

# Northern Illinois Traveling Tennis League Rules 2011-12

## Ladies Division Names for 2011-12

Div. 1 – American  
Div. 1 – Central  
Div. 1 – National

Div. 2 – American  
Div. 2 – Central  
Div. 2 – Liberty  
Div. 2 – National

Div. 3 – American  
Div. 3 – Central  
Div. 3 – National

Div. 4 – American  
Div. 4 – Central  
Div. 4 – National

## Men's Divisions for 2011-12

Div. 1  
Div. 2

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Please check your schedule carefully. See how many home and away matches you have. See that you're playing any club a fair amount of times at home and away. WHY? It's now a NITTL RULE that you have until November 1<sup>st</sup> to notify Morrie of any mistakes in the schedule whereby Morrie will CHANGE the schedule to make it fair.**

Unless otherwise stated, all rules apply to both Men's and Women's divisions.

**In the past few seasons a strong effort is being made by the league to get players in level. Many players are capable of playing at more than one level. For example a strong 3.5 lady might be capable of playing Div. 3 American (Courts 1 and 2 mostly), Div. 2 National (Courts 2 and 3 mostly) and Div. 2 Liberty (Courts 3 and 4 mostly). The league takes the approach that it is more important to have ladies play in level than to keep certain teams intact with some players who may not be in level. Here are the two problems we often face:**

- **It is difficult for most tennis pro's to tell a member at their club that they need to move down a level.**
- **It is upsetting to lose a match against a player who is too good to be playing in a certain division.**

**The new Automatic Forced Player Movement and Post Season Player Complaint Rule are a part of our rules meant to deal with these two issues.**

## I. Line-ups

- A. The home team must have their line-up ready and at the front desk when the visiting team captain arrives to play. The visiting club must immediately turn in their line-up. The visiting team may not look at the home team line-up before writing their line-up. If the home team does not have their line-up the visiting team is under no obligation to turn in their line-up until the line-up of home team is completed and available. If no one from the visiting team has a line-up the home team is under no obligation to show their line-up to the visiting team until they have filled out a line-up sheet. Repeated violations are subject to \$20 fines.

- B. Last minute substitutions are allowed when someone who would otherwise be eligible to play fills in for someone who hasn't showed up for the scheduled match. This player must take the spot of the missing player. The line-up cannot be changed, nor can the court assignments without the approval of the opposing team's captain. The addition of this player cannot jeopardize breaking the stacking rule.

## II. Pre-match Rules

- A. Even if your match starts late, you still finish at the scheduled ending time. This rule can be altered only if all players on the court agree to a different ending time, and an authorized person at the home facility allows it. This is meant for matches starting late because a NITTTL match is still on court and forces the late start of the next match.
- B. If any of the scheduled courts are open when a match is supposed to begin, they must be used. If court 3 is open, but there is a tense match still going on court 2, the players assigned on court 3 should still start their warm-up on time.
- C. All facilities must have a bell, buzzer, timers or easy to see digital clock(s) of some sort that officially ends a match.
- D. All cell phones should be turned off when the match begins. If a cell phone goes off during a point it is a one point penalty. If a cell phone goes off, but a point is not in progress there is no penalty and the phone should be turned off immediately.
- E. Players warming up before a match should finish and attend to all necessary off-court situations before the start of the match. Players should be going on court at the scheduled match time. It is inconsiderate to finish a drill or warm-up one minute before the start of the match, and then leave the court to go to the locker room, and then arrive on court four minutes into the warm-up time.

## III. Match Play Rules

- A. Warm-up / Late arrivals
  1. Ten-minute warm-up
  2. If a warm-up starts late due to rule II. A., the players are still entitled to a full ten-minute warm-up.
  3. Late arrival time begins when the player is on court ready to play.
  4. The home team clock is the official clock when determining penalties.
  5. Players who are late miss as many minutes of warm-up as they are late. (If a player is five minutes late, the player receives five minutes of warm-up; nine minutes late, one minute of warm-up.)
  6. Players who are 10-19 minutes late get no warm-up.
  7. Players who are 20-29 minutes late, default the first set 6-0, and get no warm-up. You must announce to the late team that they have forfeited the first set. You cannot finish the match and go back and claim that the team was late and forfeited the first set.
  8. If a player is 30 or more minutes late, default the entire match.
- B. On-court rules
  1. All matches will be 90 minutes, except those starting late as mentioned in rule II.A.
  2. No-ad scoring.
  3. **For the 2011-12 season, all Men's matches will be REGULAR SCORING.**
  4. Best two of three sets.
  5. 12-point tie-breaker at 6-6 of any set.
  6. Switch sides at the completion of each set.
  7. If Team A wins the first set and the second set cannot be completed within the 90-minute time frame and Team A is losing the second set, then the match ends in a tie.

