



InterCounty Tennis Association Plus 55 League Rules

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SECTION 1 – INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In these Rules:

- (a) **“Captain”** means the Person appointed by his or her Club for the purpose of administering his or her Team’s participation in the League. The Captain may, but need not be, a Player, but shall be listed on the Roster.
- (b) **“Club”** shall have the meaning set out in the Constitution.
- (c) **“Composite Team”** means a Team whose Roster comprises Players from different Clubs.
- (d) **“Constitution”** means the Constitution and By-Laws of the ICTA, as amended from time to time.
- (e) **“Default”** means the loss of a Match or Matches by failing to be present for play at the scheduled time.
- (f) **“Disqualification”** means the removal from a Team of a Player deemed ineligible to participate.
- (g) **“Division”** means the geographical area into which a Level is divided and into which Teams are grouped.
- (h) **“Excessive Defaults”** means the defaulting of six Matches during the Season.
- (i) **“Executive”** means the ICTA Executive, as provided in the Constitution.



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- (j) “**Fixture**” means a series of Matches between the doubles pairs of two Teams, initially scheduled to take place in one day, and shall consist of three doubles pairings, comprising of one Men’s doubles, one Mixed doubles and one Ladies doubles.
- (k) “**Forfeit**” means the loss of a Point or Points for a violation of the League Rules or as otherwise imposed as a Penalty.
- (l) “**Grievance**” means a complaint regarding a Captain’s, Player’s, Team’s or Club’s alleged non-compliance with the Rules.
- (m) “**ICTA**” means the InterCounty Tennis Association.
- (n) “**ICTA Website**” means the official website of the ICTA, being www.intercountytennis.com.
- (o) “**League**” means the Plus 55 League, being one of four Leagues in the ICTA, the others are Junior, Ladies and Mixed.
- (p) “**League Director**” means the Plus 55 League Director, as provided in the Constitution.
- (q) “**Level**” means the level of play in the League, graduated based on ability, being from high to low, Division 1 and Division 2.
- (r) “**Line-Up**” means the list of Players who will compete in a Scheduled Fixture.
- (s) “**Match**” means any doubles Match played as part of a Fixture.
- (t) “**Penalties**” has the meaning set out in Section 2.7.
- (u) “**Player**” is somebody 54 years of age or older and shall be a current paid Club member from the date of his or her first Match.
- (v) “**Promotion**” means the advancement of a Team to the Level immediately above.
- (w) “**Relegation**” means the demotion of a Team to the Level immediately below.
- (x) “**Relocation**” means the relocation of a Team to another Division.
- (y) “**Retirement**” means the circumstance where a Player is unable to continue a Match in progress because of a loss of natural condition, an injury, or a personal commitment or emergency.



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- (z) **“Rules”** means the Plus 55 League Rules, which shall incorporate, by reference, the Tennis Canada, Rules of The Court, including, but not limited to, The Code: Guidelines for Unofficial Matches.
- (aa) **“Roster”** means the complete list of eligible Players on a Team, consisting of not fewer than 6 Players, with no maximum.
- (bb) **“Season”** means the period of time commencing the date of the first League Fixture and ending on the date of the last League Fixture, both as published on the ICTA Website.
- (cc) **“Scheduled Fixture”** means the date published on the ICTA Website. In the event of rescheduling, the agreed upon time and day becomes the Scheduled Fixture.
- (dd) **“Super Tie-Break”** means a ten point tie break played in place of a third set in which the victor is the first Team to ten points with a margin of not fewer than two points. Team are required to change sides every 6 points.
- (ee) **“Team”** means, collectively, those Players who participate in a Fixture.
- (ff) **“Tennis Canada, Rules of The Court”** means the Tennis Canada Rules book, *Rules of The Court*, including, but not limited to, *The Code: Guidelines for Unofficial Matches*, as amended from time to time.
- (gg) **“Tenniscores”** means the official scoring and scheduling website of the ICTA, available by clicking through the ICTA Website.

