

SPACE COAST TENNIS LEAGUE, INC.

SPRING 2012 SCTL RULES

THE RULES COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD HOPE THAT ALL OF OUR MEMBERS EXERCISE COMMON SENSE AND COMMON COURTESY AT ALL TIMES AND HAVE FUN, STAY SAFE AND ENJOY THE SEASON.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES BEFORE MATCHES.

IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE FAIR MATCHES, FRIENDLY COMPETITION AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, THE LINEUP FOR SCTL MATCHES SHOULD ALWAYS BE BASED ON THE ORDER OF ABILITY.

AS QUOTED FROM 'RULES OF TENNIS: THE CODE'.

TENNIS IS A GAME THAT REQUIRES COOPERATION AND COURTESY FROM ALL PARTICIPANTS.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT A BALL 99% OUT IS STILL 100% GOOD!!!

Patty Hammond
Rules Chairperson

SPACE COAST TENNIS LEAGUE, INC.

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I. TEAMS AND PLAYERS

Any captain or player who does not comply with these rules or any rules of SCTL including the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation or has demonstrated an inadequacy in the performance as a captain may be banned from SCTL for the season and prohibited from serving as a captain.

A. PLAYER PROFILE

1. To be eligible to play in the Women's or Mixed Division, you must be at least 18 years of age on the day you register to play; 50 years of age for the Men's Senior Division; 55 years of age for the Women's Senior Division; 55 years of age for the Mixed Senior Division; and 65 years of age for the Men's Super Senior Division.

2. All team members must be paid members of SCTL for each division for each season. The fee for membership will be determined by the SCTL Board of Directors and is nonrefundable and nontransferable.

3. Each player may be listed on only one team roster in the same division in the same season. A player is considered to be on a team when the roster or PVF is electronically submitted and the fee for membership is submitted to the appropriate vice president. A player who places his/her name on more than one team roster per division will be ineligible for that division for that season. This includes non-playing Captains.

a. The team rosters must be submitted electronically (using the SCTL website) and player fees must be either paid on line electronically or forwarded to the division VP by the requested date. Captains may also be requested to forward copies of original roster forms or other forms identified by the division VP.

b. The signatures of all players must be on the original rosters when the rosters are electronically submitted, using the SCTL website. If a player is unavailable to sign the original roster, he/she may sign a PVF. The original rosters and PVF forms are to be retained by the captains until the end of the season or unless requested to submit them by either the appropriate VP or the rules chairperson.

c. Any captain or player not complying with these rules can be banned from SCTL for the season.

B. TEAM PROFILE AND PLACEMENT

1. The Mixed Doubles Division will have a maximum number of 24 players per team. All other divisions will have a maximum number of 20 players per team. Any division/level that only plays 3 lines will have a minimum number of 8 players per team. Any division that plays 4 lines will have a minimum number of 10 players per team. Every level within each division must play the same number of lines.

2. The vice president, scorekeepers and level coordinators of that division will make the placement of teams. The goal is to match teams with comparable abilities within each level. All team placements will be made at the discretion of the Placement Committee with Board approval.

3. All teams in every division must designate a captain and co-captain from their roster.

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4. A new team forming and requesting entry at a specific level and a team being reformed to remain at the same level may only consist of a combination of the following:
 - a. Players who played at the requested level the previous season and whose team(s) remained at that level
 - b. New players to SCTL
 - c. Not more than 5 players who played at a higher level in SCTL the previous season.
 - d. Not more than 5 players who played at a lower level in SCTL the previous season.
5. In addition to the above, a new team requesting entry at a specific level that is reforming from a disbanded team that would have gone down to a lower level will not consist of more than 5 players from the disbanded team during the entire season.
6. Level winners will move up 1 level provided that the team retains 6 or more of its players from the previous season. The level winner is the team with the greatest number of points at the end of the season of play. Teams winning their level and not wishing to move up may request special consideration by the placement committee to stay at their level. Any decision in favor of keeping a winning team at their current level would have to be approved by the SCTL Board of Directors.
7. Any team that does NOT retain 6 or more of its players from the previous season will be considered a NEW team at the time of placement
8. Teams that do not win their level may stay at the same level the next season.
9. One or more teams that finish at the bottom of their level may be moved to the next lower level for the next season.
10. Team movement between Divisions/Levels will be based on the previous season's play as well as the addition and loss of players.
11. If levels are added or deleted in a division, teams will be aligned on a list in the order they would be if levels had not changed. Assignments to levels will then be made sequentially from this list.
12. The division VP has authorization to restructure any levels of the division, subject to SCTL Board approval.
13. Placement of a Senior Women's team will be determined by the makeup of players on the 'original' roster. After the original roster has been submitted and the team placed, no Bronze level team may add any player that is listed on an "A" level SCTL Women's team during the same season.