8. If Team A wins the first set and the second set cannot be completed within the 90-minute time frame and Team A is tied or ahead in the second set, then Team A wins the match.
9. If teams split sets and there is between 10:00 - 5:00 minutes left to play, teams switch sides and play a 12-point tie-breaker for the match. Do not switch sides every six points.
10. If teams split sets and there is between 4:59 – 0:01 minutes left to play, the match ends in a tie. Please note that the time left is determined at the conclusion of the last point. Thus, if there is 5:01 time left when the last point ended, but there is only 4:20 by the time the server is ready to serve, the tie-breaker must still be played.
11. If teams split sets and more than 10 minutes remain, teams switch sides and start a third set and play as many games as possible until time runs out.
12. While playing a game, if time runs out, finish that game and count it.
13. In either the second or third set, if a game ends and there is any time left (even one second), you must play another game even if you cannot begin this game before the 90-minute time limit expires. When a game ends, you must immediately notify your opponent if there is any time remaining. If you notify your opponent of this rule and they refuse to continue, they will lose the next game and suffer the result of this game forfeit.
  - a. Do not deliberately slow down the game as the 90-minute time limit approaches.
  - b. Games are played to the reasonable pace of the server.
  - c. The maximum amount of time between points is 20 seconds.
14. Players are allowed a bathroom break if it is necessary. Players are not allowed to use this rule for the purposes of getting water or some other benefit from leaving the court.
14. Unless everyone on court agrees to allow someone to leave the court for something other than a necessary bathroom break, ANYONE WHO CHOOSES TO LEAVE THE COURT, EVEN FOR WATER, AUTOMATICALLY DEFAULTS THE MATCH. Facilities requiring mothers to change their baby's diaper is an acceptable reason to leave the court without being penalized. The match must have started for this rule to be enforceable. There are other possible reasons that are justifiable to leave the tennis court besides changing a baby's diaper. If a club plans to enforce this rule they should keep in mind that it is possible the reason for leaving the court might be found to be acceptable. Keep in mind the reasoning of this rule, which is to not allow a team a way to intentionally slow down a match they may be leading. Assessing this penalty needs to happen at the time of the violation, not later after the match is completed.

C. Stacking

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Proving a team has intentionally stacked is very difficult. There is nothing that ruins a match more than playing against people nowhere near the proper ability level of a particular court. In the event a team files a complaint against a team they will need to present clear evidence on paper. Merely saying what you feel is an obvious stack is not nearly enough. At the end of the rules is how stacking complaints will be handled.

In the end, the tennis pro's are responsible for team line-ups. It is understood that some teams allow captains to make their match line-up, however it will not be the captain who must answer to any incidents of stacking. It is the pro's who will be required to deal with this issue. Please monitor this closely and carefully.

1. Teams are expected to have their line-up in proper order of strength.
2. Minor adjustments in line-ups such as switching your usual #1 court to #2 is not considered stacking. This may occur because of a challenge match victory or the #2 team having a better record than the #1 team.

3. Playing your best player on a lower court with a weak player in doubles is not stacking. Be careful with the interpretation of this rule. Especially if you do this LATE in the season, since it might be determined stacking was clearly the intent.
4. Playing a team (or singles player) on court 3 or 4 that has demonstrated success on higher courts would be an example of stacking.
5. Another form of stacking is playing your #4 team on 1, #1 team on 2, #2 team on 3 and #3 team on 4.
6. Should a team wish to file a stacking complain, we ask that you follow the stacking procedure listed at the end of the rules.
7. Unless the alleged stacking occurred against your club, you cannot file a stacking complaint.
8. Should a team be found guilty of stacking the following monetary fine will be assessed: \$50 + cost of one court (4 players).

### STACKING PROCEDURE

Should a team believe another team has intentionally stacked, the following procedure will be required.