SECTION 2 – GENERAL

- 2.1 The Rules shall apply to all Clubs, Teams, Captains and Players in the League, each of whom shall, at all times, both on and off the court, uphold standards of good conduct, fair play and sportsmanship.
- 2.2 The Constitution and Rules are available on the ICTA Website.
- 2.3 In the event of a conflict between the Constitution, the Rules and the Tennis Canada, Rules of the Court, the Constitution shall prevail over the Rules which shall prevail over the Tennis Canada, Rules of the Court.
- 2.4 All Clubs shall keep a copy of the Rules on hand, or, alternatively, facilitate online access.
- 2.5 Captains shall ensure their Players familiarize themselves with the Rules. Ignorance of the Rules is not an excuse for non-compliance.



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- 2.6 Subject to review by the Executive, the League Director may make rulings and enact Penalties against Clubs, Teams, Captains and Players arising out of non-compliance with the Rules.
- 2.7 Penalties may include, but are not limited to:
- (a) defaults of Matches;
 - (b) defaults of Fixtures;
 - (c) suspension of playing privileges;
 - (d) disqualification of Players or Teams;
 - (e) alternate placement in standings;
 - (f) relegation;
 - (g) denial of Promotion; and
 - (h) relocation.

SECTION 3 – LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- 3.1 The League is divided into two Divisions, West Division and East Division.
- 3.2 Divisions are divided into two levels: Level 1 and Level 2.
- 3.3 Each level may be sub-divided into geographical Divisions which shall contain an approximately equal number of Teams.
- 3.4 At the discretion of the League Director, Clubs may enter one or more Teams in a Division, a Level or the League
- 3.5 Teams shall face each other in a round robin format of Fixtures.
- 3.6 Each player shall play at a Level commensurate with his or her ability.
- 3.7 Except as set out in Sections 3.8 and 3.9, a Player may play for only one Club in the Plus 55 League.
- 3.8 During a Season, a Player may move to a new Team in the League, either in the same, or in a different Division, and only at the League Director's discretion:
- a. If he or she moves his or her place of residence;
 - b. If he or she plays once for a Team and then chooses, for other than geography, to no longer play on that Team;
 - c. In other exceptional circumstances.

Any such Player may thereafter play only for his or her new Team for the duration of the Season.



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- 3.9 To address player shortages, any extra Players who are not regulars on a team may be added to the “General Sub List” to be called upon to sub for any Team in the League. To be added to the list, the name, phone number and/or e-mail address of the Player shall be submitted to the Division Chairperson. The “General Sub List” will be circulated to all Captains.
- 3.10 No player shall play under an assumed name.
- 3.11 Any Player contravening Section 3.10, or any Captain or Player having knowledge of an alleged contravention of Section 3.10, who fails to forthwith report it to the League Director, is subject to discipline and may be suspended for up to one year.
- 3.12 As visiting Teams are guests of the home Club, home Club policies, except where inconsistent with the Rules, shall apply. Home Clubs shall be permitted to enforce policies relating to, among other things, dress code and footwear.
- 3.13 Clubs shall post their policies in a conspicuous manner, shall communicate them in accordance with Section 5.2, and may deny playing privileges to Players who do not comply with them.

SECTION 4 – TEAM ORGANIZATION

- 4.1 Captains must add Players to their Roster during the Season prior to the Player’s Match. Occasionally, a Captain may need to play a player not shown on the roster as a last minute replacement. In this case, the Captain must notify the opposing Captain the day of the match and enter the players name by the end of the day, or forfeit that match.
- 4.2 Composite Teams may enter the League.
- 4.3 Teams shall have a Captain, and, preferably, a co-Captain, with valid email addresses and telephone numbers.
- 4.4 Captains and/or co-Captains shall prepare Line-Ups for Fixtures.

SECTION 5 – MATCH ORGANIZATION

- 5.1 Home Captains shall notify visiting Captains not less than three days prior to the Scheduled Fixture of:
 - a. Home Club policies, if any;
 - b. Number of courts available at the start of the Fixture, in all instances not fewer than two.
- 5.2 Fixtures start times is at 9:30 AM except that in accordance with court availability of the home club and advised by the home team which will be posted for the season.



