

RIVER CITY RACQUET LEAGUE RULES 2017-2018

Purpose of the Organization: The purpose of the River City Racquet League (RCRL hereinafter) is to provide a structure for socially competitive tennis.

I. RIVER CITY RACQUET LEAGUE ORGANIZATIONAL RULES:

The following are the rules of the River City Racquet League. These rules shall remain in effect until changed by action of the Board of Directors (hereafter "Board"). No rule change shall take effect during a league year. No later than May 15 of each year, the Board shall make any amendment to these rules as they deem necessary. The Board shall take into account the recommendations of the Rules Committee. Any amendments shall be effective for the upcoming league year. In extenuating circumstances, a player or team may request a waiver of a rule for a designated situation or for a particular period of time. A waiver request must present a compelling case of unique circumstances making application of the rule patently unfair to a player or team or creating a hardship for the division as a whole.

A. RCRL Board and Officers

1. The bylaws of RCRL define the officers and Board of Directors , and set out their responsibilities, manner of election and terms of office. The bylaws may be found at RCRL.org.
2. The Board shall be responsible for enforcing all rules and the standard of conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. Any violation or appeal of these rules shall be examined by the Board and ruled upon accordingly.

B. Board Meetings

Board meetings are to be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:15 pm at Louisville Tennis Club (Exception- holidays.) Any change to the regular meeting will be posted on RCRL and emailed to officers and Board members.

C. League Year.

The league year is defined as July 1 through June 30.

D. Team Divisions

The RCRL shall be composed of the following Divisions: A, A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, Masters I, Mid-level Masters and Masters II.

E. Division Directors

1. The Division Director will represent the teams in her Division on a fair and equal basis at all Board meetings. She is entitled to one vote representing the majority of her Division.
2. She is disqualified from voting upon issues of rule infractions involving the team of which she is a member.
3. She will hold a mandatory captains' meeting at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the first rotation. At that meeting, she shall review any rule changes from the prior year. She shall also carry out any additional training of captains that the Board may require.
4. She is responsible for facilitating the election of a new Co-director for the following year.
5. She will have necessary computer skills (especially e-mail capabilities).
6. If a captain does not send in a Letter of Intent by June 15th, the current Director should contact her.
7. The Director will include the RCRL President when sending communications to captains.

8. Term of office is October 1 through September 30.

F. Division Co-Directors

1. The division Co-director will assist and succeed the Division Director. The change of office will occur on September 1.
2. She is responsible for addressing any division issues in the absence of the Division Director.
3. She will become a member of the Rules Committee. She shall hold a division meeting prior to January 1 of the current season in order to solicit proposed rules changes for the Rules Committee.
4. She will specifically be responsible, with the Vice President, for planning the annual meeting held at the end of the last rotation.

G. Nominees for Division Directors and Co-Directors

1. Nominees for election as Division Director and Co-Director positions will be identified by:
 - a. Volunteer
 - b. If no member volunteers, a blind draw from all teams in the division, with the teams of the previous year's director and co-director being withheld, will occur. The team drawn will select a member to serve for the year. If both positions are open, a second draw, to determine co-director, will be held, excluding the team providing the director.
2. A Division that does not have a Division Director for the upcoming year may not begin play until a nominee willing to serve is identified.

H. Data Administrator

1. The data administrator is appointed by the League President and approved by the board.
2. The data administrator is responsible for:
 - a. Overseeing schedule development,
 - b. Administering the website,
 - c. She is also, along with the Vice President, responsible for the directory,
 - d. Other duties as assigned by the Board.
3. The data administrator shall attend Board meetings but is not a member of the Board. She may participate in all discussions with voice but no vote.
4. The data administrator may be paid a reasonable sum for her work, as approved by the Board.

I. Rules Committee

1. The Rules Committee shall be chaired the President-Elect, and shall be composed of the Division Co-Directors. If a division has no Co-Director, the Director shall serve on the Rules Committee, or another player from the division may be appointed to serve on the committee instead.
2. The Rules Committee shall solicit recommendations for rule changes from the RCRL membership, and may define its procedures for submittal and consideration of those suggestions. The process for suggesting rule changes shall be clearly communicated to the membership in advance of the committee's work.
3. Rules Committee meetings shall be announced to the general league membership and shall be open to all members to observe.
3. The Rules Committee shall make recommendations to the Board by the March meeting of the Board.
4. The Board makes the final decision regarding any rules changes.