- A. An email or fax must be sent to Jay Huffer and the opposing facility within one week of the match.
- B. The complaining club needs to put down in words the facts regarding why you feel the opposing club is guilty of stacking.
  1. Avoid being subjective. Stick to the facts. Stating, "I've played 3.5 for six years and she is by far the best player I've ever seen at this level....." is not factual. This is merely your subjective assessment of her playing ability.
  2. The history of any club has no bearing on our decision.
- C. The club accused of stacking will be called by Jay as soon as the complaint has been received. Jay will make sure they also receive the complaint. The club will have no more than five days to respond to the complaint. The response should only be based on facts.
- D. Once Jay has both sides, they will confer and render a decision. If I rule against the club, they may appeal our decision by following the APPEAL PROCEDURE listed after stacking procedure.
- E. Should a stacking complaint be leveled against HealthTrack, John Bremner will replace Jay.
- F. On the last week of the ladies season if there is a stacking complaint, it must be sent by 6:00 p.m. the last Friday of the season. The club having the complaint against them must also be included in the email. This team will have until Monday 9 a.m. to respond. Both the complaint and response will be immediately sent to the appeal committee for a decision. Jay will not make an initial decision. The appeal committee will respond by 5:00 p.m. on that Monday. Morrie will put a notice up on the website where the standings are located stating that a stacking complaint is in the process of being resolved and the final standings won't be listed until 8:00 p.m. that Monday.

### APPEAL PROCEDURE

Should Jay rule against a club and that club wishes to appeal, the following is how to appeal the decision. This decision is final.

- A. Only the information given to Jay will be sent out in an email or fax to all the clubs in the division were the complaint was leveled. Under no circumstances will any additional evidence be allowed to be sent regarding the decision. Jay does not get a vote.
- B. The majority vote is the final decision. If the vote ends in a tie, the appeal does not pass and Jay's original decision is final.

### STACKING EXAMPLE DONE PROPERLY

Complaint filed by Aurora against Centre Court.

On 12/10/05 in the Div II – American Aurora played Centre Court. We are filing a stacking complaint against Centre Court. Centre Court played Lisa Smith/Judy Anderson on court 1. So far this season, Lisa has never played court 1. Lisa played one time on court 2, six times on court 3 and twice on court 4. Lisa has never played a match with Judy. This was only Judy's third match. Judy played one match on court 2 and one match on court 3. We beat Lisa and Judy 6-0, 6-1 in 42 minutes. Centre Court beat us on courts 2, 3 and 4. The ladies playing court 2 for Centre Court were Dawn Miser/Jenny Jackson. Dawn/Jenny have played together eight times, six times on court 2 and twice on court 1. On court 2 their record is 4-2 and on court 1 their record is 1-1. We believe Centre Court's number 1 team was put there as a sacrifice so they might win courts 2, 3 and 4.

Connie Thompson – Aurora Tennis Club Div. I – American Captain.

This is an example of a proper response.

In regards to the match we've been accused of stacking, here is our response. Judy Anderson was only playing her third match for us. Judy moved here from Atlanta and we started her on court 3 which she won easily (6-2, 6-2) and then we played her on court 2 the following week and she won again in straight sets against a team above .500 (7-5, 6-2). At team drills it has become apparent that Judy is quite strong. Our normal #1 team was not able to play this match. We felt comfortable giving Judy her first chance to play court 1 with Lisa Smith for these reasons. First, Lisa has a 7-2 record this season with two losses coming on court three against the first place team and third place teams, respectively. Second, Lisa won the one match she played on court 2 against the second place team. Third, Lisa prefers the deuce court and Judy prefers the ad-court. Fourth, at team drills prior to the match, Judy/Lisa beat Dawn/Jenny in one set 7-5. Unfortunately against Aurora, we were very ineffective on court 1 and the match was lopsided. We hope that based on this information we are not found guilty of stacking.

Dena Donaldson – Centre Court Div. I – American Captain.

#### IV. Defaults / Forfeits

- A. If you are unable to have a full team, please call your opponent as soon as possible so that they may call their players and inform them that they do not have a match.
- B. Forfeits will start with the bottom court (court 4) and move up.
- C. When you forfeit, your facility is responsible to pay for your half of the court revenue that the home club lost if you call by 12:00 PM the day before the match.
- D. If you call and forfeit courts after 12:00 PM the day before the match, your facility is responsible to pay for both halves of the court revenue. One court of ladies doubles will be either \$24 (half) or \$48 (both halves). 12 PM is to be strictly adhered to.
- E. A team that forfeits an entire match in the last three weeks of the season must pay both halves plus an additional \$100 fee regardless of when the forfeit is called in. The \$100 goes towards end of season awards.
- F. A forfeit is when a team knows in advance of a match that their team will be short at least one court. A default occurs when you are expecting a team (player) to be in attendance for the match, but the team (player) either does not show or shows up after the 30 minute default time.