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- 5.3 Home Captains shall notify visiting captains of a delay to the start time caused by weather.
- 5.4 Where fewer than three courts are to be used for the start of the fixture, the start time for all Matches not commenced at the starting time will be deemed to be five minutes after the completion of the first of the early Matches.
- 5.5 Matches featuring Players who are more than 15 minutes late shall be defaulted, if requested by the opposing Captain.
- 5.6 Each Team shall have a Captain or acting Captain. Captains are to exchange Line-Ups prior to the start of the first Match of the Fixture. No change may be made to a Line-Up thereafter except with the consent of the opposing Captain. No substitutions may be made once the warm-up starts.
- 5.7 The home Team shall supply a new can of yellow balls, tournament quality, for each Match.
- 5.8 The home Team shall supply sufficient food and refreshments for all Players.
- 5.9 The visiting Team is deemed to have won the toss at the start of each Match.
- 5.10 The Match format is the best two out of three sets, with a Tie-Break played at a score of 6-6 in any Set. If the score is tied at 1 set all, a third set Super Tie-Break shall be played unless both captains agree to play a full third set.
- 5.11 If a Team fields less than six Players, one match will be declared forfeited and the score entered as 6-0, 6-0 in favour of the opposing Team.
- 5.12 If a Team fields less than four Players, it shall Forfeit the entire Fixture. The Forfeited team is called the Offending Team and the other team is called the Team Offended.
- 5.13 Match scores are to be recorded as 6-0, 6-0 for the Team Offended and the points awarded is the average points earned from the previous matches. The Offending Team will be awarded 0 points.
- 5.14 Teams that Forfeit Matches or Fixtures may be subject to discipline by the League Director.
- 5.15 A Team committing Excessive Defaults shall have all its points to date nullified and shall be treated as a bye for the entire Season. The League Director, at his or her discretion, may invoke suspensions for the next Season.
- 5.16 The League Director, at his or her discretion, may suspend the Captain or Club that withdraws after the deadline set out in Section 4.1.



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- 5.17 In the event of a Player Retirement, the Match shall be scored as if the opposing Team won all remaining games in the Match.
- 5.18 Coaching during a Match is prohibited
- 5.19 All electronic devices are to be turned off during a Match and may only be used in an emergency.
- 5.20 One point will be awarded for each match for a total of 3 points for the entire fixture.
- 5.21 Home Captains will post Match results on the ICTA Website within 24 hours of completion. Thereafter, visiting Captains may enter the results.
- 5.22 Where a fixture is not completed, Captains are to submit to the Division Chair the scores for Matches as and when subsequently completed within 24 hours.
- 5.23 If a Fixture is abandoned after play has started all completed Matches will count. Incomplete Matches shall be rescheduled in their entirety using Players who have not already played in a completed Match in that Fixture. Defaults will count as completed Matches.
- 5.24 All Fixtures must be completed. Any Team determined to have committed Excessive Defaults shall be subject to Section 5.15
- 5.25 Make-up dates for Matches shall be arranged by Captains within ten days, with Division Chair copied on all correspondence, and played within 26 days of the original Fixture date. If necessary, make-up Matches may be individually rescheduled to different dates within the 26 day period.
- 5.26 No make-up Matches may be rescheduled a second time, except due to inclement weather.
- 5.27 Teams not completing their Matches by the 26-day deadline may receive zero points for unplayed matches and cannot, for greater certainty, agree to 'split points'. Teams that split points shall be deemed to have committed an Excessive Default and shall be subject to Section 5.15.
- 5.28 Players must play for their respective team a minimum of two matches during the season to be eligible to participate in the playoffs.
- 5.29 If a club has a team playing in Level 1 and Level 2, a player in Level 2 may Sub Up for the Level 1 team a maximum of two matches. Players who Sub Up on a third occasion shall thereafter play only for the Team on which they played on the Third occasion.
- 5.30 If there is a Weather Heat Warning for the day of the fixture, BOTH captains may agree on an earlier start time.



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SECTION 6 – DIVISION STANDINGS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

The League Director shall have the authority, subject to the review of the Executive, to determine Promotion, Relegation and Relocation policies.