II. Team Captains

A Team Captain is that individual chosen by her team to handle its affairs within the Division for the League year. If she has any problems or questions, she must first contact her Division Director for advice.

A. All captains must submit a Letter of Intent to the current Division Director of the division in which they intend to play by June 15th. The team captain shall submit her team's roster according to the rules in III.

B. Ratings: Each captain shall confirm the ratings for each member of her team. See Appendix A for ratings information.

C. The Team Captain must register a minimum of 11 members of her team on or before July 1 of each year by signing up the team on www.topdogtennis.com. She will then obtain a registration code that she may either use to roster players herself or give to her players to use. Roster fees will be paid via credit card on www.topdogtennis.com for the league year (July 1-June 30). If a player is unable to participate in the RCRL league year, registration may be reimbursed, less an administrative fee. Refunds will only be granted to a player before the first scheduled match for her division.

D. It is the responsibility of the captain to assure that all her players are familiar with the rules of tennis, the Code, and the rules of RCRL. It is also the responsibility of the captain to assure that all players understand the expected standard of conduct of players.

E. In those circumstances in which the captain cannot be present at a match, it is the responsibility of the captain to arrange for a co-captain or acting captain to serve as captain. That substitute must be thoroughly familiar with the rules and prepared to make decisions on behalf of the team if necessary. Captains are encouraged to advise the opposing captain in advance of the name and contact information for any acting captain.

F. Match Score Sheets: Both Captains must print out the official score sheet for each match. Within 24 hours of the completion of the match, either the host or the visiting captain shall enter the results online, and the other captain shall confirm the match scores.

G. Team Captains and/or Team Co-Captains shall attend all meetings called by her Division Director and report all information to her teammates. In those situations in which it is absolutely impossible for either the captain or co-captain to attend a called division meeting, the captain shall arrange for another member of the team to attend.

H. She will discuss any grievances made by her team with the Division Director as indicated in RCRL Rule VI, Grievances.

I. When hosting a dual meeting, she will contact the visiting team captain if there is a change from the established time.

J. The forfeiting captain is responsible for canceling any court(s). If there is not sufficient time to cancel a court without a payment penalty, the forfeiting team will be responsible for all court costs.

K. She shall be responsible for collecting all match fees from her teammates to submit as one sum to the host club.

L. She will present in writing, names and court assignments of her team for dual meetings to the opposing captains in strict accordance with RCRL Rule V. Match Play.

M. C2 Team Captain

1. The C2 team captains will be supplied by each club. A club professional will serve as team captain until such time as a player captain is appointed.

2. The club professional/captain must submit a letter of intent to the RCRL Board no later than June 15th. The letter must list a minimum of 8 qualified players.

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. Team Roster for all Divisions except C2. (See Appendix B for C2 Team Roster)

1. A team's roster will be in effect for the league year, becoming void at the conclusion of the last rotation. An initial roster of eleven (11) players must be registered online by the July 1 deadline. Additional names of eligible new players may be added to the roster up to midnight seven days before the first scheduled match for the division in the league year and after play begins as set out in 2b, below..

2. Mid-year Roster Adjustments.

- a) No player may be removed from a roster by a captain except as follows:
 - i. Before the first match after the player is rostered, or
 - ii. If the player initially rostered on the team without the permission or invitation of the captain, or
 - iii. With the written agreement of the player. The requirement for written agreement may be waived by the board if the captain can demonstrate that the player could not be reached after reasonable effort to do so (e.g., the player has moved out of the area).
- b) After the rosters close as set out in A.1., new players may be added to the rosters of teams which are not full under limited circumstances. Players and captains must strictly adhere to this procedure to add players once rosters are closed.
 - i. The captain must submit a completed Roster Addition form, which must include the player's rating or pro verification, to the division director. The form must be accompanied by a check for the roster fee as set out on the form.
 - ii. The division director will submit the proposed roster addition to the Board for approval. If the information is complete and demonstrates that the player is eligible to roster on that team and the team has an opening for her, the addition will be approved. On approval, the player will be added to the roster by the data administrator. The player will be eligible to play one week following the Board approval.
 - iii. The Board will consider roster additions only at the following meetings: October, November, December, January, February and March.

3. A team may carry a maximum of eighteen (18) players, with the exception of Masters I, Mid-Level Masters and Masters II, which may carry 22 players. Should a team player wish her name deleted from the team roster, she may do so and be replaced with a new player if done within the roster deadlines previously stated, and if this does not cause the team to exceed player limit.

