additional penalties to the captain and the illegal player will be determined by the Rules Committee.
 - c. TCD refers to USTA's most current NTRP ratings. Any player without an NTRP rating should consult the USTA General & Experienced Player Guidelines to determine eligibility to play. A player who does not follow these guidelines will be considered an illegal player. (Player Guidelines can be found on the TCD website under the Forms/Downloadable Forms tab.)

C. ROSTER REGISTRATION

1. RETURNING TEAMS may register and submit payment on the TCD website, in person at the Captains meeting, or mail roster form and check to TCD by the mail-in deadline.
 - a. To be considered a returning team, more than 50% of the players listed on the team's roster (excluding frozen players) at the conclusion of the previous season must be listed on the roster being submitted.
 - b. Only a returning established team may receive the benefit of an earned promotion.
2. NEW TEAMS must submit roster and payment in person at the Captains meeting.

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3. Rosters are permanent **ON** the date of the Captains meeting with the exception of frozen players and player adds. After the Captains meeting, **NO** player(s) may be deleted from a roster.
4. **FROZEN PLAYERS**
 - a. Up to two (2) players on a roster may be frozen.
 - b. Frozen player deadline will be two (2) days prior to the fifth scheduled match of the season for each league.
 - c. Requests must be submitted online between the Captains meeting and deadline.
 - d. No refunds will be issued.
 - e. Frozen players will not count towards a team's roster total.
 - f. Frozen players may not be unfrozen, will be ineligible for play on any team in that league during the season, and considered an illegal player if played.
 - g. The status of these players may not cause a team to fall below the published minimum number of players for a roster.
 - h. A player may not be frozen that would affect the team's status as either a new or existing team.
5. **PLAYER ADDS**
 - a. Player add deadline will be two (2) days prior to the fifth scheduled match for each league.
 - b. Membership and eligibility for play shall be effective upon receipt of an email, from the TCD Website Administrator, stating all information and league fees have been received and confirmed. Captains should, at that time, verify the player add is correctly posted on the website team roster.
 - c. The addition of these players may not cause a team to exceed the published maximum number of players for a roster.
 - d. A player may not be added that would affect the team's status as either a new or existing team.
6. A team that fails to participate once a roster has been submitted is ineligible to play for the current season and may be ineligible the following season.

III. TEAM PLACEMENT

A. TERMS

1. A **FLIGHT** is a designation for a group of divisions beginning with Open. (i.e. Open Flight, Flight 1, Flight 2, etc.)
2. A **DIVISION** is an alphabetical designation for a subgroup of ten (10) teams within a flight beginning with Open A. (i.e. Open A Division, 1A Division, 1B Division, etc.) The division designated A is the highest division within a flight.

B. TEAM MOVEMENT AMONG FLIGHTS

1. Existing teams will move from flight to flight based on the results of play in the season just completed. The upward progression of a team through a flight is from the B division to the A division. Between flights, the upward progression is from the A division to the B division in the higher flight. The team movement will be as follows:
 - a. A team finishing first in its division will automatically move to the division above. The first-place finisher would be considered as the sixth position in the division above.
 - b. A team finishing first in two (2) consecutive seasons will, upon its consent, be placed two (2) divisions higher **UNLESS** that division is to an Open division. If the division is to an Open division, the consecutive winner will have the option to challenge into that division.
 - c. A team finishing first in three (3) consecutive seasons will, upon its consent, be placed three (3) divisions higher **UNLESS** that division is to an Open division. If the division is to an Open division, the consecutive winner will have the option to challenge into that division.
 - d. A team finishing second in its division may move to the division above, subject to challenges and/or openings in that higher division.
 - e. A team finishing second-to-last in its division will move to the division below, unless an opening remains in the division in which it competed after all other team movements have been made.
 - f. A team finishing last in its division will move to the division below. The last place finisher would be considered as the fifth position in the division below.

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- g. A team finishing last in two (2) consecutive seasons will, upon its consent, be placed two (2) divisions lower.
2. No team position is secure except for first place finishers.
3. Existing teams may move up or down depending on the placement of new teams and/or openings in the divisions above.