- 6.1 These policies will vary by Level and will depend on the number of Divisions in the Level.
- 6.2 Generally, the winner of each Division will be Promoted and the last place team in each Division will be Relegated.
- 6.3 Teams shall accept Promotions, Relegations and Relocations.
- 6.4 The Division winner shall be the team with the most points during the Season.
- 6.5 Ties for Division winner or other place positions shall be resolved in favor of the Team winning more sets during the Season. Failing a resolution by this method, the Teams shall be viewed head to head and the victor shall be the Team ahead by the first of the following metrics:
 - a. Matches won;
 - b. Sets won;
 - c. Games won;
 - d. Coin toss.
- 6.6 Plaques will be presented to Division winners at the Fall Annual General Meeting.
- 6.7 The League Director will convene a meeting of Division Chairs following the Season and prior to the Fall Executive Meeting.
- 6.8 The purpose of the meeting referred to in Section 6.8 shall be to:
 - a. review the Season's play;
 - b. study Grievances and Penalties; and
 - c. make recommendations.

SECTION 7 – GRIEVANCES

- 7.1 Grievances may be filed by Captains, the League Director, the Division Chair and the Executive regarding Captain's, Player's, Team's and Club's alleged non-compliance with the rules.
- 7.2 All such Grievances shall be made in writing to the Division Chair within 48 hours of the Match, with a copy to the opposing Captain.
- 7.3 All Grievances, in the first instance, will be reviewed by the Division Chair, who shall resolve it in accordance with the Rules.



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- 7.4 The Division Chair shall communicate his or her decision in writing to the Captain who filed the Grievance, with a copy to the opposing Captain within one week of receiving it.
- 7.5 Where necessary, the Division Chair is encouraged to consult with the League Director.
- 7.6 The Division Chair may recommend Penalties to the League Director, but only the latter shall be permitted to enact them and, where they affect a Player, shall be copied to the Player.
- 7.7 Despite Section 7.1, the Division Chair and League Director shall have the authority to initiate their own investigation into non-compliance with the Rules and shall receive written submissions from the affected parties prior to reaching a decision or, in the case of the League Director, enacting a Penalty.



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Appendix “A”

Guide for Recording Scores in Tenniscores for ICTA Plus 55 League

1. A **tie break** at the end of a standard set is scored 7-6 for game score with the tie break point score entered into the small (tie) box.

Line 3					
Away	Maureen Marcus John Smith	✓	6	3	7 ⁷
Home	Susan Jones Ricky Racquet		3	6	6 ⁴

2. A **super tie break** played in lieu of a third set is recorded as 1-0 for game score with the tie break point score entered into the small (tie) box.

Line 1			1	2	3
Away	Janet Monaco Sally Thomas		6	4	0 ⁶
Home	Amy Smith Jane Yi	✓	0	6	1 ¹⁰

3. When a player **retires** a match that is in progress, record the actual scores up until the point of retirement and choose (“name of team” by retired) from the drop down menu.

Line 3					
Away	Donna Martini Stella Campbell	✓	6	2	6
Home	Mary Reilly(Retired) Carolyn Smith(Retired)		2	6	3

4. When a team **forfeits** a line(s) because they do not have enough players, the team receiving the forfeit should put in the names of the players they would have played. This will count towards the number of matches played for a person should their team make it to the playoffs or the year end Tournament. Choose ("Team that won" by forfeit) from the drop down menu.

Line 4					
Away	(Forfeit)		0	0	
Home	Cleo May Sam Yee	✓	6	6	



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5. When a team **defaults** a line because a player or players are over 15 minutes late, all names should still be entered as they appeared on the lineup sheet that you exchanged prior to the start of the fixture. Choose ("Team that won" by default) from the drop down menu. You can use the "comments" section if you want to put "no show" or "arrived 45 minutes late". Enter the scores as 6-0, 6-0.

Line 2 - No Show				
Away	Michelle Weather(default) Carol Smyth(default)		0	0
Home	Janet Smith Lori Martin	✓	6	6