B. Individual Players

1. RCRL requires players to be 21 years of age or older. If a player will be 21 during the current RCRL year, she may play that year, the current year being July 1-June 30.

2. An individual player may represent only one A, B or C level team within the RCRL year (July 1 – June 30). In addition, a qualified player may play on one or two Masters teams (Masters I and Mid-level or Masters II and Mid-level, but not Masters I and II). No player may move from one team to another during the RCRL year. If a player chooses to be removed from her team's roster for any reason before the first match of the RCRL year for that division, she may roster with another team with the written consent of both team captains in accordance with the existing RCRL rules.

3. Limitations on eligibility based on NTRP and RCRL ratings is set out in Appendix A. Teaching pros are subject to individual evaluations.

4. All Masters Divisions require players to be 50 years of age or older. If a player will be 50 during the current RCRL year, she may play that year, the current year being July 1 - June 30.
5. Each player's name must appear on her team's official roster to be eligible to participate in match play.

IV. MATCH PLAY

A. Rules Governing Match Play

1. RCRL Rules govern play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, USTA Rules govern play. Also, Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions and The Code as a handbook of ethics and fair play should be understood and followed by every RCRL player. One copy of The Code and Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions should be available for consultation along with the league rules at all dual meets.
2. Electronic devices (cell phones, PDAs, pagers) are not allowed to be used on the court during matches except to determine official court time. The first time there is an electronic interference, the opponent will get the point. If there is second interference, the opponent takes the game being played. A third interference gives the opponent the match. Any surrounding courts affected by the electronic device may call a "let." Players may not make or receive phone calls or text messages and may not check voicemail messages or email from the beginning of warmup through the completion of the match, including during breaks of any kind, except with the agreement of all players on the court. Any violation of this prohibition will be considered electronic interference subject to the penalties set out in this paragraph.
3. RCRL encourages courtesy and cooperation between captains, and recognizes that there are occasions that captains (or acting captains) agree to go forward with a match under circumstances in which, without that agreement, there would be a violation of these rules (for instance, accommodating a player running slightly late due to an unusual traffic situation, allowing the opposing captain to correct an unintended error in a lineup after the lineup is exchanged but before play has begun). In those cases, neither captain can later complain or file a grievance over the accommodation. Matches played in good faith will stand.
4. A player may call a let for an adjacent court if a ball from her court rolls onto that court and legitimately appears to create a hazard for the players unaware of the ball.

B. Dual Meet

Each Division will hold a dual meet as indicated on its schedule. Each team will play every other team at least once in each rotation. (Additional matches may be played depending on the league size.)

C. Matches

Definitions:

1. "Match Tiebreak" is defined as first team to win 10 points by a margin of at least 2 points.
2. "Set Tiebreak" is defined as first team to win 7 points by a margin of at least 2 points.

In tiebreaks, players change ends of the court after every 6 points are played.

1. All matches will be the best two out of three sets. The 7-Point Set Tiebreak will be in effect any time that the score reaches "6-6" in any set. Each division may decide under what circumstances a 10-point match tiebreak will be played in lieu of a third set. At the Captain's meeting, each division shall choose one of the following options, which decision shall remain in effect for the entire league year. The options are:

- a) 10-point tiebreak in all cases,
- b) 10-point tiebreak if there are 20 minutes or less of court time available,
- c) 10-point tiebreak if there are 30 minutes or less of court time available.

Tiebreaks played in good faith shall stand and an objection to the form of tiebreak cannot be a basis for a grievance.

2. The HOME Team must provide an unopened can of first quality yellow championship balls for each court played. Oversized and titanium balls are discouraged but not prohibited if all four players are in agreement.
3. Outdoor play is discouraged but not prohibited if mutually agreeable to both captains.
4. Except as provided below, a total of 20 match points will be awarded as follows:
 - a. Court 1 – the winning team receives 6 points
 - b. Court 2 – the winning team receives 5 points
 - c. Court 3 – the winning team receives 4 points
 - d. Court 4 – the winning team receives 3 points
 - e. Bonus Points – Total the number of games won by each team. If a team wins by 10 or more games, that team receives 2 bonus points. If the difference in games won is 9 or less, each team receives 1 bonus point.

A different scoring system will only be permitted to be used in those divisions which utilize a strength roster or a court placement rule based on rating, or in the case of the beginner/instructional C2 division. See Appendix B for these special rules.