#### V. Eligibility

- A. All players must be 19 or older.
- B. College students (19 or older) who play tennis for their school can play after completing their college schedule.
- C. Players may play for one club only in this league, regardless of the division you play in.

- D. Playing someone deemed to be ineligible or illegal results in either a forfeit of that court and all courts below or just the forfeit of that one court. Decisions will be made by Jay and can be appealed to the Appeals Committee.
- E. Male and female tennis pro's are eligible to compete. Both may participate at whatever level their ability (rating) allows them to compete.
- F. You must be a member of the club you play for and have paid the membership dues that the club advertises it charges their members. There is no time limit on catching a player who has violated this rule. Players playing under rule V.E. are not subject to this rule. If contacted by Jay, a club must produce proof of an individual's membership.
- G. There is a maximum of four weeks from the time a match was played for a team to catch an illegal player and have the rules applied for playing the illegal player. Please note that there is a one-week rule for a stacking complaint.
- H. In the Women's Div 1 American, the highest combined NTRP rating for court 1 and 2 is 9.0. The highest combined NTRP rating for courts 3 and 4 is 8.5. Court 1 cannot be 8.5 and Court 2 be 9.0.
- I. In the Men's divisions, Div. I: No 5.0 players or higher rated players are allowed. You may play no more than two 4.5 men in singles and two 4.5 men in doubles. In singles the players should be playing on the proper court according to strength not necessarily their rating. In doubles the 4.5 players may play together or on separate courts. Div. II: No 4.5 or higher rated players are allowed. You may play no more than two 4.0 men in singles and two 4.0 men in doubles. In singles the players should be playing on the proper court according to strength not necessarily their rating. In doubles the 4.0 players may play together or on separate courts. Unrated players should be rostered on a team that corresponds to their proper NTRP level-of-play.
- J. NTRP Ratings: A player's NTRP rating at the time he/she plays his/her first match is the official rating for that player for the duration of the NITTL season

## VI. Rosters

- A. Ladies team rosters must be turned in two days prior to the start of the league, regardless of whether you have a bye or not.
- B. Men's team rosters must be turned in prior to the first match being played.
- C. If you play your first team match, and your roster has not been received, you will default that match and all matches thereafter until your roster has been received.
- D. There is no limit to the amount of players on a roster.
- E. If a player had a winning record on the team they ended the season rostered on, that person may only be rostered on a lower team the following season if no team exists at the level they finished the season rostered. If the club has a team at a higher level, it may be required to roster that player on the higher team based on the player's results and how much higher the next team is playing. Players must have at least five matches played to apply this rule. If you feel you have an exception to this rule please provide a detailed explanation and email it to Jay for a ruling.
- F. A female player with a losing record from the previous season cannot be rostered on a higher level team the following season. Listed below are additions to this rule.
  - Anyone wishing to appeal this rule must send the appeal to Jay. The appeal should detail predominately NITTL data why the player should be allowed to be rostered on a higher team.
  - Players in this category who are rostered properly (at the same level or lower from the previous season) cannot, by use of subbing up, be re-rostered to a higher level team than the previous season.
  - Players who fall in this category of having a losing record the previous season are allowed to sub up to any higher level teams (from the previous season) as long as they only sub up a maximum of six times.

- There may be circumstances that would allow a player in this category to sub up a seventh time and join a higher level team from the previous season, however it would revolve strictly around match play results in the current season.
- G. When a ladies team has four matches (or less) left to play in the season, they cannot roster any NEW players. Ladies subbing up a seventh time from an existing team can be rostered.
- H. If “NOT ROSTERED” is selected for a player name on a score sheet in the online system, a system email will be sent to the team that has the unrostered players. The coordinator of that facility has five days to respond or that player will be rostered on the team for which they played.
- I. Playing a non-rostered player who is “in level” will be a one court forfeit. Playing a non-rostered player who is determined by the appeals committee to be “out of level” will be a four-court forfeit for women and six-court forfeit for men. Playing a non-rostered player who is in level is not considered playing an illegal or ineligible player.
- J. At the NITTL preseason meeting in August, all teams are subject to being moved to a different level than a club may wish. Some factors that determine possible movement include whether a team has close to the same roster as the previous season, what place they finished the previous season, what was the team’s winning percentage the season before, who are the new players on a team and how many teams are in the division above and below them.

