

EAST HILLS SUMMER TENNIS LEAGUE

2011 CHARTER AND BY-LAWS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the East Hills Summer Tennis League (EHSTL) is to provide an opportunity for members to play competitive tennis in a league, to meet other players, and above all, to have fun. By participating in the EHSTL a person agrees to complete all matches within a reasonable period of the scheduled date, and to uphold high standards of courtesy and sportsmanship at all times.

II. DUES

The Executive Committee will set the dues for each year. For 2011, the dues will be \$25 per player for the 1st event, and \$5 per player for any number of additional events. Possible events are singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. This fee covers the cost of the banquet, trophies, and league operating expenses. Dues must be paid by April 15. There are no refunds. Mailings of league standings, if requested, are an additional \$5 per player.

III. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

There will be three main categories of competition, or events: singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Each category is split up into several divisions of varying ability. During the regular season, each player/team in a division will be scheduled to play against every other player/team in the same division one time.

In singles, each division will consist of 12 to 16 players. In doubles and mixed doubles, each division will consist of 8 to 11 teams. The Executive Committee will establish the number of divisions in each category, the number of players in each division and allocate the available players to ensure fair and competitive standings. A player may compete in more than one category. If there is room available, a player may compete in two doubles divisions of the same category (doubles or mixed doubles) with two different partners of appropriate skill level, after receiving the express permission of the representatives of the 2 divisions and the league president. No player may compete in more than one singles division.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will consist of a president, a secretary, and representatives from each of the singles, doubles, and mixed doubles divisions. The Committee will employ a league secretary, whose duty will be to collect dues, keep records, and maintain the web site. The secretary will receive a salary of \$300. Division representatives will make division related decisions, hear and settle complaints, work with the secretary to maintain their divisions' information on the web site and if necessary, play tennis with newcomers in order to assess their ability and place them in the proper division.

The Committee, as a group, will be responsible for all affairs of the league. It will plan the post-season banquet, be responsible for league finances, make long-range plans, write the rules, and maintain the membership and waiting lists. It will hold periodic meetings called by the president, or as needed when requested by any of the division representatives. The Committee will have discretionary power on all matters pertaining to the league.

V. REGULAR SEASON

The Committee will set the schedule for the league. The regular season will run for 16 weeks. During this period, each player/team should play each other one time. Matches should be played within the week scheduled, and the scores reported promptly to the web site.

The 2011 season will begin on May 1 and end on August 21. No scores will be accepted after this date; there

will be no exceptions.

The weekly schedule of regular season play for all events in the current year will be posted on the web site with the rosters.

VI. POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT

There will be a post-season single-elimination tournament open to all players in the league who completed all regular season matches. The division representatives will determine eligibility for tournament participation. The preliminary rounds of the tournament will be held during the four weeks following the regular season. The players will set up the dates and times for these matches.

The schedule of play for the preliminary rounds and finals is listed in the EHSTL calendar. If a player or team is not available to play during the scheduled tournament and cannot play earlier by mutual agreement, then they may not be able to participate. Any player/team not available to play the day of the tournament finals must also forfeit their preceding match.

The 2011 finals for all events will be held on Saturday, September 24 (rain date Sunday, September 25).

VII. RULES OF PLAY

A. USTA rules apply to all matches, except as noted below.

B. At any time when you are unsure or did not see if the ball bounced inside or outside the line on your side of the court, you must call that ball good.

C. Once a match has begun, play should be continuous from the first serve until the match is completed. Should a player or team be unable to complete the match for any reason, other than darkness or weather, that player/team must default and lose the match if it can't be re-scheduled for a later date. The loser's game score will stand from the time of the default, and the winner's score will be 10.

D. During the regular season, each match will consist of one 10-game pro-set, with regular scoring for each game. If the set is tied at 9-9, a 12-point tiebreaker (first to 7 points, must win by 2) will decide the winner. The tiebreaker is played as follows: Retain the same serving rotation from the set that is being played. The 1st player serves only one point, into the deuce court. Each subsequent server serves two points, 1st into the ad court, then to the deuce court, throughout the remainder of the tiebreaker. The players switch sides after every six points that are played. The first player to reach seven points, with at least a two-point margin, wins the match.

E. Tournament matches will be two 6 game sets, add/deuce with a 12-point tiebreaker (first to 7 points, must win by 2) at 6 all. If the first two sets are split, a 20-point tiebreaker (first to 10 points, must win by 2) shall decide the third set and the match winner.

VIII. PLAYING OF MATCHES POLICY

A. If possible, all matches should be completed within the week scheduled. In as much as there are circumstances when this is not possible; efforts should be made to complete them within three weeks of the schedule. If the players cannot agree on a mutually acceptable date, they should consult their division representative.

