

Northern Virginia Junior CYO (NVJCYO) Tennis Rules

08/29/16

The NVJCYO Tennis league will operate by the following NVJCYO rules and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules as applicable, including "The Code". In the event of any inconsistency, the NVJCYO rules shall supersede the USTA rules.

- A. **PLAYERS**
- B. **TEAMS**
- C. **MATCHES**
- D. **COACHING**
- E. **SCORING**
- F. **STANDINGS/PLAYOFFS**
- G. **MISCELLANEOUS**
- H. **TIEBREAKER**

A. **PLAYERS**

1. **Player Eligibility:** Each player must be enrolled in and regularly attending the: a) **parish school** or; b) **CCD program** of the participating parish, including **home schooled** students.
 - a. **Team Rosters:** Each player will be **rostered** on a team in one of the following conferences:
 - **Aces:** Grades 1/2/3 Level: Beginner
 - **Wimbledon I:** Grades 3/4/5 Level: Beginner
 - **Wimbledon II:** Grades 4/5 Level: Advanced Beginner
 - **U.S. Open I:** Grades 5/6/7/8 Level: Beginner/Advanced Beginner
 - **U.S. Open II:** Grades 5/6/7/8ⁿ Level: Intermediate/Advanced
 - **Federation Cup:** Grades 4/5/6/7/8ⁿ Level: Advanced

Forms: Each team must have a completed roster, with required signatures, and NVJCYO Permission and Medical Release Forms in the possession of the team coach or school/parish tennis coordinator prior to the first match. The roster must be made available to the NVJCYO commissioner upon request.

2. **Waivers:** Waivers to the above Player Eligibility rules will be handled on a case-by-case basis and may be granted if approved by the Commissioner of the league.
 - a. Waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the league Commissioner prior to the start of the season, using the official NVJCYO Waiver Request Form.
 - b. Waivers will typically cover "orphan" players – players whose schools/parishes not fielding teams at their grade/level. Neighboring school teams will be the first option for such players.
 - c. Waivers may also cover players above the grade level for Wimbledon II who are not sufficiently skilled to compete at the US Open I level.
 - c. Combined teams (for example, St. Mark's/OLGC) do not need to obtain waivers.
3. **Ineligible Players:** Any set that is played by an ineligible player will be forfeited by the team using the ineligible player.

B. TEAMS

1. **Number of Players:** A Team's roster will have a minimum of six (6) players for Wimbledon I and seven (7) players for all other conferences. A team may only play up to 10 players in any one match, unless the opposing coach agrees to additional exhibition matches.
2. **Line-ups:** Players shall be placed in the match line-ups according to their ability, i.e. the best player should play #1 singles, the second best player #2 singles, etc. (see "Required Match Pairings" below). Accurately ranking players ensures competitive matches.
3. **Fees:** Each parish will set its own fee schedule to cover its costs. Schools/parishes will be assessed for league trophies.

C. MATCHES

1. Wimbledon I.

a. Three (3) **no-ad doubles** sets. Each team receives one (1) point for each of the three (3) sets played. Report the set and game score for each team, i.e. St. A 2 sets/ 15 games – St. B 1 set 14 games.

b. **Set scoring.** One team must win six games by at least two games to win the set (6-0, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4). If the score is 5-5, the teams must play two more games to decide the set. The team or player that wins the next two games wins the set 7-5. If the score is 6-6, then a tiebreak should be played. The player or team to first score seven points, winning by at least two points, wins the tiebreaker and the set which is recorded as 7-6.
6. Use 7/12 tiebreak described in these rules, not the 5/9 point tiebreak noted on the score sheets.

c. **Game scoring (no-ad).** First team to win 4 points wins the game. If the score in a game is 3-3, the receiving team or player chooses which service box (deuce (right) or ad (left)) the server will serve into.

d. **Exhibition matches.** Additional matches will played as exhibition (not counting in the official match score) if either team has more than 6 players at the match.

e. **Serving.** Wimbledon I players may use an overhead or bounce serve from anywhere behind the service line. Wimbledon I is the only division permitted to use a "bounce and hit" serve or an overhand serve from anywhere behind the service line. Wimbledon I matches use the full court.

f. **Balls.** Quick Start Stage 2 (60) Orange balls. New QuickStart balls are not required for Wimbledon I matches. The team listed first on the schedule is the home team and supplies the balls for the match.

g. Match formats.

