

EAST VALLEY SENIOR TENNIS LEAGUE

1.5 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

(POSTED APRIL 1, 2011)

I. 1.5 PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

- The emphasis of the 1.5 team program is to introduce the game of tennis to beginners. Skill development, tennis team strategy, court management, safety issues, sportsmanship, match preparation, and league competition are the main components of the program. Most of all, the beginning tennis program should be FUN and REWARDING for its participants.
- Most 1.5 players are new to the league and are accorded all the privileges and responsibilities of dues paying club members, and as such, should be encouraged to participate in all activities and club business. The 1.5 team program is the foundation for building strong clubs and developing future tennis players at all levels.

II. 1.5 PROGRAM COORDINATOR DUTIES

- Be familiar with EVSTL By-laws, 1.5 Program Guidelines, The Code, and USTA Rules of Tennis.
- Assist the EVSTL scheduler regarding 1.5 team scheduling needs. Identify which teams wish to start their season in November; which prefer to begin in January.
- Convene a 1.5 captains' meeting early in the fall. At this meeting, review copies of 1.5 Program Guidelines, EVSTL documents, and other important tennis team information. Discuss issues relevant to captains and 1.5 teams. Distribute match schedules.
- Maintain contact with 1.5 captains throughout the season. Advise captains regarding issues needing clarification.
- Consult with the EVSTL President [as necessary] on policy issues.
- Advise and assist clubs having difficulty fielding sufficient 1.5 teams; advise on recruitment strategies.
- Recommendations may be made by the Program Coordinator to drop a club from 1.5 league play if a member club consistently (50% or more of the time) has problems fielding at least 2 teams of 1.5 women and 2 teams of 1.5 men.

III. 1.5 CAPTAIN'S DUTIES

- Be familiar with EVSTL By-laws, 1.5 Program Guidelines, The Code, and USTA Rules of Tennis. (Copies of league documents, rosters, schedules and other pertinent information can be downloaded from the EVSTL web page at <http://evstltennis.com>).

- Select a co-captain with good communications skills and with whom the captain can easily work in harmony. The co-captain will take over the captain's duties when necessary. (Captains may choose a co-captain of the opposite gender to facilitate male/female points of view on the team. However, this is not a requirement.)
- Assist beginners to develop technical knowledge of tennis so that they quickly can begin playing and enjoying doubles tennis.
- Organize competitive practices and implement league competitions.
- Teach proper court behavior, tennis ethics and etiquette, dress code standards, safety issues, and the basics of racquet, shoe, and other equipment needs.
- Recruit volunteer instructors/coaches to teach basic concepts.
- Provide the team's instructors/coaches with the necessary lesson plans, teaching tools, and court environment to enhance the learning experience.
- Encourage team members to actively participate in tennis club business, social activities, fund-raising projects, invitationals and tournaments.
- Train team members on the responsibilities of team membership (i.e. attendance at practices and matches, rainy day responsibilities, communications with the captain regarding phone number/e-mail updates, etc.)
- Communicate with captains from opposing parks to coordinate the number of teams which will participate in upcoming league matches. Inform players as soon as possible of the line-up so that they may practice with their partners before the match.
- Attend all captains' meetings, as well as general club meetings, in order to keep team members well informed of club activities and business.
- Communicate with the 'rating committee' in the event a player is performing above beginning level and should be rated and placed on a more advanced team.
- Keep accurate individual player 'stats' to assist in end-of-the-season evaluations and to support decisions on advancement to 2.0 teams. 1.5 team captains are **not** required to report any 1.5 play results to EVSTL, including position 1 'stats'.

IV. 1.5 LEAGUE MATCHES

- 1.5 league matches shall be conducted in accordance with EVSTL rules and regulations.
- Match start times are normally 9:00 AM. However, clubs may vary start times. Captains must re-confirm the **exact** starting time and pass this information along to their team.
- Each match will consist of 2 regular sets, but at a 6-6 tie in any set, a 7-point tiebreak will be played to determine the winner of that set. If each team has won one set, then a Coman match tiebreak will comprise the third (3rd) and deciding set, and therefore, the match.
- The use of experienced and knowledgeable scorekeepers is *absolutely essential* at 1.5 matches. These scorekeepers must be able to advise the 1.5 players when confusion or misunderstandings arises, as well as keep score and to be able to keep the match on schedule.

- 1.5 captains should counsel players in-between sets regarding infractions which may have been noted by the captain, the scorekeeper, other players, or the opposing captain. Every effort shall be made to keep the match fair and fun. A copy of *The Code* and the *USTA Rules of Tennis* should be kept at the courts during match play and may be used as reference.
- As with all other levels of play in the EVSTL, the top players should be assigned to play position 1, the second most qualified players position 2, etc. This will provide for the most competitive league matches.
- When feasible, captains are encouraged to schedule mixed doubles matches as part of league play.
- Matches that are cancelled or not played for any reason [such as a rained out match or a cancellation due to insufficient players] may be rescheduled by mutual agreement. The league will not be responsible for rescheduling any such matches.
- Once a match begins and a player must withdraw, the opposing team receives an automatic win by forfeit. Results are recorded on the Match Play Log as two (2) points to zero (0). Individual scores for all games that had been finished shall be recorded.
- When agreed upon by both captains *before* the start of a match, the following may apply:
 - Upon captain's agreement, brief coaching may be permitted at each changeover and/or at the end of each set. Captains may also agree that there shall be **no** coaching. Scorekeepers and/or individuals in the stands are not permitted to coach.
 - Deuces can be played out as usual, 2nd deuce may be considered game point, or 'no ad' scoring may be utilized.
 - On league match days, 'fun matches' may be scheduled to allow for additional simulated match play. These matches would be identical to league matches (including scorekeepers) but would consist of 4 players from the same park.

V. PLAYER SHORTAGES

- 1.5 team members may 'play up' to the 2.0 level, if required and qualified, due to shortages of 2.0 players. [The opposing 2.0 team captain must be notified when this occurs.]
- If a 1.5 player 'plays up', he/she can also play on their own team the same week. 'Play-ups' should be 1st position players whenever possible.
- Should a club have difficulty fielding a team (a minimum of 2 women's and 2 men's teams) the 1.5 team captain can recruit 2.0 players to 'play down'. These 2.0 players should currently be playing 3rd or 4th position on their 2.0 team. A 2.0 player "playing down" shall **NOT** be scheduled in the 1st position of the 1.5 match.

VI. RECRUITING HINTS

- Enlist the enthusiastic support of your club President and Executive Committee. The 1.5 team captain should be in constant communication with the officers and general club membership on the progress of the team as the season unfolds.
- Encourage existing tennis club members to **actively** recruit beginning players.
- Post information publicizing *free* instruction for beginning tennis players on bulletin boards throughout your park.
- Make sure park management/activity offices are aware of the tennis club programs and know how to refer new park residents to the club.
- Provide *free* tennis instruction by the captain/coaches/experienced tennis players.
- Provide loaner racquets as necessary.
- Offer *free* demonstrations, classes, and additional tennis skills clinics.
- Distribute names/contact information of new members to other team members, and assist 'newbies' in finding practice partners.
- Incorporate new members in club social/fun activities and club business. Get the 1.5s 'involved' and part of the larger tennis community.
- Conduct 1.5 *'fun matches'* and social events.

MAKE 1.5 TENNIS REWARDING AND FUN