5. **THIRD SET SCORING:** If a third set is decided by a Match Tiebreak, the set score shall be recorded 1-0. If a third set is played out to “6-6” and then decided by the Set Tiebreak, the set score shall be recorded “7-6.”
6. **FORFEIT:** A forfeited court will result in match points for that court (See E-Forfeitures below).
7. If neither team can field a court, the points for that court are lost to each team.

D. Exchange of Lineups for Dual Meets

1. The Team Captain will present, in writing, names and court assignments of her team before each match. Numbers 1-2-3-4 will play numbers 1-2-3-4, respectively.
2. Teams should determine their lineups based on the relative strength of the players in order to ensure fair and competitive play on all courts. Subject to the special rules in Appendix B for particular divisions, captains/pros may make any combinations of players as double teams, but in determining the court placement of a doubles team, they must consider their relative strengths. The team which the captain/pro reasonably believes to be the strongest against the opponents shall be placed on court 1, the next strongest on court 2, and so forth. “Stacking,” “sacrificing,” or “throwing a court” (defined as placing a team on a higher court knowing they are unlikely to be competitive against the opponent’s higher court players in order to manipulate the outcome on other courts, or playing the strongest combinations on the lower courts) is inconsistent with this rule.
3. In addition, see Appendix B for special strength roster or court placement rules in specific divisions.
4. Lineups must be exchanged promptly at least five minutes before the scheduled match time. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture. In the event of illness, injury or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the **10 minute** default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position will be forfeited. Strength rosters remain in effect. (That is, a substitute cannot switch positions with another player in order to comply with the strength roster or court placement rules, without the agreement of the opposing team.)
5. Penalty for playing on an incorrect court:

a) If it is found within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match that a player played on court other than the one to which she was assigned on the official score sheet, that team will automatically be penalized by defaulting that court and whatever other courts that may have been affected. If the captains of both teams agree on the violation and the penalty, they shall report this to the Division Director for information, and to the Data Administrator to correct the score. If the captains do not agree on the facts or the penalty, the matter must be handled under the Grievance Procedure set out in Rule VI.

b) In those divisions with strength roster or court placement rules as defined in Appendix B (A, A1, Masters I and Masters II), if a player plays on a court for which she is ineligible due to rating, the match shall be recorded as a forfeit and the points earned on that court (and only on that court) will be forfeited automatically if brought to the attention of the division director within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.

c) Player position errors not brought up within 48 hours are waived.

E. Forfeitures

1. Prior Knowledge. The forfeiting captain is responsible for canceling any court(s). If there is not sufficient time to cancel a court without a payment penalty, the forfeiting team will be responsible for all court costs. Court position 4 will automatically be forfeited followed by Courts 3, 2 and 1 in that order.

2. Match Time. If a pair or a member of a pair arrives on court more than 10 minutes late, her team captain shall graciously forfeit that court immediately, and that team will be responsible for the entire court fee for all four players (if no tennis is played). The official clock for match play shall be a cell phone on the affected court.

3. Court Costs-Match Time. Any forfeiting team shall be responsible for the fee for the entire court for all 4 players. However, if the players choose to use the court and play a non-counting match, all four players shall share the fee. The forfeiting team is responsible for payment of court fees if the cancellation notice is less than 7 hours.

4. Injury. If a player is injured during match play and cannot continue play after a five (5) minute injury time-out, her court must default.

5. Scoring Forfeitures.

a. Forfeits before matches begin will be recorded as a win for the affected court, with the court value plus game count of 6-0, 6-0 awarded to the non-forfeiting team.

b. Injury / Emergency / Retirement - The actual score of the completed games shall be awarded to each team, and the non-forfeiting team shall be awarded the court value (See note below.)

Example: Team A forfeits in the second set at 3-3 to Team B after winning the first set (on court 3) : The score is recorded as 4-6, 3-3, the match status is recorded as retired, and Team B is awarded 4 points. Team A is credited with 9 games and Team B is credited with 7.

6. Any team forfeiting 25% of its courts during the league year is ineligible to be declared the league winner and will not be allowed to play as a team or to form a new team during the following league year.

F. Warm-Up Time

Warm-ups shall be completed by ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time for the match. No additional warm-up time will be allowed after this time expires. All warm-up serves shall be completed before the first serve of the match. A player shall not practice return of serves on her opponent's warm-up serves.