NOTE :Any Player who has played at a higher level the previous season and is joining a lower level team, (he/she) must be on the ORIGINAL roster along with his/her signature when it is submitted.

C. TEAM NAMES

1. Beginning with the FALL 2005 season, a new name for any team cannot be duplicated with any name in that division. Assignments for new names will be on a first come first serve basis.

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2. A dissolved team's name may not be used for one season within a division.
3. Any change in team names must be presented to the Division VP prior to the roster due date for the new season. This change can be communicated via email/telephone or written request to the VP.

D. ADDING AND REMOVING PLAYERS

1. Players may be added to or deleted from a team roster at any time during the season only by the approval of the team captain.

All divisions are considered separate as to last level played. Players who have not been on a roster in that Division for one season may be added to a roster at any level the player desires.

Qualifications:

- a. The player must have been listed on a roster in that Division for the player's last season in SCTL at or below the current level of the team the player is joining.
- b. The player may rejoin the same team on whose roster the player was listed during the previous season.

Procedures:

- a. Players may be added or removed electronically on the website and must be added 24 hours prior to the first scheduled match in which the player participates. Payment may be made as follows:
 - (1) Electronically at the time of player addition; or
 - (2) Check payable to SCTL. The check, along with a notation giving the player's name, team, division and level must be mailed to the VP of the division, postmarked no later than one day prior to the first scheduled match in which the player participates.
2. The team captains may remove a player from a roster at any time. In so doing the player is ineligible to play in the same division **on any team** until the next season. If the team roster is full, the captain of that team must delete a player prior to adding another player. Players are deleted from a roster by electronically submitting a PVF with the "delete" button highlighted.
3. Any person that is not added to a roster in accordance with these general instructions shall be considered an ineligible player. (See Section III - Penalties, Defaults & Forfeitures.)

II. SCHEDULED MATCHES

- A. Players may participate in only one line per match.
- B. In the Women's Division, Men's Senior Divisions **and Men's Super Senior Division** each home team must provide a minimum of 2 courts per match. In the Mixed Division, each home team must provide a minimum of 4 courts per match. In the Women's Senior Division and the Mixed Senior Division each home team must provide 3 courts per match. All courts must be in the same location for a match unless both captains agree to use other courts. Failure to provide an adequate number of courts will result in the home team defaulting lines for the courts not provided.

