

NORTHEASTERN TENNIS LEAGUE RULES 2009

PURPOSE: To give club members an opportunity for competitive tennis and good sportsmanship.

1. The League will consist of 32 teams in four divisions, each division consisting of eight teams. If the need arises for another division, a majority vote is needed from the board.
2. The Board consists of the four division leaders and the Northeastern League Chairman.
3. Matches
 - A. Length of regular season starts the second Friday in June and plays a total of seven matches. The start date may be moved forward if the July 4 holiday and the ATP schedule makes the second Friday start date impractical.
 - B. Play will begin **PROMPTLY** at 9:30 am. Those HOST clubs that find that time inconvenient, must give the visiting club **REASONABLE** notice to allow for a mutually agreeable change in time.
 - C. Warm-up is the first ten minutes on the court. The two-hour match time begins at 9:30 and includes the warm-up.
Games will be forfeited as follows due to late arrival:

0-10 minutes	No forfeit
11-15 minutes	2 games
16-20 minutes	3 games
21-25 minutes	4 games
26-30 minutes	5 games
31-60 minutes	1 Set
61+ minutes	Match Default
 - D. The 10 minute warm-up is never forfeited due to late arrival.
 - E. Serves may be taken before the match or as play proceeds, to be mutually agreed upon by both teams.
 - F. During a match, if an emergency restroom break is needed, the team taking the break will be given 10 minutes. Teams are asked to use best judgment depending on the circumstances.
4. The \$30 league fee and roster must be mailed to the chairperson prior to the start of league play. The fee is for compensation to League Chairman, postage, copies, awards, etc. If check is not in by the deadline, the team will be dropped from the league. You may use the previous year's roster if it is on file with the Division Leader or Chairman until the new roster is assembled.

5. Only women 21 years or older are eligible to play in the Northeastern Tennis League. Players must be fee-paying members of the club for which they are playing. If there is any perceived reason that a player is not a fee-paying member, the roster will be checked. Teaching pros for a club are NOT permitted to play.
6. Players
 - A. If your club is fielding more than one team, players must choose for which team they will play. All roster additions or deletions must be made within 24 hours prior to match play and be acknowledged by the League Chairman or the appropriate Division Leader.
 - B. Subbing up can be done, but if done **three** times, they become a member of the higher level team and cannot play on the lower team anymore.
 - C. If a player has membership in two or more clubs within the Northeastern Tennis League, she must choose one team from any one club for which to play during the seven week season.
7. There is NO coaching allowed during a match (from club pros or fellow team members). Any coaching will result in an immediate default.
8. Three doubles matches shall be played on each scheduled date. All matches shall be decided by playing the best 2 out of 3 sets. The USTA nine-point tie-breaker (Sudden Death) shall be used when the set score reaches 6 all.
9. Scoring: In a match, each set is worth one point. If a match is won in three sets, the winning team is awarded two points and the losing team, one point.
10. A. Points shall be accumulated during the entire season and the team with the highest point total from each division will be awarded the Northeastern Tennis League Award.
 - I. In the event of a first and second place tie, the team winning 2 of the regularly scheduled matches when playing against each other, will be declared the winner.
 - II. In the event that more than two teams are involved in a first and second place tie, and all teams have an equal number of wins from their regularly scheduled matches when playing against each other, the number of winning sets from those matches will be the decisive factor. If the number of winning sets from these said matches is equal, then the number of games won will be the decisive factor.
- B. The team with the lowest point total in each division will be considered the last place team and will be challenged.
 - I. In the event of a last place tie, the team losing two of the regularly scheduled matches when playing against each other, will be declared the loser.
 - II. In the event that more than two teams are involved in a last place tie, and all teams have an equal number of losses from their regularly scheduled matches when playing each other, then the number of losing sets from those said matches will be the decisive factor. If the number of losing sets from these said matches is equal, then number of games lost will be the deciding factor.