G. Continuous Play/Breaks

1. When changing ends, a maximum of one minute thirty seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game to the time the ball is struck for the first point of the next game. During play, the time, which shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the point to the time the ball is struck, shall not exceed 25 seconds.
2. A two (2) minute break is allowed between sets or before a match tiebreak.
3. Once play begins, it shall be continuous, and players may leave the court only for the reasons and time limits listed below. In case of disagreement, every attempt should be made to resolve the issue with the players on their court.
 - a. Bona fide bathroom breaks should be taken at changeovers or set breaks. They are limited to five (5) minutes, which may be combined with the changeover time for a total of 6-1/2 minutes or the set break, for a total of 7 minutes. If a player violates the bathroom break time limit, the offending team will receive a one-point penalty for any lateness up to three minutes over the specified time. If a player returns to court 3 to 5 minutes after the allowed time, the penalty will be the loss of one game. If a player returns to court 5 minutes after the specified time, she and her partner will forfeit the match.
 - b. Equipment malfunction (including shoes, contact lenses): Limited to five (5) minutes.
 - c. Medical timeout (for instance, gastrointestinal problems, blood sugar testing): Limited to five (5) minutes, and only one medical timeout for the same medical problem in a match. A medical timeout can be used as a bathroom break but cannot be combined with a bathroom break for a longer time limit. A medical timeout can be combined with the changeover time for a total of 6-1/2 minutes or the set break, for a total of 7 minutes.
 - d. Injury timeout – limited to five (5) minutes.

H. Postponement and/or snow/inclement weather.

1. In case of postponement during match play due to weather or having to yield the court, the previous score and occupancy of the court will hold. If a court, on site, is immediately available, then the match must be played or be forfeited. Otherwise, rescheduling will be allowed, and the match must be completed within six (6) days or be forfeited. Changing surfaces or going outside does not warrant an acceptable reason not to continue play unless the players and captains determine the weather is too severe. A 10-minute warm-up is allowed when the match resumes unless there is a court available immediately, in which case no warm-up is allowed. (EXCEPTION: with a change of surface, i.e. outdoor from indoor, a 10-minute warm-up is allowed.) Every effort should be made to complete the match on match day. If the match resumes on another day or at another site, then the four players should share the court costs involved.
2. Snow/inclement weather. At the beginning of the league year, the Board will announce a deadline for completion of any matches that must be rescheduled for any reason, including weather. Match play will be postponed if the Jefferson County Public Schools are canceled or delayed unless both teams agree to play. The host team must notify the club. If this occurs, then it is the Captains' responsibility within fourteen (14) days to reschedule the match, which must be played prior to the announced deadline. The Captains must notify the Division Director of a rescheduling. If the teams fail to agree within 14 days on a new date, the Division Director may refer the matter to the Grievance Committee to set the date and/or determine an appropriate penalty.
3. If all four (4) courts cannot be re-scheduled for the same start time, then the entire lineup must be exchanged before the beginning of the first match start time. If a player in such a split match lineup becomes unavailable to play when scheduled, the team may substitute a player who was not already listed in the full lineup, but may not switch the player with another listed in a different court position.

4. In case of severe weather, it is up to the discretion of the captains of the dual meet to determine match play. If either team cannot field four (4) courts, match play shall be rescheduled in accordance with the rules above.
5. If a team has forfeited a court in advance of a match, but the match is then rescheduled due to weather, the forfeit does not stand.

I. Division Match Days and Times

1. Division Match Day

- A Thursday
- A1 Thursday
- A2 Tuesday
- A3 Tuesday
- B1 Monday
- B2 Wednesday
- B3 Friday
- C1 Friday
- C2 Thursday
- Masters I Wednesday
- Mid-level Masters Thursday
- Masters II Tuesday

2. Scheduled matches are to begin no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and no later than 12:00 p.m. with the exception of the three Masters divisions, whose matches begin at 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. Matches will follow the scheduled time established on the first team roster submitted in July. Both captains must agree upon any schedule change, and all default rules apply to the new start time.

J. Coaching/Spectators

1. No coaching will be permitted from the start of the warm-up through the conclusion of the match, including during any break, by anyone including a team's coach, a captain, another player, or an observer.
2. If coaching does occur, a warning will be issued by the affected Team Captain. If the offense is repeated, the offending team will forfeit the match.
3. Good sportsmanship and conduct are expected by the players and spectators.
4. Spectators (including infants or children) are not allowed on the court during warm-ups or play.

K. Spring Break Week

There will be no matches scheduled during the Jefferson County spring break week.

V. AWARDS

A. Final Standings

1. The teams finishing first and second in each Division except C2 will be awarded trophies.
2. Team standings in each Division will be determined according to the procedure listed below. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - a. total points won,
 - b. total matches won,
 - c. total courts won,
 - d. fewest sets lost,
 - e. fewest games lost.