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- C. All curtains between and along side of courts must remain open and drawn back while a match is being played.
- D. The home team may determine any courts to be used for their home matches. Any court surface is acceptable.
- E. In a staggered match, the first available court must be used for the next match, regardless of the surface.
- F. All matches will consist of the best two out of three sets on the scheduled day except as covered under Inclement Weather, Sec. VI. The 7-point coman tiebreak, as specified by the USTA rules, will be used to determine the winner of a set any time the score reaches 6 games all (6-6). The Mixed Doubles Division, Mixed Senior Division, Women's Senior Division and Men's Super Senior Division will play a super coman tiebreak (1st to 10 points and ahead by 2) in lieu of a third set. The final set will be scored at 7-6 with the winner of the tiebreak receiving 7 points.
- G. SCTL does not provide linesmen or umpires for matches. However, a player from each team or representative may act as linesmen in case of conflict.
- H. Coaching is not allowed during a match. Teammates, spectators, captains or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or the conduct of a match. If linesmen are requested for a match, they may advise on line calls when asked.
- I. The home team must furnish one can of unopened USTA-approved yellow balls for each line of play.
- J. After the exchange of scorecards, (See IV, B), teams should take the appropriate courts and begin a warm-up of no more than 10 minutes, including practice serves, regardless of when players arrived. This rule applies also to staggered matches. Example: A match scheduled for 9:00 a.m. will begin play at 9:10 a.m. It is the home captain's responsibility to insure the first serve of the match occurs no later than 10 minutes after the scheduled start of the match.
- K. In all divisions, a 10-minute break may be taken after the second set. Otherwise, play must be continuous throughout the match as specified in USTA rules, i.e., 25 seconds between points, 90 seconds between changeovers, and 2 minutes between sets; optional 10 minutes between second and third sets for Women and Mixed matches.
- L. In the case of a conflict in the starting time of a match, the time will be 9 a.m. for the Senior Men and Women's Divisions, 7 p.m. for the Mixed Division and 11 a.m. for the Senior Women's Division and **the Men's Super Senior Division.**
- M. Each team must have a captain or appointed team member present during the entirety of every scheduled match
- N. Home captains should contact the visiting captains at least 4 days prior to a scheduled match to discuss the place and order of play.
- O. In the case of staggered matches (ones that do not start at the same time), the following rule will apply: visiting teams get first choice to choose the first line of play, home team second, visitor third and home fourth.

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P. All players playing the later staggered lines must be available to play by 10 AM. If all parties are present earlier, play will begin immediately when a court becomes available.

Q. On match day, at facilities where there is more than one type of playing surface and the home captain does not know which surface the match will be played on UNTIL match day, the home captain shall inform the visiting captain upon his/her arrival which starting line(s) will be playing on which surface before the exchange of scorecards.

R. The home team will pay all court fees and/or guest fees.

S. SCTL Rules govern league play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, USTA rules shall govern. All SCTL members should have read SCTL Rules and USTA Rules of Tennis.

T. In the event of a ‘Special Circumstance’ (ie. Funeral) approved by the board or observance of a major religious holiday, (which does not require Board approval) a captain may request of the opposing team a makeup for the line(s) of their NAMED players requesting the approved ‘special circumstance’ or wishing to observe the religious holiday. If BOTH captains agree, the makeup line(s) is scheduled and the requesting NAMED players must play (no substitutions for those requesting the ‘special circumstance’ or religious observance are permitted for ANY reason).

III. DEFAULTS, PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

A. Incorrect Opponent – It is the responsibility of each captain and the players to make sure they are playing the correct opponents as per the exchanged scorecard. Once such an error is discovered, regardless of whether the match has been completed or not, it becomes null and void. Play with the correct opponents should be started immediately unless BOTH captains agree to treat it as a rain-out pursuant to our Inclement Weather rule VI, Item C. In this situation there may be no player substitutions for any of the players listed on the scorecard.

B. If both players of a team are not on the court before the end of the 10-minute warm-up (See Section II., Paragraph J.) that position is defaulted and is scored as 1 point for the opposing team with a score of 6-0, 6-0. (See Section III. Paragraph E.)

C. When a position is defaulted, it must be the lowest position. When a position is defaulted in a staggered match, it must also be the lowest position played at that time.

D. The team receiving the default must list its players on the scorecard in order to receive the defaulted point.

E. Players who win by default must be present at the match, unless by prior verbal agreement of the captains, and will be considered to have played in that position.

F. If a vacancy occurs before commencement of the match, the captains of both teams have five (5) minutes to redo their lineups. (See Section V., Changing Lineups)

G. A line match that is retired because of unforeseen circumstances, i.e., emergency or injury, will be scored as one point for the opposing team. The retiring team will receive the games already earned and the opposing team will receive the necessary number of games to complete the line of play in progress.

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H. When an ineligible player participates in a scheduled match, the guilty team will be penalized by forfeiting all games and points at the point of infraction and below, whether the match is protested or not. Also, if applicable, the guilty team will lose the point for the most games won. All points forfeited will be awarded to the opposing team. Any forfeits given to a team due to playing an ineligible player will not count towards the excessive default rule.

I. If both teams forfeit any line, it will be declared a dual forfeit and each team will be awarded 2 sets lost for that line and no points will be awarded either team.

