

Ladies Interclub Tennis League  
Birmingham Alabama  
Established in 1973

It shall be the policy of this league to play by the USTA's "The Code" as written by N.E. Powell. "The Code" constitutes a way for honest players to employ the same approach to various situations so that neither takes advantage of the other.

Team Captains and Club Reps should read and be familiar with the rules of the Ladies Interclub Tennis League.

*Teams or players failing to adhere to the following rules may be brought before the ethics committee and may be penalized by sitting out a season.*

## **I. General Rules**

- a) **Club eligibility**- Each club or organized tennis group entering or participating in LITL must have four regulation courts for the Regular Division and three courts for Doubles Only. Nets with adjustable straps, and courts within reasonable distance of each other. Suitable restrooms must be within reasonable distance of the courts.
- b) **Matches**- Each season will be limited to eight matches. For levels fielding 10 or more teams, matches will be randomly set. For a level fielding 16 teams or more, there will be two sections.
- c) **Meeting Attendance**-A club rep from each club/organization is required to be at the spring and fall general meetings.
- d) **Move Down Requests**- Must be submitted in writing to the ethics committee by **January 15<sup>th</sup>** for the Spring Season and **July 15<sup>th</sup>** for the Fall Season
- e) **Out of Town Teams**-Are required to play all matches in Birmingham unless the Birmingham team agrees to play on the out of town courts or mutually agreed upon courts. Should it be necessary to schedule two "out of town teams" to play each other, the home team is responsible for arranging for courts in the Birmingham area, unless both teams agree to play at the home teams' courts. Out of town teams will share the expense of the courts

- f) **Players-** Will dress and conduct themselves in a proper manner. Remember that, in many instances club members are relinquishing their playing time so that matches can be played.
- g) **Prizes-** Individual awards will be presented to each winning team member at each level at the annual awards luncheon in February. With a maximum of 16 prizes awarded to the winning teams.
- h) **Registration** -Prior to the Spring and to the Fall general meetings, each club representative must submit the LITL registration form (found on the website) and a fee of \$70.00 per team for Regular Division level 4.5 or below, \$80.00 for 5.0 Regular Division teams and/or \$60.00 per team for Doubles Only Division in order to be scheduled. Registrations are due **January 25th** for spring and **July 25th** for Fall. After fees have been received and approved, teams and rosters are then created online at the LITL.org web site **January 25th** through **February 8th** for the Spring and **July 25th** through **August 8th** for the fall.
- i) **Scheduling-** If a club is fielding more teams than they have courts to support they must seek the approval of the VP Scheduling prior to scheduling. It is also the responsibility of the club reps to notify the VP Scheduling in writing of any scheduling conflicts.

## II. Establishing Level of Play

- a) A Player may only play for one team at one club/facility in Regular Division and only one team at one club/facility in the Doubles Only Division during the season.
- b) A Player must play at the same level when playing both Regular Division and Doubles Division.
- c) New players may be added at any time during the season, but they must play on a team at or higher than their USTA or NTRP rating.
- d) Players and substitutes must be at least 18 years old, and members of the participating club/facility.
- e) Teams must determine lineups according to the strength of players in order to make play fair and competitive for all. "SANDBAGGING" is prohibited. Each week the captain must ascertain that her strongest individual/team is in the #1 position and that the weakest is in the last position.

### **III. Determining Level of Play (85% Rule)**

Each player's rating will be substantiated by her win loss record, as determined by her statistics at the end of each season. Each player's record will be reviewed by the Ethics Committee. Those playing 75% of their matches and winning 85% or more will be notified by letter. The Ethics Committee has the authority to review any player who has won 85% or better but did not play the required 75% of her matches. The Ethics Committee will rule on each player individually and may require that a player receive a letter without the required 75% played. After receiving two consecutive letters at the lower level, the player is required to move to a higher level. If protested, players not adhering to this rule will default any sets protested. When a player has been given permission to move down for a season and receives an 85% Letter that season, the player (should she choose to stay at that level the next season) will have to default any sets protested.

### **IV. Substitutes**

- a) A team may use a sub from a lower level Doubles Only or Regular Division team already playing out of her facility. During each season, she may sub twice per team per division at that facility.
- b) Teams that field two teams at the same level may not interchange rostered players.
- c) A team may add a sub to her team from another facility, provided that:
  - a. The sub is the same level, and is currently not a member on another team within that same division
  - b. Has not already subbed for any other club or facility in the division she is being asked to sub for.
  - c. Subs that are used from another facility will be counted as a new member on the team they have subbed for. (See Sec. II-d)
  - d. During a season, a player may sub twice per team per division at the same club/facility.
  - e. If no sub or eligible new member is available, see section VI-e.