**K. Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule:**

**AUTOMATIC FORCED MOVEMENT UPWARD:**

**A player must move to a higher NITTL team if she meets the following criteria for her last season played:**

- **She played in at least half the scheduled matches**
- **Of the matches she played, she played court one in at least half of them.**
- **Her OVERALL winning percentage was 75% or better. This means counting the matches when she played on courts below court 1.**
- **Matches only count at the level the player is rostered. Match results from subbing up do not count towards the overall percentage.**

**AUTOMATIC FORCED MOVEMENT DOWNWARD:**

**A player must move to a lower NITTL team if she meets the following criteria for her last season played:**

- **She played in at least half the scheduled matches**
- **Of the matches she played, she played court four in at least half of them.**
- **Her OVERALL winning percentage was 25% or lower. This means counting the matches when she played on courts above court 4.**
- **Matches only count at the level the player is rostered. Match results from subbing up do not count towards the overall percentage.**

**Playoff (post-season) results DO NOT COUNT towards a player’s final winning percentage.**

**The UPWARD movement rule does not apply to Div. 1 American. The DOWNWARD movement rule does not apply to Div. 4 National. If you feel someone is worthy of an appeal to this rule, you may send it to Jay Huffer who will give his ruling. If denied, he will automatically send it along to the Appeals Committee for a final decision. The Appeals Committee will only see the appeal and Jay's written decision.**

**Any player who is forced to move upward or downward because of the Automatic Forced Player Movement rule can have it appealed. In this case we will use the following procedure:**

- **The Appeal must first go to Jay Huffer explaining why the person should not be subject to the forced movement.**
- **Jay will give his opinion and automatically forward it on to the Appeal Committee for a final decision.**
- **The majority decision of the Appeal Committee will be final.**

**L. POST SEASON PLAYER COMPLAINT RULE:**

**At the completion of the 2011-12 postseason, there will be a 30 day time frame to make a player complaint to either force a player to move up (or down) even if they do not meet the criteria of the Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule. The complaint must be made by a pro at a club, and not by team players or captains. In 2012, the 30 day time period will be May 12 – June 11. Here are some examples of possible legitimate complaints:**

- **An individual plays ten matches. She plays all of them on Ct. 1 and wins them all. None went three sets. This player did not play half the scheduled matches so she is not subject to the Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule.**
- **Same as above, but a clever captain played her five times on Ct. 1, four times on Ct. 2 and once on Ct. 3.**
- **An individual is a match or two short of playing court 1 to qualify for the Automatic Forced Player Movement Rule, but she has a winning percentage of 88%.**
- **An individual qualifies to have the rule applied to her, but her overall winner percentage is 73%, but she subbed up six times and won all six only losing one set. Remember, those six wins are not counting towards her winning percentage (73% in this case), only at the level she is rostered does it count.**
- **A lady plays Ct. 2 all season long. She never plays court 1, but also never plays court 3 or 4 and her overall winning percentage is over 90%.**

**In these instances, if a complaint is made against an individual, the club will be notified that a complaint has been made about a certain player and they will have a chance to respond. Jay will make a decision. If the ruling is in favor of the complaint, it will automatically go to the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee will only see the complaint, the response to the complaint and Jay's written decision. The decision of the Appeal Committee will be final. If Jay rules in favor of the accused, the decision is final.**

**VII. Substitutions**

- A. **Once placed on a roster, a player may not sub down.**
- B. **Players may "sub up" on more than one team.**
- C. **When a player subs up a seventh time, they are now officially rostered on that team. They are no longer eligible to sub again.**
- D. **A player may "sub up" a total of six times during the season. If you sub up three times on one team and three times on another team, you are at your maximum. This is six total substitutions.**
- E. **Players may not sub to another team at the same level they are rostered.**
- F. **When subbing a player up the opposing team has the right to file a stacking complaint if they feel they can prove the sub played on too high a court.**

## VIII. Match Postponements / Rescheduling

**SPECIAL NOTE: For 2011-12 the Spring Break rule will not be applicable since there will be no matches scheduled on March 29, 30, and April 5, 6. You cannot use this rule for matches you have scheduled on April 12 and 13. Since this rule may be back in use in the 2012-13 season we will leave it in the rules so it's still understood.**

Spring Break is a major problem every year. As much as one area of our league may feel we should skip one particular week that is THEIR Spring Break, it often is not the same week as other school districts. Please check at the beginning of the NITTL season if your team(s) would like to try to reschedule the Spring Break match on an EARLIER date. For this season each club had the opportunity to notify Morrie before the scheduling started if they didn't want a particular team to play a match on a specified Spring Break week. Even with this new addition, we will still allow clubs to use this Spring Break Rule for their benefit. Please read rule F in this section carefully.

