



## EDMONTON TENNIS LEAGUE GENERAL RULES - 2018

### TEAMS, PLAYERS AND DIVISIONS

- I. All teams must be registered members of the Tennis Edmonton League and must have at minimum, a Tennis Alberta free membership. Team memberships are \$150 per Doubles/Mixed teams and \$300 per Team Tennis team per calendar year. Fees will be collected at time of registration through PayPal.
  - Players can register on the website at [www.tennisedmonton.ca](http://www.tennisedmonton.ca). After the registration deadline has passed, players can still be added, but will have to go through the registration process.
  - Individual players may register without having a team and will be placed on a team, where possible.
  - There will also be an option for players to make themselves a 'Substitute'. A 'Substitute' is a player that makes themselves available for any team in a particular category. They may or may not be called to play throughout the season.
  - Juniors (anyone still under 18 years of age on December 31st of the current year) may be permitted to play in the Team Tennis Division. The player will still need approval from the League Coordinator.
  - Elite / competitive league players (city wide summer leagues), may only play Team Tennis division (NTRP 4.5-5.0).
  
- II. There are four (4) categories of league tennis. Within each category, there may be different levels. Each group of teams playing in the same level and category constitute a league :
  - a. MENS: 2 divisions 3.0 & 4.0 Weekday evenings (start time 7:00pm)
  - b. WOMENS: 2 divisions 3.0 & 4.0 Weekday evenings (start time 7:00pm)
  - c. TEAM TENNIS: 1 division '4.5+' (4.5-5.0) Weekday evenings (start time 7:00pm)
  - d. MIXED: 2 divisions 3.0 & 4.0. All matches on Sunday afternoon (start time 3:00pm).
  
- III. A player can play in only one division per category each season, and within each division, they may play on only one team.

- IV. A player may play in more than one league (e.g. Women's and Mixed), as long as the leagues are in an equivalent division.
- V. Matches will be played at City of Edmonton Tennis Courts throughout the city.
- VI. The maximum number of players will be capped at six [6] for Doubles Teams and at eight [8] for Team Tennis. There will be a Substitutes list available for teams to call in players, if required.

## **MATCHES**

- I. See individual league rules for match formats.
- II. Scoring in a Game - Scoring is no-ad. This means a game is won by the first team to win four points (15-30-40) When the game score is deuce (40-40) (game point), the receiving team chooses which side is to receive the serve. In the mixed doubles set the serve must be gender to gender at game point.
- III. Score in a set - A match consists of six no-ad sets. A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all (5-5) in any set.
- IV. EXPLANATION OF TIEBREAKER:  
Nine-Point Tiebreaker A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all in any set. The person who is to serve next begins the tiebreaker. Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. Players change sides after four points. The first team (or person) to score five points wins the tiebreaker. If the tiebreaker reaches 4-4, the person who served the eighth point serves the ninth (final) point. The receiver, however, has the choice of sides (except in mixed doubles, where the service must be gender-to-gender). The winner of the ninth point is the winner of the set. Note: The tiebreaker can be won by one point. The tiebreaker counts as one game in overall match scoring.
- V. Linesmen or umpires for matches will NOT be provided. Teams make line calls on their own side of the court and will respect calls made by the other team on their side.
- VI. The Canadian "Rules of the Court" or USTA rules shall be the code of reference for all matches. (2005 version available from Tennis Alberta / Tennis Canada)
- VII. The HOME team will furnish two cans of unopened yellow balls for each match. (balls will be provided by the League).
- VIII. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes, including practice serves. A 3 minute break may be taken after the second set in all leagues. Otherwise, play must be continuous throughout the match. Injury time is limited to three minutes per person per match. If the player is unable to continue, the set is defaulted. (see DEFAULT rules in separate section)

- IX. Coaching during matches is illegal, with the exception of Team Tennis. Teammates, spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of a match. It is the home team's responsibility to control the spectators' conduct during match play.
- X. Good sportsmanship and conduct are expected by the players and spectators.

### **SCORING AND PLAYOFFS**

- I. Each set won earns one point. Total number of points earned at the end of the season will determine division winners and playoff teams.
- II. If there is a tie for playoff positions, the game scores shall be added up. If there is still a tie, the two teams "head-to-head" scores will be compared, and the winner will play in the play-off.
- III. Players in all leagues must play at least 6 sets during the regular season to be eligible for the playoffs.
- IV. In any league comprising four (4) or more teams, in the semi-finals, the first place team will play the fourth place team and the second place team will play the third place team. First and second place teams shall have home court advantage.
- V. If the league has only 4 teams, the 1<sup>st</sup> place team will have a "Bye" to the final #2 playing #3 in a semi-final match. This will make all regular season matches "mean something".
- VI. If a tie occurs during the playoffs, then games are counted. If there is still a tie, a doubles team (mixed doubles team in the mixed leagues) shall be selected by each team and a super tie breaker (first to 10 by 2 points) shall be played.

### **TEAM REPRESENTATIVES**

- I. Team reps must ensure that there is a full team ready to play every match.
- II. Home team captains must contact visiting team captains 2-3 days prior to the match to confirm.
- III. Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at the beginning of every match. Captains should exchange complete line ups simultaneously prior to starting play. Scores of each match must be recorded and either captains (or team representatives), must sign the scorecard.
- IV. The home team captain is responsible for entering the score on the website form no later than 2 days after the match has been played. The visiting team captain shall keep a copy of the scores for reference, if needed. If there are situations that cannot be resolved by the team captains within the rules, the League Coordinator should be contacted. Rule changes or written

clarification will be reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the League Coordinating Committee.