## V. Guidelines for Captains

- a) Must be a playing member of the team
- b) Must have Internet Access and an email address and cell phone (or designated player with cell phone access)
- c) Will exchange a complete written line up using the appropriate LITL form (found on the web site) prior to start of match. (9:00a.m. for Regular Division, 9:30 a.m. for Doubles Only)
- d) No changes can be made to a line-up except for rainouts if play has not begun and forfeits discovered after singles play has begun.
- e) Will be responsible for entering or confirming scores on the website within 5 days of the match play date. Each captain should keep a copy of the score sheet for all matches played during the season
- f) **Will reschedule rained out matches within three weeks.** If for any reason a match is not played as scheduled, the Level Coordinator should be notified by the captains involved. If a mutual date cannot be agreed upon, the Coordinator will assist in resolving the conflict.
- g) Will designate new members and subs at the bottom of her score sheet.
- h) Will be familiar with all rules in the LITL handbook.  
**Each team must have a captain or acting captain present for each match.**
- i) Will be responsible for keeping her team informed of LITL activities and rule changes. Every captain, club representative, and level coordinator must attend a mandatory meeting that is scheduled prior to league play. If absent, you must have someone to represent you in your place.
- j) Questions concerning subs or player eligibility should be addressed to your level coordinator 24 hours prior to your match.

## VI. Match Play

- a) **Cell Phones-** Must be silenced on the court. Violation will result in loss of game in progress or the next game if during a changeover. Players on the other three courts may call an **immediate** let if the ringing affects their play.

- b) **Balls-** New, unopened USTA regulation balls appropriate for the playing surface will be provided by the home team, except where the asterisk appears on the schedule by the visiting team. The host team is the team responsible for the balls. A home team is the team that belongs at the facility where the match is being played.
- c) **Snacks-** Individuals are responsible for their own snacks and water.
- d) **Default- Play has begun.** If one of the players is unable to continue due to injury or illness, after a 5 minute grace period, the player must default the remainder of the match. If a player has defaulted her singles match, then she automatically defaults her doubles match as well. **DEFAULTS ARE COUNTED IN PLAYER(S)'S** Statistics and entered in the computer as a default instead of completed. (Example: if the first set score is 3-3 and Player B is injured or becomes ill, the score will be 6-3, 6-0. Both sets are counted as wins for Player A. If a default occurs in the second set, the first set stands as played, with the second set counted as a loss for the Defaulted Player.)
- e) **Forfeit – Play has not begun.** A team is unable to fill a position in the lineup.
1. If no sub or eligible new member is available, the Captain must forfeit the lowest court (s) and move everyone up in the lineup.
  2. The two sets are counted for the opponents and are scored 6-0, 6-0. Forfeits are not counted in player's statistics, and should be entered on the computer as forfeits.
  3. In Regular Division if play has begun in singles, and it is discovered that a player will not be present for doubles, then she must make the changes to forfeit the lowest court in the doubles line-up.
  4. If a singles player is injured during singles play **and** defaults her singles match **and** is in the doubles line-up, that court of doubles must be forfeited.
  5. If a team drops out in mid season or if a team forfeits one match, then all the matches for that team will not be counted for the season. The

forfeiting team **will not** be allowed to play the remaining matches. If a team forfeits a match they are subject to sitting out the next season.

6. A match consists of fielding at least 4 courts in the 5.0 Regular Division and at least 2 courts in Doubles Only Division. In Regular Divisions lower than the 5.0 level, 3 courts constitute a match.

- f) **No Coaching** or Pro Consultation is allowed while players are on the court playing a match.
- g) **No linesman will be provided for matches.** In case player(s) request a linesman, the captains will agree on a person to monitor the match.
- h) **Play is to be Continuous.** There will be no rest breaks during between sets. When changing sides a maximum of 90 seconds shall elapse; a maximum of 30 seconds shall elapse between points and even games. The maximum time a player has after finishing her singles match before playing doubles is **15 minutes**, unless she is waiting for her opponent to finish her singles match.
- i) **Protests-** All Protests must be put in writing using the form found on the LITL website, and directed to the Ethics Committee or President within 7 days of the match. During that time online scores entered into the website should not be confirmed. **(Please do not hit the dispute key if there has been a keying error on the website!!! Call the captain and have her correct it!)** The ethics committee will contact both teams involved, review both sides of the protest, and will settle at their discretion. No action will be taken on Protests received after 7 days of the match.
- j) **Rainouts-** In the event of rain or bad weather, all matches are to be made up **within three weeks, or within 10 days of the last scheduled match whichever is earlier.**
  - 1. If the weather is questionable, both teams will go to the courts as scheduled. If both the home courts (Soft or Hard) are not playable, but the visiting team's courts (either Soft or Hard) are playable and available, then the match must be played at the visiting teams courts on the scheduled match day. An additional and reasonable amount of time must be allowed for traveling to the visiting team's courts.