J. A team having excessive defaults of regular scheduled matches shall have all its matches nullified and remaining matches shall be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. A team that has exhibited excessive defaults of regular scheduled matches during a season MAY have the team and/or its members suspended for the following season. Excessive defaults is defaulting more than 4 lines total in any consecutive three (3) week period OR forfeiting all lines in any given match.

K. In those situations where no penalty for violations is provided in the General Rules, THE RESPECTIVE DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION TO IMPOSE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES WITH BOARD APPROVAL.

IV. SCORECARDS

A. Scorecards shall be written legibly with the following information: name of team, names of players, date, games, total games, No. of sets lost, points won and captain's or designated signature (unless match is being protested).

B. Scorecards must be exchanged simultaneously at the agreed-upon starting time for the match with complete and correct lineups, **including staggered lines**. It is the home captain's responsibility to insure that scorecards are exchanged promptly at the agreed-upon starting time for the match.

C. Failure by a captain to have their lineup written on their scorecard at the specified time for scorecard exchange will result in a forfeiture of all points for that scheduled match. (See Section VII.)

D. Once a player's name is removed from the scorecard, that player will not be allowed to play in that scheduled match.

E. The official line-up is the line-up exchanged 10 min. before the time of the rescheduled match. Scorecards **SHOULD NOT** be exchanged at the time of the rainout but at the rescheduled match.

F. The results of the match and signatures of captains, or their representatives, must be recorded on the scorecards at the end of the match. The home captain or their representative is responsible to enter the match score on the SCTL Website on the same day as the match **except the Mixed Division which should be entered within 24 hours**. Captains who wish to protest a match must withhold his/her signature on the scorecard and submit an electronic match protest form on the SCTL website. (See Section VII.). Both captains will retain their copies of the scorecards until the end of the season.

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G. The visiting captain must review the match scores on the SCTL website within 5 days of the match. If a discrepancy is noted, the discrepancy must be reported to the appropriate scorekeeper.

H. When rained out matches are completed, captains should enter the match score on the SCTL website indicating the original match date.

V. CHANGING LINEUPS -

Lineups may be changed in the following situations:

A. A vacancy can only be filled after the scorecards or lineups are exchanged if the vacancy occurs because of a player's absence or injury prior to the first ball of a match point being struck. Such vacancy may only be filled with a previously unlisted player.

B. If a rain-out occurs and one or more lines have not begun play, the lineups in those lines (including forfeited lines) may be changed and may include any team players that have not begun play in that match. However, once those lines have been re-scheduled to be played and the scorecards exchanged at the time of the re-scheduled match, the only substitutions of players allowed must be in accordance with "A" above, unless another rain-out occurs.

PLAYING OF INCORRECT OPPONENTS (Section III Paragraph A) DOES NOT APPLY IN THIS INSTANCE AND IS CONSIDERED A MATCH IN PROGRESS AND PLAYERS MAY NOT BE CHANGED / SUBSTITUTED.

VI. INCLEMENT WEATHER

A. In the event of rain, the home captain will have the sole responsibility to determine whether the courts are playable and advise the visiting captain as early as possible.

B. If the teams have assembled to play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain or wet courts, the teams should be prepared to wait a total of 1/2 hour to determine if the courts are playable, unless both captains agree not to wait the half hour. If the teams wait and the courts are still not playable after a total of 1/2 hour has elapsed, the teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer. The match will be considered a "rainout".

C. When a 'rainout' occurs, if captains do not make arrangements to play the 'rained' out match within 14 calendar days, the Women's; Senior Women's and Senior Men's Divisions will play at 11:00 AM on the 15th day after the originally scheduled match; the Super Senior Men's Division and Senior Mixed Division will play at 1:30 PM on the 15th day. In the Mixed Division, if captains do not make arrangements to play the 'rained' out match within 16 calendar days, the match will be played at 7:00 PM on the 17th day after the originally scheduled match. When counting days, DAY ONE is the day after the original scheduled match. If the match/matches cannot be played on the final day at the agreed upon time due to rain, it will be declared a DUAL FORFEIT and no points for the incomplete lines will be awarded to either team. Each team in that line will be awarded 2 sets lost. Any line that has begun but cannot be completed within the allotted time limit for makeup matches will have completed games count towards the total games for that match and year end totals, although no point will be awarded to either team for that line and lost sets will not be awarded to either team for any sets not completed..