- A. Either team may call the opposing club for the postponement of a match due to inclement weather. Rain is not an acceptable reason for postponement.
- B. Postponed matches must be rescheduled within three weeks. This doesn't mean the match must be played within three weeks. It means the clubs must agree upon any date in the future, but they only have three weeks to determine that date.
- C. It is the home team's responsibility to contact the away club and decide upon a reschedule date. Both clubs must agree to the rescheduled date. The home team must immediately notify Morrie Marino of the rescheduled date.
- D. If an effort was made to reschedule a postponed match but it was not possible, the match result will be 0-0. The home team does not have to give up the "home".
- E. When a facility has two or more teams in the same division and those teams are scheduled against each other, they must play the match on the scheduled date or earlier. If a team does not have enough players for the match, then they need to forfeit courts just like a regular match. The penalty will be one of two decisions. Decision #1 will be to give one team a 4-0 victory and it will be the team we feel hurts the club the most. Decision #2 will be to officially declare the match 0-0 so neither team can benefit. The decision will be decided by **the Appeal Committee**.
- F. Failure to have a match rescheduled within the three-week time period, results in the home team forfeiting the match. The visiting team must contact Jay and notify him that three weeks have passed and the home team didn't contact the visiting team about a reschedule. The visiting team is not required to make the initial contact to reschedule the match. If the home team claims they did attempt to contact the visiting team, an email must be a part of the initial contact. This provides proof. Without the email proof, the ruling will be in favor of the visiting team. Even sending an email to Jay saying you called the visiting team on that date will be considered acceptable. In order for the visiting team to claim the forfeit they must contact Jay within four weeks of the three-week time period. If this doesn't happen the match will be recorded as 0-0.
- G. **This rule is not in effect for 2010-11 season but will remain in the rules since it may be back in 2012-13.** Spring Break Rule – If you call an opposing club before Dec. 1 to ask for a reschedule of a Spring Break match, it must be honored. When asking for a reschedule it is assumed you cannot field a team on the spring break date. If no date can be found, neither team will be penalized. The match will go as 0-0. Any calls after Dec. 1 do not require the opposing team to accept even if it's the home team calling asking for a reschedule. If the home team is able to offer at least one reasonable reschedule date and the visiting team cannot play the match, the match is still 0-0, but the visiting team will be responsible to pay for their half of the match.

All rescheduling of Spring Break matches must be done by email by facility coordinators and not by team captains. Email documentation will go a long way in settling any disputes teams may have over what was allegedly agreed upon. Please email Morrie ASAP when you have agreed upon a rescheduled date for any rescheduled matches. morrie@nittl.com

In addition to this rule, you cannot ask for two weeks off due to spring break. It is understood that some school districts will be off on a Friday and then off the entire following week.

#### IX. Enforcement of Rules / Appeals Committee

- A. Regardless of the circumstances, if a rules violation has a specific penalty associated with it, the penalty will be applied.
- B. Should a penalty be applied for a rules violation the facility has the right to appeal the decision.
- C. The APPEALS COMMITTEE for 2010-11 will be John Bremner (Wheaton), Lori Mills (Elmhurst) and Zane Fulton (Midtown - Willowbrook). The first and second alternates will be Ginger Boyce (Naperville) and Morrie Marino, respectively.
  - 1. Should a team wish to appeal a decision there will be a \$50 fee. If the appeal committee agrees with the appeal, the \$50 fee will be rescinded.
  - 2. A facility may also appeal the decision of what penalty was decided for an offense that doesn't have a specific penalty associated with it.
  - 3. Jay Huffer has the right to send a decision straight to the appeal committee if he feels it's justified.

#### X. Fees

- A. **Women: \$13.00**
- B. **Men: \$13.00 Doubles \$22.00 Singles**

#### XI. Babysitting

- A. Every facility must offer babysitting during ladies match times.
- B. A club notified of babysitting needs 24 hours or more in advance is required to provide the service. Failure to provide the service will be the home team forfeiting one court. If the babysitting service is notified less than 24 hours before the match, the home team bears no responsibility if it has to turn down the request.
- C. Facilities that require advance notice of babysitting cannot turn down the visiting team if the person calls within the prescribed time. If a player is denied babysitting, that club (person) should immediately contact Jay Huffer (630) 837-6300 and they will try to remedy the situation.
- D. Any club having special babysitting rules is required to email a copy of those rules to Morrie Marino at morrie@nittl.com
- E. **Facilities are not allowed to charge more than \$8.00 per child (not per hour).**

#### XII. Division Winners

- A. Division winners will be based on the best won/lost percentage. Ties remain ties regardless of tiebreaking procedures detailed in the playoffs.
- B. Any team finishing with a winning percentage of 70% or higher, must move a minimum of two players off the team to a higher level if you have a team at a higher level. If you don't have a higher team, some players may be deemed ineligible because of their record on higher courts. This will be decided on an individual basis.