C. NEW TEAM PLACEMENT

1. The Placement Committee is responsible for determining the divisions new teams will be placed. The Committee's decision will be based on information provided by the team captain on the New Team Information Form submitted at the Captains meeting, existing TCD records and experience, and NTRP ratings.
2. New team placement will begin once all team movement has taken place. A new team MAY then be required to play a placement match, challenging the lowest ranked team in a division.
3. If there are multiple teams challenging into a division, the Placement Committee may conduct a round robin between the new teams and an existing team for placement purposes. The round robin will be played at a site designated by the Placement Committee. The format of the round robin will be based upon the number of teams involved. An existing team involved in a round robin will be considered the challenged team.
4. A day will be designated before each season for placement matches for all leagues. All teams, both new and existing, must be prepared to play all lines that day. (Four (4) lines for Ladies/Mixed and three (3) lines for Love-50/Love-60.)
5. Rained out placement matches must be rescheduled prior to the published rain makeup deadline. BOTH captains must submit a Match Reschedule Report by MIDNIGHT two (2) days following the originally scheduled placement match.

D. PLACEMENT MATCHES AGAINST EXISTING TEAMS

1. Matches will be played on the challenged team's courts except in the event of a round robin. The challenged team must provide four (4) hard outdoor courts for Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles, and three (3) hard outdoor courts for Love-50 Doubles and Love-60 Doubles.
2. Court fees will be equally shared.
3. The challenger must supply a can of new, yellow USTA-rated hard-court balls for each line.
4. Regular TCD scoring will apply. If the score is tied, the winner will be the challenged team.
5. Returning teams involved in matches are defending their position in the division.
6. If a challenged team fails to play a match, that team and all of its players may be ineligible for the entire season.
7. If an existing team fails to field all required lines (four (4) lines for Ladies/Mixed and three (3) lines for Love-50/Love-60), that team may forfeit its right to a position in the division.
8. If a new team fails to field all required lines (four (4) lines for Ladies/Mixed and three (3) lines for Love-50/Love-60), that team and all of its players may be ineligible for the entire season.

- E. **UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.** The Placement Committee will use its best judgment for conditions not covered by these rules.

IV. COURTS AND BALLS

- A. **COURTS AND FACILITIES.** Each team is required to guarantee use of hard outdoor courts each week for match play at an approved facility. No clay or grass courts will be allowed for match play.
1. Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles will provide four (4) courts. Love-50 Doubles and Love-60 Doubles will provide three (3) courts.
 2. Home teams MUST provide two (2) hours per match.
 - a. If at the end of two (2) hours the match is not completed, the home team must provide alternate courts. The match must be restarted within one (1) hour at the same facility or at an approved available TCD facility. If alternate courts cannot be provided within one (1) hour, the home team must retire to the visiting team. The home team will pay any additional court fees.

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- b. Any team refusing to relinquish courts to a later scheduled match when requested, will be subject to default and penalty points.
3. Home teams must provide courts at TCD approved facilities if home courts are not available.
4. Teams that use unapproved facilities may be subject to penalty.
5. Outdoor or Guest Fees are to be paid by the home team for scheduled match times only.
6. INDOOR COURTS may be used at any time both captains agree.
 - a. When teams elect to play indoors, visiting teams should expect to pay half the court fees and abide by indoor court times and rules.
 - b. If indoor courts are used due to rain-out conditions and a match extends beyond the two (2) hour court time, it will either be continued on another available indoor or outdoor court. If no other court is available, it will be treated as a rain make-up and rescheduled per the rain make-up requirements and deadlines.
 - c. All four (4) players may agree to waive the changing of court sides at odd game changeovers.

