

RPTC STANDING RULES:

RPTC Policy for fielding Men's League Teams

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

A. Team Captain Selection:

Prior to the beginning of each tennis league/season, the League Coordinator (LC) selects the Captains for each team, with consideration of inputs from past captains and from the players. He may use a different selection process for different leagues/teams, e.g. rotation for one, solicitation and election for another, and solicitation and appointment for yet another.

B. Team Player Selection:

1. League Coordinator sends sign-up notice (with deadline) via email to the membership (from RPTC office) and to recent league players.
2. At the sign-up deadline, if more players than available slots signed up, the League Coordinator and the team captain will establish an initial roster and a challenge process for players left off the roster to play their way onto the roster. Team Captains are exempt from the challenge process and receive an automatic place on their respective teams.
3. After the sign-up deadline if there are open slots remaining selection is on a first-come/first-serve basis.
4. The League Coordinator will have the flexibility to place non-members on a team roster only if RPTC does not have enough member players to adequately fill the team and will report those names to the Office Manager. Non-members may play in team matches at no cost; non-members may play in team practices by paying the club's standard guest fee, with no other privileges of membership. League Coordinator must approve any non-members placed on a roster.

C. Assignment of Players to a Team Level

- 1 First criterion is USTA rating. For NCDL, 4.5 = A, 4.0 = BB, 3.5 =B.
 - a. For new players without a current USTA rating, the League Coordinator shall use any of the following methods to assess the appropriate team level and team for the new player:
 - b. USTA ratings written guidelines
 - c. Constructive observation of the player rallying and/or playing games

- d. Input garnered from an experienced team captain
 - Individual consideration will be given to players requesting to “play up” a level. At a minimum, the upper-level team must have an available slot (after the sign-up deadline) and the team captain’s input will be given consideration. Final decision is at discretion of the LC. Note that per USTA policy at least 50% of players on a roster must hold a rating consistent with the level of the league (e.g. on a 4.0 league team at least 50% of the players must hold 4.0 ratings).
2. If there is more than one team being fielded at one level (e.g. two 4.0 teams) and the HCT approach (see section F below) is not being used, player assignment will be at the discretion of the League Coordinator, in collaboration with the captains, who will consider the following factors:
 - a. Team balance
 - b. Player preference
 - c. Player availability (e.g. some players may be available only every other week)
3. If a highly competitive team format is being used, player assignment will be made per procedures defined below in section F.

E. Playing time/weekly line-up determination

1. Match line-ups and partner assignments are at discretion of the Captain.
2. Captain shall make every effort to insure all players on the team play their "fair share" of matches with a suggested minimum of three (individual schedules permitting). This will require continuous adjustments throughout the season to accommodate absences, opponent defaults, injuries, etc.

F. Highly Competitive Team (HCT) vs. Balanced Team

1. When RPTC has enough players to field more than one team at a level (e.g. two 4.0 teams), the League Coordinator may decide to field one of the teams as a Highly Competitive Team (“HCT”).
2. HCT may be used once or twice per year, at the discretion of the League Coordinator and based on input from players.
3. Selection of players for an HCT will be as summarized below:
 - a. League Coordinator announces the HCT season and solicits self-nominations.
 - b. Interested players self-nominate for either singles player or doubles team.
 - c. League Coordinator, in collaboration with recent Captains, determines the initial HCT roster.
 - d. League Coordinator then directs a challenge period during which other players may attempt to play their way onto the HCT.

e. At the end of the challenge period the roster is final.

H. Grievances: Escalation Process

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

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