3. Awards Function. The RCRL Board may organize an awards function at the end of the spring season. This function, including invitations and program, will be the responsibility of the Vice President in conjunction with the Division Co-Directors.

3. Trophies. The RCRL Board will determine the type of trophy to be awarded and will provide up to 18 trophies for each of the first and second place teams (up to 22 for Masters) in each Division except C2. If a team wishes additional trophies, that team will be responsible for payment of the additional cost.

VI. GRIEVANCES

A. Grievance Committee.

1. At its first meeting of the League Year, the Board will appoint a Grievance Committee comprised of five (5) current or former Board members, no two of whom shall play in the same division. The Grievance Committee shall serve for one league year but members may be reappointed. The Board shall appoint a chair from among the committee members.

2. A committee member who plays in the Division in which the grievance is filed shall abstain from the vote.

3. In any instance in which a committee member cannot serve, or must abstain, the Immediate Past President will serve in her place. If any additional substitutes be required, they shall be appointed by the League President.

B. Official Score Sheet. The official score sheet shall be the host team's score sheet. Both captains (or acting captains) shall sign the official sheet. Captains shall note on the official sheet any potential grievance of which they are aware at the time of signing the sheet (other than pertaining to player misconduct or sportsmanship). Failure to note that grievance shall be considered a waiver of the issue.

C. Procedure

1. Chain of command for rules interpretations is team captain, Division Director, and as a last resort, Grievance Committee. Every effort should be made to resolve disputes or protests without resort to filing of a grievance.

2. Within 48 hours of the conclusion of match play, any protests shall be filed in writing (email is acceptable) on the Grievance Form. The protest shall be submitted to the League President and the Division Director.

3. The League President shall forward the grievance, via email, to the team against whom the grievance has been filed.

4. The responding team shall have 48 hours from the receipt of the grievance to respond, likewise in writing to the League President, the Division Director and the other teams involved.

5. Grievances or responses filed after the deadlines will not be considered.

6. The League President will forward the grievance and any response to the Grievance Committee within one week of the original filing.

7. The Grievance Committee will make any additional investigation it deems necessary and may request additional information from the parties or witnesses. It may consult with the Division Director.

8. The Grievance Committee will in a timely manner render its decision in writing, including a decision on any penalty. The decision will be submitted promptly to the parties to the grievance, to the Division Director and to the Board.

D. Sportsmanship and Appropriate Behavior.

1. RCRL expects teams, captains and players to recognize USTA Rules (where not inconsistent with these rules), USTA Code of Conduct and appropriate tennis etiquette. Players are expected to maintain control of their emotions and resulting behavior throughout the match.

Gamesmanship or intentional distractions that interfere with an opponent's concentration or effort to play the ball are prohibited.

2. If a player feels that an opponent failed to conduct herself in accordance with these standards and has committed a violation under the Code of Conduct, her captain or acting captain may file a grievance, following the procedures set out in this section VI.

3. If the Grievance Committee determines that an infraction has occurred, the Committee shall consider the severity of the infraction and the player's history of previous reported incidences and shall impose one of the following penalties:

a. Level 1 (first offense in a one year period): Written warning.

b. Level 2 (second offense in a one year period): Written reprimand.

c. Level 3 (third offense in a one year period): Suspension of the player from play on the affected team for the four matches immediately following the date of final decision.

d. Level 4 (fourth offense in a one year period): Suspension of the player from play on the affected team for one year from the date of final decision.

In addition, in the event of a Level 3 or Level 4 penalty, the court on which the offending player played will be scored as a default for her team.

4. This is intended as a progressive discipline system, with the levels followed in most cases. However, should the severity of the conduct warrant it, the Grievance Committee may skip one or more levels of penalty.

5. The decision shall be communicated to the parties, to the player, to the Division Director and to the Board in accordance with the procedures above.

E. Finality of Decision.

1. Except as provided immediately below, the decision of the Grievance Committee is final and may not be appealed, including to the full Board.

2. The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be final for any Level 1 or Level 2 penalty. Any decision of the Grievance Committee imposing a player suspension (Level 3 or 4) under section D, above, may be appealed by the suspended player to the full Board, by filing an appeal in writing (email is acceptable) addressed to the League President. The League President will present the appeal to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Grievance Committee Chair, if not a Board member, will be invited to attend the Board meeting, as will the parties to the grievance. The Board will render a decision at that meeting, which will be final and non-appealable.