B. SCHEDULING

1. Matches will be scheduled on designated days and times unless postponed due to rain/extreme weather conditions, Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur, or by a decision of the TCD Board of Directors. (See Article V., J.)
 - a. Ladies Doubles will play on Thursdays with match start times between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
 - b. Mixed Doubles will play on Sunday. Matches are allowed to be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. only BEFORE Home match times are posted, BOTH captains agree and courts are available. If not in agreement, the match start times are between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 - c. Love-50 Doubles will play on Wednesdays with match start times between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (noon).
 - d. Love-60 Doubles will play on Tuesdays with match start times between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (noon).
2. Any TIME and/or LOCATION changes must be agreed upon by BOTH captains, reported to the Flight Coordinator, and approved by the league Director prior to the match. If approved, the Flight Coordinator will make applicable schedule corrections to the TCD website. All default rules apply to the new starting time.
3. ALL LINES MUST PLAY AT THE SAME TIME.
4. At facilities hosting multiple Ladies Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles TCD matches, teams that have to travel the longer distance to a match must be given the later starting time. Facilities ignoring this requirement will be subject to playing at the time set by the league Director.
 - a. When there are no other teams playing the later start time, the home team may set a match time. As a courtesy to longer distance traveling teams, a later start time is recommended. If this courtesy is ignored, the teams may be subject to playing at a time set by the league Director.
 - b. Google Maps is the official TCD source used to determine distance from the visiting team's facility to the home team facility.

- C. **BALLS.** Home teams must supply a can of new, yellow USTA rated hard-court balls for each line. No seconds allowed.

V. MATCH PLAY

- A. All Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles TCD team matches will consist of four (4) doubles matches. All Love-50 Doubles and Love-60 Doubles TCD team matches will consist of three (3) doubles matches.

B. MATCH FORMAT

1. Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles individual matches will be the best two (2) of three (3) sets, regular scoring. The 7-Point Set Tiebreak using the Coman tiebreak procedure will be in effect any time the score reaches six (6) games all in any set.
2. Love-50 Doubles and Love-60 Doubles individual matches will be the best two (2) of three (3) sets, regular scoring. The 7-Point Set Tiebreak using the Coman tiebreak procedure will be in effect any

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time the score reaches six (6) games all the first two (2) sets. The 10-Point Match Tiebreak using the Coman tiebreak procedure will be played in lieu of the third set. The third set will be scored as one (1) game to zero (0).

- C. **WARM UP COURTS.** TCD does not require facilities to provide warm up courts before a match is scheduled to begin. This is a facility courtesy provided to visiting teams. A visiting team captain should always check-in upon arriving at a facility and request availability.
- D. **DEFAULT TIME.** Play must begin no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled match time. Warm up and practice serves must be taken within this fifteen (15) minute time period. Should a player arrive late to the court, but prior to the default time, the player must be given a warm up and practice serve period not to exceed five (5) minutes. Play is continuous from the first ball served in the match except when interrupted by rain or when the match exceeds the two (2) hour court time limit.
- E. **SCORING.** Scoring will be one (1) point per set won.
- F. **COACHING**
 - 1. Coaching is defined as any advice, signal or comment relayed by any means, including all ELECTRONIC DEVICES (e.g. cell phones, watches), to the participants in a match by anybody, whether a bona fide coach, teammate or bystander.
 - 2. Players may not accept any coaching during the progress of a match, except during an official rest period (not to exceed ten minutes) between the second and third sets. If coaching occurs during a match, penalty points may be assessed.
- G. **CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES**
 - 1. Failure to enter match TIMES by the deadline will result in a one (1) point penalty for each day they are late.
 - a. Home team captains for Ladies Doubles teams must enter ALL home match times on the TCD website by MIDNIGHT the Sunday prior to the first match of the season.
 - b. Home team captains for Mixed Doubles teams must enter the match time of the FIRST week's match on the TCD website by MIDNIGHT the Wednesday prior to the first match of the season. All other home match times must be entered on the TCD website by MIDNIGHT prior to the first match of the season.
 - c. Home team captains for Love-50 Doubles and Love-60 Doubles teams must enter ALL home match times on the TCD website by MIDNIGHT the Friday prior to the first match of the season.
 - 2. Failure to enter match SCORES by the deadline will result in a one (1) point penalty for each day they are late.
 - a. Home team captains for Ladies Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles teams must enter match scores on the TCD website by MIDNIGHT on the day of the completed match.
 - b. Home team captains for Mixed Doubles teams must enter match scores on the TCD website by MIDNIGHT on the day following the completed match.
 - 3. The team captains, or designates, MUST HAVE LINEUPS MADE OUT AND EXCHANGED PRIOR TO the designated match time. Penalties are as follows:
 - a. First written complaint – warning issued to Captain.
 - b. Any additional complaint – one (1) point penalty.
 - 4. After score sheets are exchanged, there can be NO SWITCHING of players, teams or positions. Replacement of players may occur only under the following conditions:
 - a. A player does not show up and an eligible replacement is available before default time.
 - b. An injury or emergency during the warm up occurs and an eligible replacement can be made within the default time.
 - c. An eligible player is a player whose name is on the team's roster but is not on the current match score sheet.

