

**Winnetka Women's Platform Tennis  
Team Rules and Regulations  
2011-2012 Season**

- I. Team Membership Requirements:
  - A. Be a Winnetka Platform Tennis Club (WPTC) Member.
  - B. Declare your intention to play the upcoming season to the Coordinator by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Pay team dues by the first practice of the season or no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>, whichever date is first.
  - C. Pay for additional appropriate expenses, such as ball or NSWPTL fees.
  - D. You must be available to attend team practices as well as matches on a regular basis.
  - E. Participate in WWPTC Team Ranking, Round Robins or Challenges required.
  - F. Play only for the WWPTC. If a regular or frozen team member plays a league match for another club, she forfeits her WWPTC team membership and her ladder ranking.
  
- II. Policy Making Responsibilities:
  - A. The WPTC Board has constructive advisory responsibilities and veto power over women's teams.
  - B. Women's Teams have responsibilities for:
    - 1. Ladder ranking and Challenges (external, inter-team and wildcat):
      - a. If a team member drops off the ladder (or can't play for the season), all members below must move up one number. A member may not choose to not move up. If a team member is unable to move up, she must present her case to the Coordinator's Committee for an exception. If approved by the CC, the player below who then moves up will assume the number of the player who refused to move up.
    - 2. Substitution rules: a. When a temporary sub is needed for a match, a team may use: 1) a player from a lower team or 2) any appropriate player who is a regular or substitute WPTC member.
    - 3. A simple majority passes changes following a yearly review of rules and regulations. A written absentee vote by a team member will be accepted in her absence.
    - 4. Electing the Coordinator and submitting her name to the WPTC Board for approval. The coordinator is responsible for the roster, yearly calendar, challenges, spring meeting, assisting captains, attending WPTC meetings as the Women's Team representative. She participates in ranking but can exempt herself from inter-team, wildcat and external challenges. For the inter-team, she will be considered frozen, with no impact on her ladder ranking. The Coordinator's Committee consists of the prior year's coordinator and all team captains. On motions, each team has one vote.
  - C. Individual Team Responsibilities:
    - 1. Elect team captains between the Spring Annual Meeting and the first fall practice.
    - 2. Determine next season's team size. The number of team members a player wants on her team for the following year will be indicated and submitted with

her team ranking form. The newly established ladder after all challenges have occurred is broken into groups in accordance with the previous season's team sizes at which time the player's preference for team size as indicated on her ranking form will be applied to her current position on the ladder.

3. Decide on format and time of practice. Taking into consideration the practice times as agreed upon by the Park District: teams who play matches in the morning, should have morning practice times. Teams, who play matches in the afternoon, should have afternoon practice times.
4. Determine court assignments for matches. Team placements and partnerships do not have to be decided based on ladder position but can be decided by playing preference, playoff, and/or team captains.
5. Participate in team ranking/challenges based on dates set by the CC.
6. Freeze Options
  - a. A freeze is a one-time option in a player's tenure with the WWPTC to "freeze" her spot on the ladder. It is entirely at the discretion of the player but may never be taken again, without exception. It is intended to provide relief during a time of personal crisis.
  - b. The freeze period is one season, regardless of when the player decides to freeze. The player's number on that season's ladder (published in September) remains unchanged throughout the season and she is placed at that same ladder number on the following season's ladder (published the following September). She does not participate in ranking or challenges.
  - c. A player may inform the coordinator of her decision to freeze before the start of the season or during the season. If she opts to freeze during the season, she must inform her captain and the coordinator before the team ranking begins.
  - d. Per "Team Membership Requirements," if a frozen team member plays a league match for another club, she forfeits her WWPTC team membership and her ladder ranking.

### III. Rules and Procedures for the External, Inter-Team, and Wildcat Challenges:

- A. The order of challenges is as follows: Inter-team, Wildcat, External. Challenges will start after team rankings and after the end of the regular league season. In the spirit of sportsmanship, all team members must make a good faith effort to be available during the challenge period (which has been set by the Coordinator's Committee in the fall and posted in the hut at the beginning of the season). A player may accept only two challenges, one inter-team and either one wildcat or one external. A player who is making a wildcat challenge will not accept an external challenge unless the external challenge period is subsequent to the wildcat challenge period. Wildcats and externals may be played simultaneously, overlapping or consecutively, at the determination of the Coordinator's Committee. Regardless of scheduling, wildcat challengers will pick their challenge groups before external challengers. As a result, some players may be unavailable for an external challenge.