VII. DIVISION PLACEMENT

A. Letter of Intent.

1. A letter of intent must be filed by any team, existing or new, proposing to play RCRL in the upcoming year. The deadline for filing is June 15. The letter of intent must include a roster of at least 11 players, indicating their ratings, and must indicate at which level the team proposes to participate. The letter of intent must be submitted within the deadline to the current (outgoing) Division Director of the division in which the team proposes to play.

2. *With its letter of intent* each team must have proof of two (2) hours indoor court availability for its home matches.

B. Division Placement and Movement (Percentage System)

1. The Masters I, Mid-Masters, Masters II, and C2 Divisions are not subject to these rules pertaining to movement up or down. In addition, the A1 division is exempt from these rules pertaining to movement up to A.

2. Nothing in this rule regarding team placement supersedes the rules in the Appendix pertaining to individual ratings and individual placement.

3. Definitions:

a. "Winning Percentage" is calculated from match points.

b. Mandatory Move Up Team – a team which is returning a majority of its players from the previous year and which won its division or achieved a 75% winning percentage in the previous year.

c. Qualified Move Up Team – a team which is returning a majority of its players from the previous year and which achieved a 70% or higher, but less than 75%, winning percentage in the previous year.

d. Mandatory Move Down Team – a team which is returning a majority of its players from the previous year and which has achieved less than a 25% winning percentage in the previous year.

e. Status Quo team – a team which is returning at least 6 players from the previous year but does not meet any definition listed in b-d, above.

4. Rules for Division Placement of Teams:

a. Mandatory Move Up Teams ARE REQUIRED TO move up one division from the previous year.

b. Qualified Move Up Teams WILL BE PERMITTED TO move up one division from the previous year, subject to the Board's discretion to take into account division sizes and court availability.

c. Mandatory Move Down Teams ARE REQUIRED TO move down one division from the previous year.

d. Except as set forth in C, below, status quo teams ARE PERMITTED TO continue to play in same division as the prior year, but must receive permission from the Board to play at any other level.

e. Any other team must receive permission from the Board to play at its requested level. This includes combinations of new players, mergers of previously existing teams, teams seeking to move by more than one level and any team seeking to avoid mandatory movement.

5. Considerations. In determining division placement, the Board may consider, without limitation:

- a. individual ratings of players,
- b. individual records of players in RCRL, including division level and court placement,
- c. prior team records,
- d. individual records in other leagues and,
- e. division sizes and court availability.

C. Discretion of Board

The Board may move status quo teams up or down in division, and may deny qualified move up teams to move, if necessary to assure that all the Divisions within the league are appropriately sized. In doing so, the Board will give consideration to moving down a team that failed to achieve 30% in the previous year. In addition, the Board may reassign a status quo team to a different division if it determines there is strong evidence that the team is not really competitive at its level. In doing so, the Board may consider, without limitation, the team's history of "stacking" in order to avoid mandatory movement up or down.

APPENDIX A PLAYER RATINGS

RCRL utilizes the Top Dog dynamic rating program as the primary determinant for player placement in the league and for court placement in those divisions utilizing strength rosters. "Dynamic rating" means the computer generated rating appearing in the Top Dog tracking

system under the individual player's results, as expressed to three decimal points, without rounding.

1. Rating Determination. At the time of rostering on a team, a rating will be entered for each player, which will be determined as follows:

- a. For any player who has a history of at least 5 matches reported in Top Dog (since the inception of Top Dog's tracking of RCRL), the rating will be her current Top Dog dynamic rating at the time she rosters. That is, her dynamic rating at the end of a season will become the rating at which she rosters at the beginning of the next season.
- b. For those players who do not have that 5 match experience in Top Dog, her rating will be her current USTA rating.
- c. Any player who has neither the Top Dog rating based on at least 5 matches or a current USTA rating must be verified by an independent tennis professional (that is, not the pro who coaches her team or who regularly gives her lessons). RCRL will designate which pros will participate in the verification program. Players with prior RCRL or USTA experience must provide their records to the pros at verification.
- d. All players who play in the C2 division must obtain a pro verification for the following league year, notwithstanding the number of matches they may have played. RCRL will arrange verification clinics for C2 players separate from those for the rest of the league.

A player who has not played an RCRL match within the last three seasons may choose to have a pro verification of her rating, which will supersede the dynamic rating already in the system.