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- d. In the event that two (2) players from different lines are unavailable for play, the available player from the lower line may take the place of the unavailable player from the higher line to form a new team.
- e. Captains must inform the opposing captain of any lineup changes before the match begins.
5. Score sheets must be completed, signed and kept by each captain. In the event of a discrepancy in the scores, the captains may be asked to provide a copy of the score sheet in question.
6. Visiting team captains are responsible for checking the entered scores and reporting any inaccuracies to their Flight Coordinator within seventy-two (72) hours of the completed match. After seventy-two (72) hours, the scores will stand as entered.

H. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Read and know USTA and TCD Rules to be prepared for any situation that may arise. Take the rules on the court.
2. Know the lineup (playing position) and the names of the opponents before starting the match.
3. A player may leave the court for:
 - a. A ten (10) minute break between the second and third sets.
 - b. A bona fide bathroom visit.
4. Players involved in a dispute during a match can declare that the match is being played under protest and must continue the match to its conclusion. The players can file a formal grievance for a Rules/Sportsmanship Violation with the Rules Director following the procedure under Article VI. Rules/Sportsmanship Violations – Grievances.

I. DEFAULTS AND RETIRED MATCHES

1. If a player or players arrive on court after fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled match time, the line is a DEFAULT. (Example: The match is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Score sheets must be exchanged at 9:30. Warm ups may take place, but play may not begin until all four (4) lines are present or until a default has been declared. The match is considered a default at 9:46 a.m.)
2. When a default occurs regardless of which line cannot play, defaulting begins with the lowest line. See TCD Handbook for Day of Match Default Protocol.
3. All default time limitations shall apply to rescheduled matches.
4. Any time a team DEFAULTS an ENTIRE MATCH (all lines), that team and all members will be disqualified for the current season and may be barred from playing the following season.
5. Penalties will be assessed as follows for excessive defaults in one (1) season:
 - a. Four (4) line defaults – warning issued to Captain.
 - b. Five (5) and six (6) line defaults – two (2) point penalty per line.
 - c. Seven (7) line defaults and over – two (2) point penalty per line, plus that team and all its members may be disqualified from playing the current and following season.
6. In a defaulted match, points per set are credited to the team having both players present prior to the default time and recorded with the winners' score as DEFAULT. The score is recorded without names as 6-0, 6-0. Once a default has been given, the default stands.
7. If a default has been given prior to a match and the match that is scheduled to be played outdoors is rained out with no play, then the default is voided. However, if both captains have agreed prior to the match to play indoors or covered, then the default stands.
8. If defaulting a line, as a courtesy, contact the opposing captain and notify them of the default prior to the match. The line receiving the default in advance is not required to appear at the match site.
9. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player/doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, emergency, or refusal to play. If a match is RETIRED, write the match score up to the point of retirement on the score sheet. All points, games, and sets stand as played. Score the match exactly as played, giving the win (two (2) points) to the team who did not stop play.
10. A player suffering from a treatable medical condition may take an INJURY/BLEEDING TIME OUT at the time of the injury or at the next change over.
 - a. Time out during play - play will be called within three (3) minutes after the injury.