- C. Any team finishing with a winning percentage of 30% or lower, must move a minimum of two players off the team to a lower level if you have a team at a lower level.

### XIII. Playoffs

- A. Men and women's teams will be in the end of season playoffs.
- B. The week after the final matches, playoffs will be held in all divisions.
- C. The higher seeded team will be declared the home team and will be immediately contacted by Morrie Marino. This team must decide what day and time they will play the match. Morrie will contact the opposing team with the match day and time.
- D. If a team knows they have to forfeit a first round playoff match, the next best team is added to the playoffs and all seeding is redone based on the teams that are participating.
- E. If a team wins its first round match, and has to forfeit its next match, the team they defeated in the first match is reinstated in their place.
- F. Women must have played in at least five matches to be eligible to compete in the playoffs. Your five matches can include matches played at a different level. Men need to have played in three of the team's matches to be playoff eligible. Playing singles and doubles in one match only counts as playing in one of the matches.
- G. In the Men's playoffs, a Teaching Pro can participate if he has played in at least half the team's away matches.
- H. Playoff teams may have players "sub up" who have met the five matches played rule.
- I. In the playoffs, the matches will be under the same rules as regular season matches unless both facilities agree to a different set of rules. This may include having no time limit, or removing no-ad scoring.
- J. As in the regular season, stacking is not allowed in the playoffs.
- K. Teams must play their playoff matches on the same day as they played their regular season matches. The time may be changed to whatever they want. The home team may contact the opposing team and request a day change, but the opposing team is under no obligation. Teams in first and second place near the end of the season should make sure this does not become an issue by making sure the court availability is there.
- L. In the event of a 2-2 tie for women or a 3-3 tie for men in a playoff match, the winner will be determined in the following order:
  - 1. The team that lost the fewest sets wins.
  - 2. The team that lost the fewest games (total of all courts) wins.
  - 3. Each team picks any two players to represent their team in a 10-point match tiebreaker.  
For men, if doubles was played last then they must play doubles to decide the match.
- M. Players who show up for a match, but wins by default may count this as an official match towards being playoff eligible. This does not apply when matches are forfeited with proper notification. A court is considered a forfeit when the match isn't played and notification was given in time for the other team to be aware. A court is considered a default when the match isn't played and insufficient time was given for the other team to notify its players of the situation. Matches that end in the retirement of a player also count towards an official match and being playoff eligible. A retirement is when a match starts (including warm-up) and a player cannot finish the match.
- N. If there are 12 or more teams in a league division they will still have only four teams going to the playoffs.
- O. If the regular season ends in a tie between any teams the official standings remain as a tie. However for seeding purposes, or to determine if a team qualifies for the playoffs, the following tiebreakers are used in this order to determine playoff seeding order:
  - 1. Head-to-head vs. the team(s) you tied with during the regular season. This means adding up the points won and lost. If Club A played Club B four times and the results from Clubs A's perspective were 1-3, 0.5-3.5, 4-0, 2-2 then Club B wins 7.5 to 8.5. If

three or more teams tied you would still see if this method separates them to make a clear order.

2. Overall sets won to sets lost vs. the team(s) you tied with during the regular season. Tiebreakers played to determine the winner of the third set counts as a set.
3. Overall games won to games lost vs. the team(s) you tied with during the regular season. Tiebreakers played to determine the winner of a third set counts as one game.