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D. If the captains cannot agree upon a single makeup date for all lines, the (team's) individual lines may reschedule their matches at different times. Once a match has been rescheduled, it must be played as rescheduled or a default will occur. If another rainout occurs, it may be rescheduled as long as they can do so within 15 days of the originally scheduled match, 17 days of the originally scheduled match for the mixed division.

E. If a "rainout" occurs during a match, the completed lines will stand as played. The other lines, when resumed, will start at the exact set, game and point as when halted.

F. If the home team is unable to provide courts for a rain make-up, the visiting team may provide the courts.

G. If both captains agree, a match may be rescheduled due to excessive winds or temperatures at or below 40 degrees F. The procedures for a makeup match are the same as for a rained out match.

VII. PROTESTS & GRIEVANCES

A. No protest can be filed if the protesting team's captain or their representative has signed the scorecard after the match.

B. All protests must be submitted using the match protest form on the SCTL website and a filing fee of \$25 must be forwarded to the Rules Committee Chairperson within 5 days of the involved match. Checks should be made payable to SCTL. The fee will be deposited if the protest is not upheld and returned if the protest is upheld. The SCTL website will notify the rules chairperson, who will notify the vice president of the appropriate division, scorekeeper and the opposing captain.

The following situations may be officially protested.

1. Failure to have a correct and complete lineup written on the scorecard at the time of the scorecard exchange, **This protest must be announced before commencement of the match and the time noted at the time of the scorecard to avoid any discrepancies of the time. The match should then be played. Procedures to protest should be followed.**

2. Failure to exchange correct and completed scorecard at the agreed upon time,

3. Playing an ineligible player in a scheduled match.

C. Scorekeepers must report a rule infraction or ineligible player to the Rules Chairperson, the VP of the appropriate division and both team captains within 7 days of review of the scorecard. (See Section III. Paragraph G.)

D. Grievances or disputes may be brought to the Rules Chairperson for interpretation and application of the SCTL and USTA Rules.

E. The rules Chairperson or the SCTL Board of Directors may present grievances or disputes to the Rules Committee where the situation is not covered by these rules or when there is a dispute of the interpretation of the Rules by the Rules Chairperson.

F. The decisions of the Rules Committee are then presented to the Board of the SCTL for final review and approval. Board decisions are final and no appeals will be granted.

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VIII. SCORING

A. In the Women's, Mixed and Senior Men's Divisions, a total of 5 points will be awarded for each scheduled match, in the following order:

1. One point will be awarded to the winner of each of the 4 line matches
2. The 5th point will be awarded to the team that wins the most number of games
3. If the total of games won is tied, the point will be awarded to the team losing the least number of sets
4. If there is still a tie, each team will receive 1/2 point

B. In the Senior Women's, Mixed Senior and Men's Super Senior a total of 3 points will be awarded for each scheduled match. One point will be awarded to the winner of each of the 3 line matches.

C. The highest number of points at the end of the season will determine the level winners and runner-up teams. Ties will be broken by the first of the following criteria:

1. Matches - Winner of the most No. of matches
2. Sets - Least number of sets lost
3. Games - Winner of the most number of games
4. Head-to-Head - Winner of the most number of head-to-head matches. If there is still a tie, the tie remains.

IX. DEFINITIONS

The entire membership of SCTL is the League.

Divisions are Men's Senior Division, Women's Division, Mixed Division, etc.

Level is defined as A - 1, A - 2, A - 3, red, white, blue etc.

A match is four lines of play, including the 5th point, for the Women's, Men's Senior and Mixed Division and three lines of play for the Women's Senior, Mixed Senior and Men's Super Senior.

The winner of the match is the one with the highest number of points in that match. If the match ends tied at 2.5 to 2.5, it will be considered as 1/2 match won.

PVF is a Player Verification Form.

The scheduled match/match day is the date scheduled by the SCTL Division VP on which a specific match must be played except for inclement weather.