



TennisLink



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Hi Everyone,

I just want to highlight some of the things we have been focusing on at our recent captains meetings.

(Four so far, with two more coming up this week - check the online calendar for details.

www.orangecountyusta.com)

New Rules

- National and Sectional Rule changes are found on page 2 of the [SECTIONAL REGULATIONS](#)
- Page 13 of the above document has a chart which summarizes the requirements for all the different divisions offered throughout the year.
- 50% Rule - Teams must have at least 1/2 of their players with the same rating of their team

- The objective of this is to get people playing at category, which not only provides better tennis for everyone involved, but also helps strengthen our NTRP program by providing it with better data. Captains, please try to field your team with as many at-level players as possible.
 - Remember there are always Tri-Level teams for those who play at different levels but want to be on a team with their friends
- It was brought up at our meeting yesterday that because our team size limit is 18, a 4.0 team could register nine 4.0 players and nine 3.5 players and play an entire match with 3.5 players. Please try to avoid this. If we find out too many of the matches are still being played with a majority of players below the team level, then we may have to adjust the team size limits down next year.
- **Captains are responsible for maintaining the 50% rule throughout the season**, and I'm sure opposing captains will be helping to enforce this. If at any time after **March 19**, your roster is not in compliance, I will move as many of your not-at-level players off your team in order to bring it back in. The last-registered players will be moved first. They will be moved to a non-compliance team. Once the season starts, if your team falls below, I will move the last-

registered player who has not played a match yet. If all players on your roster at non-level have played, I will move the last-registered and default any matches they've played.

- Captains, be extremely careful when allowing players to register on your team. No refunds will be granted to players who are moved off a team because of non-compliance.
- The new age for Adult league players is 18, but that means they need to turn at least 18 some time during 2010, so teams could have 17 year-olds playing. Make sure any high school players on their team comply with any CIF rules regarding out-side league play.

All divisions of 2010 USTA will have a set schedule this year, (one done by me as opposed to captains arranging all their own matches.) Because there is overlap and sometimes it's difficult to fit the matches in due to facility and team commitments to multiple divisions:

- We talked about Friday morning 3.0 teams having the option to play their matches on Tuesday mornings after the Pac Sun League ends. This option is available to all WD teams as long as both captains agree. If this is something that sounds good to you, please let me know on your team information sheet
- Super Seniors will start in the Spring this year and it looks like we have some new teams coming in.

Players for SS teams need to turn at least 60 at some time during 2010.

- We no longer have the 1-team option. (This goes for all leagues.) We need at least two teams to play a local league and players must qualify with minimum number of matches for Sectionals and Nationals.
- WD women SS teams will also have the option to play their matches on Tuesday mornings, if it works out for both teams and their facilities.
- SS matches will span into Fall, and there will be special team information sheet available just for this division and online this weekend which will have spaces for team to indicate various availabilities and preferences. I'll let you know as soon as that is ready.
- Tri-Level will play during the summer. Again, this is a great option for players at different ratings to play on the same team. We will have both WD and WE for the Women, and WE teams for the men.
 - Tri-level matches will also span into Fall, and more information will be sent out on Tri-Level near the end of April.
- Senior Division will again play in the summer. For Senior teams players need to turn at least 50 at some time during 2010.
- SCTA Doubles will again play in the Fall - There are no Nationals for this division. It ends at Sectionals.

- Senior Mixed Doubles will again play in the Fall and is a nice follow up from summer Senior division - For players who turn at least 50 sometime during 2010.
 - Last year was our first season and we had a surprisingly large number of teams.
 - Teams will be Weekend based, but again have the option to play other times, i.e. Friday evenings, (anytime both teams and their facilities agree on the alternate time.)

For our upcoming Adult Division, I would ideally like to see all teams online and team information sheets and captain's agreements faxed in by this **Friday, March 12**. The deadline is the following **Friday, March 19**. If I need to extend the deadline I will, but if you are not on by that day, you may not have the opportunity to have a team this season.



* [Team Information Sheet](#)

- The league will start April 10/11/12 and run through June 25.
- We talked about teams who might want to place themselves in an 4.0- flight similar to the 7.5 flight we had for Mixed Doubles this season.
 - The idea is that these teams don't really care about going to sectionals, but want to have good competitive local season with other teams

who feel they are on the weak side of the 4.0 spectrum.

- If we have enough interest, I can see if it's ok if we have a flight of these teams. If we don't have enough for an entire flight, we won't be able to offer it.
- If anyone is interested in this please let me know.

NTRP - We spoke extensively about the NTRP and the upcoming season



[* NTRP Rating Information](#)

- * [Find a Rating and read about new 2009 YEAR-END RATINGS](#)
- * [Appeals for Players who SELF-RATED](#)
- * [How to APPEAL YOUR RATING ONLINE \(not for self-rated players\)](#)
- * [Instructions for MEDICAL APPEALS \(make sure to read these before sending anything in\)](#)
- * [Medical Appeal FORMS](#)

. Self-Rated players

- The dangers of playing self-rated players on teams at two levels. (DON'T do it.) The chance of them DQ'ing out at the lower level is too great.
- Self-rated players need to self-rate and register themselves and should place

themselves at the level they believe they belong. If they are getting back to tennis, and are "rusty", they should still start at the level they will be "back at" once they start playing.

If a player thinks that during the season they will be back to playing at the 4.0 level, that's the level at which they should self-rate.