#### XIV. Miscellaneous

- A. Rules decisions
  1. Refer all rules questions to one of the home team's tennis pros. If you believe the home team pro to be in error, or if you cannot resolve the matter call Jay Huffer at (630) 942-9600 (ext. 617) or his mobile phone at (630) 899-9307.
- B. Match starting times, days and number of courts played
  1. Women's matches are played at no earlier than 10 AM and cannot start later than 1:30 PM. All women's divisions may choose a Thursday or a Friday time.
  2. Men's matches are played no earlier than 9:00 AM and cannot start later than 2:00 PM.
  3. Men's matches are played on Saturday's or Sunday's.
  4. Men's matches have singles played before doubles unless the schedule reflects otherwise.
  5. Ladies Div. IV National is three courts only.
- C. Results of a match
  1. All results will be entered through the internet. Our website is [www.nittl.com](http://www.nittl.com).
  2. For Women and Men either team may have a captain or club representative enter the match scores no later than Monday at 12:00 PM. If the scores are not entered an email will be sent to BOTH clubs warning them that the result has not been entered. If the match results have not been entered by Thursday (three days later) the home team will be assessed a \$20 penalty. If there is a dispute in a match result it should still be entered by the home clubs version of the result.
  3. If there is a dispute over entered results, an email must be sent to Morrie ASAP. Morrie can correct simple errors, or if the dispute needs a decision over a more complex situation, Morrie will forward the problem to Jay. Upon Jay's decision, an email will be sent to Morrie and the disputing clubs. For this matter Morrie's email is [morrie@nittl.com](mailto:morrie@nittl.com).
- D. Maximum teams per division
  1. If any division has 14 or more teams, that division may be split into two divisions. The division will be split based on level-of-play. Each club will be asked whether they feel their team should be in the higher division or lower division. **The higher division will keep the original name of that division. The lower division will be renamed.** Should the split not be equal, Jay and Morrie will determine which team(s) need to move to make the divisions equal. No team will be moved without being contacted by Jay first. Should a team convince Jay they shouldn't be moved, another team will be selected and the same procedure followed.
- E. Change in the schedule
  1. If the schedule for any division is modified, but not completely redone, the matches that have changed will require an email to each club (from Morrie Marino) listing the change and this email must be returned acknowledging the change.
- F. Dropping a team out of the league
  1. Any facility that has a team drop out of the league once league play has begun is required to pay a \$250 drop out fee. Until the fee is paid, scores from any other teams at the facility will not be counted in the standings. The \$250 will go towards end of season awards.
- G. Court dividers

1. Should any player on either side of a court divider wish for the divider to be opened, it must be opened. This is only applicable on courts that have NITTTL matches being played on them.
- H. On Court Injury/Illness
1. Based on a 90 minute match, if a person is either injured or ill they can have up to five minutes to resume play in the first hour of the match. In the next 20 minutes a person can have no more than two minutes. In the final 10 minutes of the match there can be no time out for injury or illness without forfeiting the court.
- I. On Court Breaks
1. With only 1.5 hours to play our matches we do not switch sides on odd-games. However normal breaks in a tennis match occur on odd-game side changes. Since we don't switch sides on odd games, our rule is that when a game is completed and it's an odd-game, this is the time to get a water break or minor rest break. This time is not to exceed 30 seconds and the players must remain on-court. Do not have water breaks on even-game changes!
- J. Playing in good faith
1. If you play a match and there was a rules violation that would have an impact on the match, but you continue to play the match without knowledge or care about the infraction, you have played the match in good faith.
- K. On court disputes/disagreements/rulings
1. To avoid the "playing the match in good faith" ruling that could go against any player/team, you must protest the match if you feel a dispute or ruling by the home pro/team is being incorrectly applied to you or your team. Let the home pro know you are playing the match under protest and make sure the opponents know you are playing under protest.
  2. Do not complete the match and then protest something that occurred earlier in the match. If you protest something at the end of the match make sure it's because something occurred at the end of the match.

Good examples of protests:

1. The home team finds out shortly before a match begins that one of their ladies can't make it. One of the home team ladies tries to contact others who might be able to make it on short notice. After she is done trying she goes to her court only to find that she is 21 minutes late. She claims she was at the club and merely trying to get someone to fill in on short notice. The visiting team claims that doesn't matter, they have to forfeit the first set. The lady says her team doesn't have to under these circumstances. Since they're already late and the visiting team ladies don't want to waste any more time seeking a pro, she must tell her opponents that she is playing the match under protest. As long as she does this, she is not bound by the "playing the match in good faith" rule.
2. Teams split sets and there are five minutes and 20 seconds left and Team A points out the remaining time. Team B claims that it's a split and they're done. You should protest. When you come off the court you should seek a pro. The pro comes and says that the courts aren't open anymore and that even though Team A was correct the match will be a split. Team A feels this is wrong. Protest it.

Water/Food

1. Home teams are not required to provide water on court. As such, it is up to each individual to have his/her own water (or other approved drink) on court.
2. For ladies matches home teams are required to provide a minimum of one drink for each person at the conclusion of their match. Providing food or anything beyond the required drink is not required but it is highly encouraged.