If a player/team does not have two singles matches or one doubles match played by the end of May, the playing history and situation will be reviewed by the Division representative and they may be replaced and dues will be forfeited. Players/teams should have one-third of their matches played by June 30. The Executive Committee may take whatever action it deems necessary if the division representative determines that players are unable or unwilling to schedule matches.

B. There will be a short warm-up period allowed prior to each match, such that there is sufficient time to complete the match. Matches that are cut short due to darkness, rain, or time limit, should be rescheduled promptly. Play will resume from the score of the last completed game before the match was stopped.

C. Results of matches from all divisions should be reported on the web site immediately after the match.

D. Each player or team should bring one can of new USTA approved tennis balls to each match. The schedule for initiating calls for matches and providing balls will be posted on the web site.

IX. FORFEITURE

A. Unless a match has started (see VII-C), NO forfeitures will be allowed. If you are having difficulty setting up your match, call your division representative early. Do not wait until August. Players who do not complete their matches may not be invited to participate in the league again next year.

B. If a player is injured and cannot play the matches within a reasonable period of time, he must report this to the division representative. Should the injury be of a nature requiring a long time to heal, the Executive Committee may replace the player with a new member from the waiting list. The injured player will be placed on the waiting list, with preferred status.

X. REGULAR SEASON PLAYER/TEAM RANKINGS

Players/teams will be ranked within each division according to the number of matches won. In the case of a tie, the total number of matches played, and finally the winning game (not match) percentage will establish the standings. As a result, a match played and lost has more value than an unplayed match.

XI. PROMOTION/DEMOTION TO ANOTHER DIVISION

Singles - The first and second place finishers in each division in the regular standings must move up to the next higher division for the following season. The lowest two finishers may be required to move down to the next lower division for the following season.

Doubles - The first place finishing team in each division in the regular season standings must move up to the next higher division for the following season. The lowest finishing team may be required to move down to the next lower division for the following season.

XII. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING SEASON

Singles players or doubles teams not completing all their matches may not be invited to rejoin the league for the next season, unless there are exceptional circumstances (i.e. injuries). The Executive Committee will review the list of prospective players and teams for an upcoming season.

XIII. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

An active member of the league must sponsor all new applicants for membership in the EHSTL. The applicants will then be placed on the waiting list for singles, doubles, or mixed doubles, according to the date of application.

Age limitations - Singles: players must reach 18 years of age during the season. Doubles: players must reach 18 years of age during the season, or reach 16 years of age during the season if the child of the other team member.

XIV. ADMITTANCE OF NEW PLAYERS

If a vacancy in a singles division comes about for any reason during the year, a new player may be admitted from the waiting list, on the basis of the player's seniority on the waiting list. If this occurs during the regular season, the new member will assume the record of the replaced player. Players who have preferred status on the waiting list receive priority over all others on the waiting list. The new player must pay dues at full cost, even though he/she will only be completing the unplayed matches of the replaced player.

If a single-player vacancy should occur in a doubles team, the remaining member of the team may fill the vacancy with a new member of his choice. If this occurs while the season is in progress, the team shall retain the previous record it had established. To the extent possible the new player should be of similar playing ability as the replaced player. The division representative must be notified and agree that the ability of the

new player is suitable for that division. The new player must pay dues at full cost.

XV. SPLITTING OF DOUBLES TEAMS

In the event that a doubles or mixed doubles team separates between seasons and each player wishes to continue the following season with a new partner, each new team will be admitted to the appropriate division if there are openings on the roster. If there is not room for an additional team, the following rules will apply:

A. Members of the original team must decide which member will continue, and must notify the division representative of the decision. The member not chosen to continue will be given preferred status on the waiting list for that division.

B. If the original team members cannot decide who shall continue, the Executive Committee will decide. In general, rulings will be made in favor of the member having seniority in that division.

C. If a team wins their division, they must move up as a team. One-half of the team cannot advance to the next division.

XVI. BANQUET

A banquet will be held as soon as possible after the post-season tournament. The banquet will consist of dinner, league business, and awards. The business will be a financial statement from the secretary and the election of the executive committee for next year. The cost of the banquet is included in the dues for league members. A member's right to attend the banquet without charge may not be transferred to a non-member. Non-member guests are welcome with advance payment of a guest fee, to be determined by the actual costs of the banquet.

The 2011 banquet will be on September 30.

XVII. AWARDS

In each division, the first and second place finishers in the regular season, as well as the first and second place finishers in the post-season tournament will receive awards. These awards will be presented at the banquet or the tournament. Players must complete a full season to be eligible for awards.