## **DEFAULTS**

The 20-minute default rule is in effect for all scheduled matches. If a full team is not available to play 20 minutes following the scheduled start time, default rules will apply.

Defaults may include entire matches or just sets.

- An entire match default will occur:
  - i. If a team declares in advance that it cannot field a team.
  - ii. If fewer than three (3) players for one team have arrived 20 minutes following the scheduled start of the match.
- Scoring of defaulted matches.
  - i. Scores shall be recorded as 6 - 0 for a 6 set match. Players on the opposing team who would have played if there had not been a default will be considered to have played for the purpose of counting eligibility to play in the play-offs (has to have played six sets in the season).
  - ii. A default of sets may occur:
    - 1. If a team is able to field only three (3) players due to failure to arrive of one (1) scheduled player. In such cases, the team with only three players automatically defaults three (3) sets.
    - 2. If a player is unable to complete one or more scheduled sets due to illness or injury. In such cases, only sets not completed at the time of the withdrawal will be defaulted.

NOTE: If a team captain is aware in advance that fewer than four (4) players will be available, he/she should notify the opposing captain and default the match in advance.

c. Scoring of defaulted sets.

- i. Scores of sets defaulted due to player absence or withdrawal will be scored as 4-0 in games, and the set result will be marked as "Team X won by def." or "Team X won by ret."
- ii. Any team that defaults two consecutive matches or a total of three in a season without notifying the opposing team two days in advance will be prohibited from playing the remainder of the season and a BYE will replace their spot on the schedule.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- I. In the event of rain, completed individual matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players, if possible, at the exact set, game and point as they stood when halted. If a change of players is required, then the other team must be informed. Lineups for matches not started may be changed, provided they do not conflict with the player movement rules.
- II. If teams have assembled to play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain or wet courts, the length of time teams wait for dry courts will depend on a consensus of both team captains. In the event of a disagreement, the home captain's decision will prevail
- III. Rained out matches must be played with two weeks (14 days) of the originally scheduled date.
- IV. It is the home team's responsibility to contact the League Coordinator to have a new court to be arranged. If the teams agree to play outside of the City of Edmonton courts, they still must notify the League Coordinator. Failure to do so may result in the teams having to cover the court cost.
- V. Visiting team must respond to the proposed reschedule within 48 hours of receipt. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture. Visiting team captain may request one (1) change of date/time. Home team captain must respond within 24 hours. If change cannot be accommodated, match will be scored as split sets i.e. 3-3 for full match, 2-2 if 4 sets were unplayed, 1-1 if 2 sets were unplayed.
- VI. If rescheduled match is rained out also, match will be scored as split sets.
- VII. If the league coordinator is not informed of a failure to agree on a reschedule within 7 days of the original date for the match, it will be scored 0-0 in sets.

#### **INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE RULES:**

##### **WOMEN'S AND MEN'S DOUBLES**

- I. Each team shall consist of two players.
- II. Matches will consist of a best of three sets.
- III. Teams will receive one point for each set won.
- IV. Women's Evening leagues plays on weekdays starting at 7:00 P.M.
- V. Men's leagues play on weekdays starting at 7:00 P.M.
- VI. In both cases, if darkness prevents completion of all sets, the leader at that time is the winner. An incomplete set shall be scored according to the last even score.

## **MIXED LEAGUE RULES**

- I. One man and one woman constitute a team.
- II. Matches will consist of a best of three sets.
- III. Teams will receive one point for each set won.
- IV. Players can be substituted during a match with the agreement of both captains, e.g. due to injury or personal emergency.
- V. Players may be substituted for the final two sets. They can play the last set regardless of injury or emergency.
- VI. Mixed Doubles leagues play Sunday afternoons starting at 3:00 P.M.

## **TEAM TENNIS RULES**

- I. Scoring in a Game-In Team Tennis (TT) the scoring is no-ad. This means a game is won by the first team to win four points (15-30-40) When the game score is deuce (40-40) (game point), the receiving team chooses which side is to receive the serve. In the mixed doubles set the serve must be gender to gender at game point.
- II. Score in a set - A match consists of six no-ad sets and includes one set of men's and women's singles and doubles, and two sets of mixed doubles. A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all (5-5) in any set.  
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- III. EXPLANATION OF TIEBREAKER:  
Nine-Point Tiebreaker A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all in any set. The person who is to serve next begins the tiebreaker. Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. Players change sides after four points. The first team (or person) to score five points wins the tiebreaker. If the tiebreaker reaches 4-4, the person who served the eighth point serves the ninth (final) point. The receiver, however, has the choice of sides (except in mixed doubles, where the service must be gender-to-gender). The winner of the ninth point is the winner of the set. Note: The tiebreaker can be won by one point. The tiebreaker counts as one game in overall match scoring.
- IV. Line-ups - Home team captain must submit starting line-up to opposing team captain before the start of each set. Each team captain has until the end of the two minute break between sets to submit starting line-up for the next set. The winner of the match will be determined by the total number of games won.

- V. Change of Ends - After every four games players change ends. In the nine-point tiebreaker, change ends only after the first four points.
  
- VI. Order of Service - The home team serves first in all doubles sets. (Exception - The away team serves 1st in the fifth set and the home team serves first in the sixth set.) The away team serves first in the singles sets.  
Since the serving order is predetermined, the receiving team selects from which end of the court they want to receive.
  
- VII. The Let During a Serve - When a serve hits the net and bounces within the service court, the ball is playable. In doubles, either player on the receiving side may return the ball after it bounces. If any player on the court calls "let", their team loses the point. If players on both teams call "let" then the point will be replayed.
  
- VIII. Coaching - Coaching is allowed throughout the match as long as it does not interfere with continuous play.