- There is a sharp ramp-up in improvement at the lower levels. If 3.0 players are athletic, taking lessons, etc. and they think that during the season they will improve to a 3.5 player, then they should start at 3.5.
- The DQ and Three-Strike process - We want to avoid DQs
 - Computer-Rated and Benchmarked players are no longer subject to the three-strike DQ.
 - You won't know if you've received strikes until you get your third one and then all your matches played are DQ'd.
 - Best way to avoid DQs is to not have players self-rate too low.
 - Players who appeal their ratings are at-risk because they are starting at the top-of-category of the lower rating to which they appealed.
- We talked about Benchmarked players and what that means and how it's used. (It does not mean top-of-category.)
- NTRP Grievances

- These may be filed against players who were believed to have self-rated too low, and therefore playing out-of-category. There needs to be some concrete evidence that can be presented. It can't be things like, "you feel they are out of category", or the "beat so-and-so handily."
- Also, the guidelines are simply that, guidelines. Sometimes players get a self-rating which they are able to appeal because they fall outside the guidelines based on their specific set of circumstances. So simply saying someone played college tennis is not enough to file an grievance. Sometimes a player is granted a self-rating lower than what the guidelines indicate because their specific set of circumstances warrants it.
- **NTRP Grievances may not be filed against computer-rated players who appeal their rating.**

We talked about FEES FOR NATIONALS - The linked document explains these



[* Fees for Nationals and National Invitationals](#)

We talked about some things that stand out to me as issues or problems we have in the past and I've

created a document to give more detailed information on these:

.RESCHEDULES



* [Scheduling Information - Including Bye-Request Policy](#)

- Too many teams asking for reschedules.
Captains, you must find out your players' availabilities and find out what events are going on at your facility BEFORE you turn in your team information sheet. Otherwise, you don't know when to ask for a team bye.
- Too many captains are waiting until during the season to request a reschedule because they don't have enough players. There are only two reasons to request a reschedule without penalties and this is not one of them.
(Unplayable Conditions and a minimum of four players in a playoff of another USTA division.)
- No team full-team defaults are allowed in the league
 - If you have a minimum of four players available, you must play the match
- Any team bye requests not honored with the scheduled come out originally, must be mutually rescheduled between captains during the first week

- CONTACTING YOUR OPPONENTS



[* Make Sure to Contact Your Opponent Before Each Match - Here's Info. on that](#)

- DEFAULT RULE EXPLAINED



[* Default Policies Explained](#)

- CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES



[* Captain's Responsibilities](#)

If your team goes to a playoff, Captains, please make sure you've read the document entitled:



[* Post Local League Information - \(Local League & Area Playoffs & Sectionals\)](#)

We talked about the specifics about putting your team online and registering yourself as captain and how only the captain is allowed to register on the captain's-only teams and that if a captain is a non-playing captain that's fine and they won't be counted in the max player number. I can place them on their team as a

non-playing captain, but no one else will be able to take advantage of registering on the captain's-only team.



[* Registration Instructions for Captains - Including Captian's-Only Team Numbers](#)

The number one question I get during the season is:



[* How to View the Contact Information for All the Other Captains and Co-Captains in your flight](#)

Captains, please make sure you read through all the documents summarized on the CAPTAIN'S AGREEMENT and fax the signature page into me acknowledging that you've read and understand all the information. If you have any questions about anything, please by all means ask them now. Captains, please print copies of these documents and have them in your notebooks. If you are every not able to be present at a match, please make sure whomever you leave in charge has your notebook.



[* Captains Agreement ~ Please download, sign and fax in when the team information sheet is due](#)

Regarding our ongoing 2010 Mixed Doubles Season:

- Local League Playoffs will take place 4/10/11/12. If you are in contention, and are finishing your season

early, and would like to play your playoffs the weekend before, please let me know asap. If all teams agree, that will be fine with me.

- A word about rain - When it is intermittent, the way it's been sometimes lately, you need to show up at your site with your players, and if the match can start within 30 min, you play it. I've had too many reports recently of captain's cancelling matches when the other team feels they were informed there was no rain. Of course if both teams can agree on the phone to reschedule the match, that's fine, but here are two examples:
 - Home team calls visiting team and says it's raining. Visiting team says they've talked to people and believe courts are playable. Visiting team can force the issue and show up. If courts are playable within 30 min of match time, you need to play the match. Of course, if home team captain is CERTAIN courts are not playable, they would have the option to show up without their team to greet their opponent and verify conditions with them. However, if courts do become available, the visiting team who traveled could cause a reschedule with penalties.
 - If captains confirm match and home team shows up but visiting team doesn't, because where they are it's raining so they assume it's raining at the playing site, (but it's not,) then a

reschedule will need to be done with the visiting team being the one assessed the penalties.

Ok... I think that's it for now. I'll see all of you who are coming to the other meetings this week. I try to provide some coffee and donuts and juice, but nothing fancy as far as food goes.

Please remember that all the information is posted on the website: www.orangecountyusta.com

Let me know if you have any questions or need anything from me.

Thank you,

Heidi

--

Heidi Stryker

Orange County USTA League Coordinator

Adult, Senior, Super Senior, SCTA Doubles, Tri-Level, FLEX Singles and Junior Team Tennis

www.orangecountyusta.com

heidi.stryker3@gmail.com