1. External Challenges - The purpose of the external challenge is to obtain a position (#) on the WWPTC ladder and a position on a team. This is for non-team members. An external is a two-day challenge in which the challenger must beat two players to be successful. The winning challenger would then slot beneath the threesome she challenged. If she beats all three players, she slots above all three players. (Please refer to the Rules of Play for External Challenges for specific procedures.) If a successful external challenger does not play the following season, then that challenger may not challenge back on to the ladder for two successive years thereafter. Exceptions to that will require Executive Board review.
2. Inter-Team Challenges - The purpose of the Inter-Team is to culminate the Team Self-Ranking Process. The top two ranked players of each team have the right to challenge the bottom two ranked players of the team directly above them. The challengers are playing for a higher number on the ladder, rather than a spot on a team as the next season's team composition is not determined until the following September when players have given notice of whether they are playing, freezing, or dropping off the ladder. This challenge is NOT compulsory. If both lower ranked players decline, then no challenge takes place. If one lower player declines the challenge, for any reason, the next lower ranked person, usually the #3 player on their team, can participate in the challenge as one of the foursome. The non-player will then drop to the position of the new challenger. If the higher player cannot accept the challenge, she takes the bottom spot of the foursome and a "plug" is used. The Coordinator must approve any plug used in the challenge. It is a two-day challenge with a complete re-ranking of the foursome. (Please refer to the Rules of Play for Inter-Team Challenges for specific procedures.)
3. Wildcat Challenges - The purpose of this challenge is a form of redress for individuals on the ladder who feel, due to a poor ranking, many external challenges above them, and/or initially challenging on the ladder at a level too low for their ability. The challenger must challenge up a minimum of ten places on the ladder (i.e. #30 would challenge at least as high as #20,19,18) with the risk of a four spot penalty, should she lose. A frozen player's position will be included in the determination of the minimum 10 positions up from a potential wildcat challenger. A challenge fifteen or more on the ladder requires Coordinator approval. It is a two-day challenge and the challenger must beat two players in order to win. If successful, the challenger slots below the threesome challenged. If she beats all three players, she slots above all three players. (Please refer to the Rules of Play for Wildcat Challenges for specific procedures.)
4. If a challenge must be stopped because of injury or emergency, record the scores at the ending point, the points in the game, who was serving, the order of service and the sides where each player served. The round must be finished before the end of the scheduled challenge period. A warm-up is taken, four practice games are played and then the round is continued from the ending point. If the injured player is unable to play, the round is replayed from the

beginning with a sub, whose score is not counted. The injured player's score in the challenge will be 0 games, meaning that the challenger beats her.

5. If a player is injured or otherwise unable to accept an external or wildcat challenge, and the challenge has not started, the Coordinator may choose to extend the challenge group up or down to create a complete group, or to replace the non-player with a sub. A wildcat group may not be extended below the challenger's minimum spot.
  - a. If the group is extended, the non-player is ignored (similarly to a frozen player)
  - b. If the group is not extended, the challenge will be played with a plug, whose score is not counted. The non-player's score in the challenge will be 0 games, meaning that the challenger beats her.

#### IV. League Ranking

When there are two teams within the same series and the lower ranked team finishes higher, the WPTC ladder integrity shall be upheld.

#### V. Ladder Ranking

- A. Once a year all ladder members will participate in a confidential team ranking process. Each player will rank all of her team members except herself (Refer to Team Ranking Guidelines). Rankings will be submitted to the Coordinator, or in the case of the Coordinator's team, to a co-coordinator or previous coordinator who is not on the coordinator's team. After tabulating the rankings, the coordinator will release a new ladder to all players.
- B. Rankings will be released to ladder members after the final league match of the season and before the start of challenges, and after completion of each type of challenge. Specific dates will be set by the Coordinator's Committee.