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- b. Time out taken at a changeover - play will be called at the end of four and one-half (4 1/2) minutes.
 - c. For a bleeding time out, a total of 15 minutes may be taken at the time of injury or change over.
 - d. During a match only one (1) time out for the same injury/bleeding incident is allowed.
 - e. If play is not resumed within the required time, the injured player is retired.
- J. **NO MATCHES (Ladies Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles) ARE TO BE RESCHEDULED UNLESS POSTPONED DUE TO:**
1. Rain
 - a. Rain is defined as liquid falling from the sky in the form of rain, dew, snow or ice, making courts unplayable.
 - b. There are no provisions for extreme cold, heat, or wind.
 2. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
 - a. Captains must notify the opposing captain and Flight Coordinator in writing of the need to reschedule seven (7) days prior to the originally scheduled match. BOTH captains must submit a Match Reschedule Report by MIDNIGHT three (3) days prior to the originally scheduled match.
 - b. Follow same procedure as for rain delayed matches.
 3. Decision by the TCD Board of Directors
 4. Extreme Weather Conditions
 - a. Day of match protocol: The HOME captain determines the conditions at the match site and is responsible for notifying the VISITING captain no more than three (3) hours prior to the match start time on the SCHEDULED DAY OF THE MATCH. BOTH captains must verify through www.weather.com if the weather conditions listed below exist. Either captain may choose to reschedule the match.
 1. www.weather.com Hourly “FEELS” or “FEELS LIKE” reading based on the zip code of the home facility, at the start time of the match, is 32 degrees or lower.
 2. www.weather.com Hourly “FEELS” OR “FEELS LIKE” reading based on the zip code of the home facility, at the start time of the match, is 105 degrees or higher.
- K. **RAIN DELAYED MATCHES**
1. In the event of rain, all players must be ON SITE for play at least one (1) hour beyond the time of the scheduled match unless BOTH team captains agree otherwise. Should rain begin after match play has begun, all players must remain ON SITE one (1) hour in an effort to resume match play unless BOTH captains agree otherwise. Total delay time (prior to or during play) is not to exceed one (1) hour.
 - a. Ladies Doubles: home team captains with the 11:30 a.m. match time should call the facility to determine the start time of the 9:30 a.m. match. If the 9:30 a.m. match has been delayed up to one hour, the 11:30 a.m. home team captain MUST call the visiting team captain and inform her of the delay. The 11:30 a.m. teams will then assume control of the courts no later than 12:30 p.m.
 - b. Mixed Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles: if both captains agree, the match may be rescheduled.
 - c. In all leagues: Due to rain making courts unplayable, if BOTH captains agree, any TCD approved covered or indoor courts may be substituted for that day’s play only. Both Captains must contact their Flight Coordinator immediately following match play so the schedule can reflect change in time and/or-location if applicable. Any fees involved will be split between all players.
 2. If a match is cancelled due to rain, HOME team Captains must notify their Flight Coordinator by midnight of that scheduled match date.
 3. MATCH RESCHEDULE REPORT
 - a. In Ladies Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles leagues, BOTH captains must submit the MATCH RESCHEDULE REPORT (found on the Admin page when logged in) by MIDNIGHT three (3) days following the originally scheduled match.
 - b. In Mixed Doubles league, BOTH captains must submit the MATCH RESCHEDULE REPORT by MIDNIGHT seven (7) days following the originally scheduled match.