2. Player Placement. Player placement shall be as follows:

- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **2.6** shall roster at the **C1** level or higher.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds 3.0 shall roster at the **B3** level or higher.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **3.3** shall roster at the **B2** level or higher.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **3.6** shall roster at the **B1** level or higher.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **3.9** shall roster at the **A3** level or higher.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **4.2** shall roster at the **A2** level or higher.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **4.4** shall roster at the **A1** level or higher.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **4.5** shall roster at the **A** division.
- A player whose rating exceeds **4.0** may not roster at **Mid-Level Masters**.
- A player whose rating equals or exceeds **3.6** may not roster at **Masters II**.

No player with a USTA rating (at the time of rostering) of 5.5 or higher may play in the league. A player with a USTA rating of 5.0 (at the time of rostering) may only play in the A division or Masters I.

No player in the A, A1, A2 or A3 division may roster at Masters II.

No player in the A1 or A division may roster at Mid-level Masters.

Notwithstanding the foregoing list, no player will be required by the ratings system to move up more than one division from one league year to the next.

The Board may vary these division cutoffs from year to year, based on experience under the rating system and the needs of the league.

3. Captains' Responsibility. Captains have the primary responsibility to assure that their players are rostered at the proper rating and in a division in which they are eligible to play.

4. Ratings Changes During the League Year.

a. No player is required or permitted to change divisions during the league year based on movement in the dynamic ratings.

b. For those divisions with strength roster or court placement rules (A, A1, Masters I and Masters II), the rating used for each player for purposes of strength roster or court placement rules shall be the rating at the time the player rosters. It is the responsibility of the captain to keep a list of her players' starting ratings and to assign her players to courts accordingly. In addition, the Division Director of each of those divisions should maintain a master list of the starting ratings (or of the court eligibility) of all players in the division for reference in the event of a question arising during the season. When a player is added during the season in those divisions, the captain of the team adding the player must notify the other captains in the division of the addition of the player and the courts on which she is eligible to play.

APPENDIX B SPECIAL RULES FOR PARTICULAR DIVISIONS

A Division:

1. Players with a USTA rating of 5.0 (at the time of rostering) may only play on Court 1.
2. A team may only play one such USTA 5.0 player in any match.

A1 Division:

1. Players with a USTA rating of 4.5 (at the time of rostering) may only play on Court 1.
2. A team may only play one such USTA 4.5 player in any match.
3. A1 is exempt from mandatory move up to the A division.

Masters I, Mid-level Masters and Masters II: Players may play in up to two Masters divisions, Masters I and Mid-level or Masters II and Mid-level. Players may not play in both Masters I and II Divisions.

Masters I Court Placement:

Players shall be assigned to courts in Masters I following these rules:

1. Any player who is rated 4.5 or higher at the time she rosters may only play on Court 1 for that league year.
2. Any player who is rated 4.3 or higher at the time she rosters may play no lower than Court 2.
3. Any player who is rated 4.0 or higher at the time she rosters may play no lower than Court 3.
4. A player who is rated below 4.0 at the time she rosters may play on any court.

The Division Director will compile and update as necessary a list of Masters I players who are limited to particular courts by this rule and distribute that information to captains. However, it is the responsibility of the captain to see that her players are placed on the correct courts. See Rule IV.D.5 regarding the penalty in the event of incorrect player placement.

For the 2017-18 league year only (the initial year for this rule), this rule may be adjusted at mid-year if the restrictions are causing numerous forfeits.

Masters II:

1. Strength Roster: A players whose rating at the time she rosters equals or exceeds 3.3 may only play on Courts 1 or 2.
2. Scoring: Court value is 2 points per court, with 2 bonus points available.

C2:

1. C2 teams will be formed by a qualified professional at each club. A team may form with a minimum of 8 players. There is no roster limit. Letters of intent are due by June 15.
2. Qualified beginner players may roster at any time during the RCRL year.

3. The first rotation of the Division will be designated a "preseason" where no points are awarded for courts won.
4. C2 teams will play three courts for each match. Courts are worth one (1) point each.
5. There will be no requirement for winning teams to move up regardless of the win percentage achieved by said team.
6. Matches will be played on Thursdays.
7. Club professionals will act as team captains or may designate a player on the team as captain.
8. Although there will be no requirement for players to move up after a certain time period, club professionals are strongly encouraged to move players to the appropriate division when the player's skill level sufficiently to warrant such movement.
9. Players on the winning C2 team will be recognized by the RCRL Board.
10. The Immediate Past President/Treasurer or her designee will act as Division Director for C2 until such time as another director can be identified.