2. If both the home and visitor courts are unplayable, the host captain must offer the visiting team captain 3 possible make up dates within a three week time frame for the match to be played. (Make sure host club has courts and players available to play before submitting dates to other captain!) The match may be played at the visiting team courts if the host team cannot obtain courts within this time frame.
3. The Level Coordinator must be notified of the rescheduled date, and it shall be treated as a regular match.
4. In the event that the two captains cannot agree on a date, the Coordinator after obtaining dates from each captain, may randomly pick a date.
5. All rainouts must be played within 10 days of the last scheduled match for the level and division involved.
6. **If play has begun**, lineups turned in at 9:00a.m. (9:30 for Doubles Only) will stand and cannot be changed for the rescheduled match. In case the match is rained out before the first ball is served, the match must be rescheduled in its entirety and a new line up may be submitted.
7. Completed individual matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches will be continued and played at set, game, and point scored as they stood when halted. If the match cannot be completed as a team, individual players can reschedule at their convenience **within three weeks**.

k) **Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – Complaints of unsportsmanlike conduct must be filed in writing to the Ethics Committee. Any player that continually violates the rules or show unsportsmanlike behavior will be reviewed by the Ethics Committee and may not be allowed to play Ladies Interclub.

l) **Winners**- Teams winning the most matches will be the winner of their level. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken as follows:

1. **Regular Division** – Total Sets won then total games won

**2. Doubles Only Division-** Team Points won-then fewest sets **LOST**-and finally fewest games **LOST**

**VII. Regular Division**

Play Days will be:	Monday	3.0
	Tuesday	4.0
	Wednesday	3.5 and 5.3
	Thursday	4.5 and 5.0
	Friday	2.5

- a. Clubs that field two teams that play on the same day must abide by the rules in Section (I-i)
- b. Team matches will consist of four singles and four doubles at the 5.0 level and two singles and four doubles for levels below 5.0.
- c. **Two regular sets** will be played in singles and doubles.
- d. A 7 point tie break (Coman variation) will be played at 6-6 in singles and doubles (see section IX for Tiebreak Rules)
- e. After all eight matches have been completed, the total number of sets won by each team will be counted. The team winning more sets will have won the match. If tied, the total number of games won in each set will determine the winner of the match. If games are also tied, a 7 point tiebreak (Coman variation) will be played by the last doubles teams to come off the court.
- f. Singles match play begins at 9 A.M. Doubles play will begin at 10:30 a.m. or 15 minutes after individual singles matches are completed (as courts are available). Individual doubles matches do not have to wait until all singles are completed.
- g. Any singles player(s) not present by 9:20 a.m. must forfeit one set of singles and if not present by 9:30 a.m. must forfeit both sets of singles. Doubles Players must be present by 10:30a.m. If doubles players are not present at 10:40 a.m. and courts are available, the missing doubles team must forfeit one set and, if not present by 10:45 a.m. must forfeit both sets of doubles.
- h. Each team must have a minimum of eight players on their roster by the registration deadline. Any player subbing more than twice on that team will automatically be counted as a team member. If the sub is from a lower level team, and subs more than twice on the upper level team, she will be counted as a team member of the upper level team, and will forfeit any matches played and won at the lower level.

## VIII. Doubles Division

Play Days will be:	Monday	2.5 and 3.5
	Tuesday	5.0 and 5.3/5.5
	Wednesday	4.5
	Thursday	3.0
	Friday	4.0

- a. Clubs that field 2 teams that play on the same day must abide by the rules in Section (I-i).
- b. Team matches will consist of 3 doubles positions. Each position will play best **2 out of 3 full sets**. A team receives one team point per position won. (Total points possible will be 3 points)
- c. A 7 point Coman tie break will be played when any of the three sets played reaches 6-6.
- d. Match play will begin at 9:30a.m. There is a 20 minute forfeit for all scheduled matches. Players not present by 9:50 a.m. must forfeit one set and, if not present by 10:00a.m., must forfeit both of their sets of doubles.
- e. Each team must have a minimum of six players rostered by the registration deadline. Any player subbing more than twice on a team will automatically be counted as a new team member. If the sub is from a lower level team and has subbed more than twice on a team, she will be counted as a new member of the higher level team and any matches played and won at the lower level will be forfeited.
- f. Set percentages and match percentages will be averaged to determine 85% letter.

## **IX.7 Point Tie Break (Coman Variation)**

**Tie Breakers-** will go into effect when games reach 6 all in any set. In singles or doubles.

The player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the deuce court.