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- c. The report must include the dates and times for each line. When submitted, this report will be sent to the Flight Coordinator and league Director.
 - d. Failure to submit a Match Reschedule Report by the deadline will result in a one (1) point penalty for each day it is late.
 - e. IF A RESCHEDULED MATCH IS RAINED OUT, BOTH CAPTAINS MUST SUBMIT A NEW MATCH RESCHEDULE REPORT.
4. All rescheduled matches must be played within a three (3) week period of the originally scheduled match (day one beginning from the day after the original scheduled match through 21 days.) If Spring Break falls within the three (3) week reschedule match period, an additional one (1) week extension will be allowed. Rescheduled matches that are rained out will be allowed a one (1) week extension from the rescheduled date (day one beginning from the day after the rescheduled match through seven (7) days) OR the remainder of the ORIGINAL THREE (3) WEEK PERIOD, whichever is later.
 5. EXCEPTION: All rained out matches must be completed prior to the specified deadline date for that season as stated on the TCD calendar.
 6. Once a match is officially rescheduled and a Match Reschedule Report has been submitted, it cannot be changed unless it rains. A match played on an alternate date (a date not specified as an official match reschedule) may result in a DEFAULT PENALTY for BOTH TEAMS.
 7. Incomplete matches will be continued by the same players at the exact place halted: set, game, point. Indicate such on the back of both score sheets to prevent controversy when resuming play.
 8. In matches where lineups have been exchanged, but the match not begun, a NEW lineup may be exchanged for the rescheduled match. If a default has been issued, it is now voided. However, if a minimum of one court has served the first ball, the lineup is locked in and cannot be changed.
 9. Teams may play these rescheduled matches by positions rather than as a whole team. Home team captains must be flexible in offering three (3) or more alternate days and times for rescheduled matches. Night and weekend times for Ladies Doubles, Love-50 Doubles, and Love-60 Doubles leagues will not be considered reasonable times, however both team captains may agree to play at these times. Captains unable to agree on rescheduling are subject to playing at a time designated by the league Director.
 10. If all lines (four (4) lines for Ladies/Mixed and three (3) lines for Love-50/Love-60) play at the same time, lineups must be made out and exchanged by the designated match time. If positions play at different times, the lineups may be filled out as the positions are played.
 11. For incomplete matches scheduled for make-up beyond three days, the home team will supply NEW balls.
- L. **CHILDREN.** Unsupervised children are not allowed on or around the courts during TCD match play. Children must be supervised prior to beginning and throughout play. If supervision is not provided before a match, default rules will apply. If supervision is not provided during a match, retirement rules will apply. Penalty points may be assessed.
- M. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**
1. A player may not use any device capable of receiving communication during the match, except between the second and third sets. Devices include but are not limited to cell phones and smart watches.
 2. Smart watches may be worn during a match unless the opponent considers it a distraction and issues a WARNING. If a second infraction occurs, it is considered a deliberate hinderance.
 3. Devices that emit a noise or ring during play are considered a deliberate hindrance. A spectator's phone ringing is not considered a hindrance.
 4. The penalty for a deliberate hinderance will be assessed by the opponents in the following order:
 - a. First Offense: Point claimed in current game. Point claimed in tiebreak.
 - b. Second Offense: Current game claimed or entire tiebreak.
 - c. Third Offense: Default of match.
 5. Video recording is not allowed during a match.

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- N. **WATER.** Each player is responsible for providing his or her own water ON COURT. As a courtesy, a beverage should be offered to the opponent after the match.
- O. **SPORTSMANSHIP.** The purpose of TCD is to promote competitive tennis, good fellowship, and SPORTSMANSHIP in accordance with TCD Bylaws and Rules, USTA Rules, and The Code. The Board of Directors will review any act of physical violence, directly before, during, or after a TCD match is played. Severe penalties, including indefinite suspension from TCD, will apply.

VI. RULE/SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS – GRIEVANCES.

- A. **RULES VIOLATION.** Should a Rule violation or dispute arise among members that cannot be resolved among themselves, the proper steps to take for a filing shall be:
 1. Contact the Flight Coordinator for ruling. If not resolved;
 2. Contact the appropriate league Director for ruling. If not resolved;
 3. Submit a current Rule/Sportsmanship Violation Form within seven (7) days from the date of the offense to the Rules Director and Rules Committee with commentary by the players involved. A \$25 check payable to TCD must accompany the form. The check will be destroyed if the ruling is in favor of the complainant. Proper procedure must be followed to assure the right of appeal. If not resolved;
 4. Submit in writing to the Presiding Director within seven (7) days of receiving the Rules Committee ruling details concerning the dispute and all previous actions taken for a final ruling by the Board. A \$25 check payable to TCD must accompany the appeal. The check will be destroyed if the ruling is in favor of the complainant.
- B. **SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATION.** If the Rules Committee deems a Sportsmanship complaint to be valid, the following procedure may be taken:
 1. First Offense – Warning;
 2. Second Offense – One (1) Point Penalty to offending team, and;
 3. Third Offense – Player or team may be suspended.

VII. DIVISION WINNERS

- A. A total of all points at the end of the regular season will determine the order of finish in a division.
- B. Standings are not final until all scores are corrected, ties are broken, and finalized by league Directors.
- C. Ties for all positions will be broken by one of the following methods, in this order:
 1. Match score among tied teams (head-to-head)
 2. Fewest sets lost among tied teams (head-to-head).
 3. Fewest games lost among tied teams (head-to-head)
 4. Fewest sets lost against all opponents.
 5. Fewest games lost against all opponents.
 6. Toss of coin.
- D. Awards will be given to all members of the FIRST-place teams in each division.

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