11. The challenge match between first place teams from each division and the last place teams from the higher division will be played the next Friday after the last regular season match following this process:
 - A. The challenge match will be held at the home court of the team being challenged. (Match held at home court of last place in upper division).
 - B. It is the responsibility of both teams to field six qualified players (see #12) for the challenge match.
 1. If the challenging team only has four available players, they must forfeit the third court to the (higher division) home team, and vice versa.
 2. If the challenging team cannot field at least four players on the date of the challenge match, then both teams will remain in their current divisions.
 3. If the home team cannot field at least four qualified players, then they forfeit the challenge match, and move to the lower division the next year.
12. Players must have played two regular season matches in order to qualify for playing in a challenge (playoff) match.
13. Scorecards and Line-Up
 - A. Prior to each match, captains shall have first, second, and third team names PRINTED legibly on the scorecard with the **strongest team** on court 1, and so forth. If a player's name on the card does not appear on the roster or was not called in to a Board member (See #6A), that court must be forfeited.
 - B. **TEAMS MUST FIELD THEIR COURTS ACCORDING TO STRENGTH.** The Board will adjudicate any protest and may default courts if the Board decides this rule has been violated. A majority vote of the Board will decide the issue.
14. The home team will furnish three unopened cans of nationally known tennis balls and water for the visiting team. In the spirit of cooperation, the home team captain may wish to call the visiting team captain to discuss refreshment arrangements, i.e., to serve snacks or just to provide cold beverages. **REVIEW "House Rules" BEFORE PLAY BEGINS.**
15. All matches will adhere to a two-hour time limit. After 1 hour and 50 minutes, if a team is ahead by two more games, the match is concluded and the team ahead is declared the winner. However, if after 1 hour and 50 minutes, a team is down one game, that team will have the opportunity to tie the set score. If they do tie, regardless of the set score, a 9-point tie breaker will be played immediately to determine the winner of the set. If they do not tie the set score, the team ahead is the winner of the set.
16. In the case of inclement weather, host teams will arrange for indoor courts on Friday with the participating twelve women dividing the cost. Matches must be finished by 4 P.M. The following guide-lines are acceptable:

- A. Teams may opt to play courts at different times if three courts are not available at the same time.
 - B. If indoor courts are not available on Friday before 4 p.m., the host team will arrange for matches to be played by Thursday at 4 p.m. before the next match (either indoors or outdoors).
 - C. Home team is encouraged to give at least two options of make up dates to away team. Our goal is to get the matches played.
 - D. If teams cannot come to a mutual agreement as to the time, the courts will be awarded one and one-half games to each team.
17. Host team captains shall phone in scores (Ex. Team A won 2, team B won 1) and mail in score cards to the Division Leader no later than the following day. (PLEASE PRINT)
18. Any team that defaults 5 or more matches during the course of the season shall be reviewed by the Board and be put on *warning* for the next year. Also, any team put on *warning* will be placed last in the Division and will not be able to challenge up. If a team on warning forfeits another 5 matches the next year, the Board may drop the team from the league.
19. Forfeits
It is the team captain's responsibility to notify the opposing team by Thursday at 6 p.m. if they need to forfeit a court(s) scheduled to be played on Friday. This is to allow reasonable time to notify team members. If both teams need to forfeit an equal number of courts, then the forfeited points shall split between the clubs. If both clubs must forfeit one court, each club shall count 1/2 point. Courts will be forfeited in this order: three, two, and then one.
20. Every effort will be made to guarantee each team three home matches each year and to reverse the number of home/visitor matches from the previous year. If a club fields more teams than their courts can accommodate, every effort will be made to schedule them home and away during the same week. A match time or individual court time adjustment maybe necessary. This must be mutually acceptable.
21. All complaints must be submitted in writing to the League Chairman who will obtain a ruling from a consulting pro.
22. All captains or a team representative are asked to attend the League luncheon at the end of the season to evaluate the program and elect a chairman for a rotating term. The Chairman should be from a different club each two years until all clubs have been represented.
23. All cell phones are to be turned off during play. Please provide the club's phone number to anyone who may need to contact you.

Addendum to the Northeastern Tennis League Rules 2007

RE: Lunken and The Ridge Club Membership Definition

Lunken and The Ridge Club belonged to the NETL when Old Coney and The Ridge Swim & Tennis Club were their sponsors. Old Coney subsequently eliminated courts and the team moved to Eastern/ Lunken Playfield, and the Ridge had issues with court conditions and were forced to find playable courts elsewhere.

It was decided by the captains present at the May 6, 2006 pre-season meeting that these two clubs should be “grand-fathered” as members of the Northeastern Tennis League since they have been a part of this league for many years. However, any “new” teams who want to join the league must have a sponsoring organization to whom they pay a membership fee.

Additionally, these two clubs must have a “membership fee” that each member pays at the beginning of the season to be a part of the team. This money can be used for the NETL league fee, balls, court reservations, snacks and drinks, or other team expenses at the discretion of the members. Realistically this fee should be at least \$25 per person. If someone is to be added as a sub, they must also pay the “fee” in order to be eligible to play even one time. The rules of the league will be followed to add a new player.

Note: a potential sub must pay the defined fee before being rostered as a sub and becoming eligible to play for Lunken or The Ridge Club. As per item 6. B of the NETL rules, *If a player has membership in two or more clubs within the Northeastern Tennis League, she must choose one team from any one club for which to play during the seven week season.*

The NETL will rely on the honesty and integrity of these two teams as they submit their rosters. We are happy to have them as continuing members.

Linda Collett
NETL Chairperson 2004 - 2006