After the first point, the players shall change ends and the following two points shall be served by the opponent(s) (in doubles, the player of the opposing team due to serve next) starting from the ad court.

After this, each player/team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (starting from the ad court); changing ends after every four points, until the end of the tiebreak game.

Switch sides after points 1,5,9,13,17..... and at the conclusion.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Spring move down requests to Ethics Committee due: January 15th**

**Team Money for Spring Season and Annual Awards Luncheon due: January 25th**

**Annual Awards Luncheon: First Week of February**

**Fall Move down requests to Ethics Committee due: July 15th**

**Team Money for Fall Season due: July 25th**

## **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors will consist of a club representative from each club/organized tennis group. Each club representative shall serve at least a two-year term, if possible. If a club representative changes clubs, her club/organized tennis group shall arrange to replace her. However, if she is an elected officer, she may finish out her year in that capacity, but only the new club representative from the club/organized tennis group will have the one vote permitted from each club/organized tennis group.

Officers will be elected at the end of the fall season to serve beginning at the spring Board of Directors meeting of the following year. The current LITL President will serve on the nominating committee. She shall appoint three representatives at large and one member of the advisory council. Every effort will be made to select officers on a rotating basis so as to ensure representation from all participating clubs/organized tennis groups. In order to be able to hold the office of President, a person must be from a club/organized tennis group in the Birmingham area only and reside in Birmingham. The President shall have served as an elected officer on the board.

## **Executive Board**

The following officers will be elected:

**President-** She will schedule all meetings, preside over and conduct all business of LITL, including rules and interpretation.

**Vice President of Scheduling-** She will be in charge of scheduling match play for regular division and doubles only division. She will perform all duties of the President in her absence.

**Vice President of Awards-** She will be in charge of awards selection for the regular and doubles only divisions. She will assist the Vice President of Scheduling as needed.

**Vice President Database-** She will be responsible for changing passwords, assigning club numbers, changing officer access as needed, and be in charge of training , also on an as needed basis.

**Secretary-** She will record all meetings and be responsible for all the records of LITL, as well as any correspondence.

**Treasurer-** She will be in charge of all finances and will submit records for audit to a person appointed by the Executive Board at the end of her term.

**Publicity Chair-** She will be in charge of all publicity for LITL.

**Social Chair-** She will be in charge of refreshments for all meetings and assist the President with the awards luncheon and other social functions.

**Susan Briggs Tournament Chair-** She will be in charge of planning and running the annual Susan Briggs Charity Tennis Tournament sponsored by the LITL.

### **Ethics Committee**

The Ethics Committee will be comprised of the last two LITL Presidents. Any Level Coordinator or past Presidents may be called upon to serve as needed.

The Ethics Committee duties are as follows:

1. Review control sheets and make recommendations for position/level changes.
2. Take action on any written protest, complaint or inquiry.
3. Assist President when requested.

## Level Coordinators

There will be a level coordinator for each level who will be responsible for checking input of computer scores by team captains and for keeping records of all matches played during the season. The level coordinators are appointed by the President-Elect and assume their duties March 1st, along with the other Officers of LITL.

Duties shall be as follows:

1. Shall have a copy of the season schedule and check at the end of each season to see that all matches were played and entered into the computer and confirmed. If a score sheet was not entered and confirmed within 5 days after each match, she should call one of the team captains involved to see if the match was played or rescheduled. (within three weeks).
2. Should have a copy of the team rosters for each team on that level. **Will be responsible for adding new team members in the computer when notified by the team captain.** Must keep a record of all new members and subs used by each team. Should determine the winner and runner-up of her level and submit that information to the President and Vice President Database immediately following the end of the season. The President will then notify the Vice President of Awards of the winners and runner-ups.
3. Will assist, when asked by opposing team captains to re-schedule make up matches.
4. Will attend mandatory meetings scheduled prior to league play

## **Club Representatives**

The club representative's duties are as follows:

1. Be responsible for keeping her club/organized tennis group updated on all information given to her by LITL.
2. Be responsible for contacting all team captains from her club/organized tennis group about the date and time of any **mandatory** meetings prior to the beginning of league play.
3. **Be familiar with the LITL rules as listed.**
4. Serve at least a two-year term.
5. Be present or represented at the **spring and fall** board of directors meetings.
6. Collect money from **all** of her teams and mail this with the LITL registration form to the LITL treasurer, remembering to send **ONE CHECK PER CLUB/ORGANIZED TENNIS GROUP. Each check must include a club name, levels and divisions of play.**
7. Obtain from the captains all annual player updates for the web site/directory to the secretary as requested.
8. Attend all other mandatory meetings scheduled prior to league play.

**MAPS &  
Addresses of Clubs**