If both teams have at least 6 players at the match,

#1 Doubles (D1) Your #1 doubles team v. Their #1 doubles team

#2 Doubles (D2) Your #2 doubles team v. Their #2 doubles team

#3 Doubles (D3) Your #3 doubles team v. Their #3 doubles team

Exhibition doubles as needed so all players at the match play.

If one team has less than six (6) players at a match:

6 players/5 players: # 4 player of 5 player teams plays 2nd doubles with #3 player and 3rd doubles with #5 player.

6 players/4 players: # 3 and #4 of 4 player team play 2nd and 3rd doubles

6 players/3 players: 3 player team forfeits second and third doubles. Play exhibition doubles as needed so all players play.

5 players/3 players: 3 player team forfeits 2nd and 3rd doubles. Play exhibition doubles as needed so all players play.

4 players/ 3 players: 3 player team forfeits 3rd doubles. #2 player also plays 2nd doubles.

5 players/5players: # 4 players on each team also play 3rd doubles.

5 players/4 players: # 3 and #4 of 4 player team play 2nd and 3rd doubles. # 4 player of 5 player team also plays 3rd doubles.

4 players/4 players: 2nd doubles match counts for 2nd and 3rd doubles.

2. Wimbledon II through Federation Cup

a. **Matches.** Five (5) sets played with **no-ad** scoring (**except for Federation Cup (or US Open II if the highest level) which uses regular ad scoring**). Each team receives one (1) point for each of the five (5) sets won. Report the set and game score for each team by conference and division, i.e. US Open I, East Division, St. A 3 sets/ 26 games – St. B 2 sets 23 games

b. **Game scoring.** No-ad scoring (Wimbledon 2 through US Open II (unless US Open II is the highest level). First player or team to win 4 points wins the game. If the score in a game is 3-3, the receiving team or player chooses which service box (deuce (right) or ad (left)) the server will serve into One set is the first player or team to win six (6) games by at least two (2) games. If a set is tied 6-6, play a tiebreaker as described below.

c. **Set scoring.** One player or team must win six games by at least two games to win the set (6-0, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4). If both the score is 5-5, they must play two more games to decide the set. The team or player that wins the next two games wins the set 7-5. If the score is 6-6, then a tiebreak should be played. The player or team to first score seven points, winning by at least two points, wins the tiebreaker and the set which is recorded as 7-6. **Use 7/12 tiebreak described in these rules, not the 5/9 point tiebreak noted on the score sheets.**

d. **Tiebreaker (7/12 points):** When a set reaches 6 games to 6 games, a “tiebreaker” is used. The NVJCYO Tennis League uses the standard USTA 7 out of 12 points “tiebreaker” for all divisions.

Tiebreak sequence:

Serving must remain in the same order as used throughout the match. The first server serves 1 point. Each server thereafter serves 2 points (ad court (left side) first – then deuce court (right side)). Players or teams switch ends of the court every 6 points. The individual or team that wins 7 points first, by at least two points, wins the tiebreaker and the set 7-6.

e. **Exhibition matches.** Additional matches will played as exhibition (not counting in the official match score) if either team has more than 7 players at the match.

f. **Serving.** Wimbledon II players may use a bounce serve from the baseline. All other levels must use a regulation serve from the baseline.

g. **Balls.** Wimbledon II teams use Quick Start Stage 1 (78) green balls. New QuickStart balls are not required for Wimbledon II matches. The team listed first on the schedule is the home team and supplies the balls for the match. **US Open I through Federation Cup** use regular balls. The team listed first on the schedule is the home team and supplies 5 new cans of balls for the match.

h. **Format:** Each team's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd singles and 1st doubles and 2nd doubles will play their opponents at the position in their opponent's line-up.

Required Match Pairings:

1st singles (S1): Your #1 vs. Their #1

2nd singles (S2): Your #2 vs. Their #2

3rd singles (S3): Your #3 vs. Their #3

1st doubles (D1): Your #4 & #5 vs. Their #4 & #5

2nd doubles (D2): Your #6 & #7 vs. Their #6 & #7

i. **Alternate Match Formats if one team has less than seven (7) players at a match** (at the discretion of the team with more players).

7 players/6 players: If one team has 7 players and the other only 6 players, the coach of the 7 player team chooses either four singles sets and one doubles set (5 total) or three singles and two doubles matches, the second doubles match being the 7 player's number #6 and #7 players against the 5 player team's #5 and 6 players.

7players/5 players: If one team has 7 players and the other team only 5 players, the coach of the 7 player

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team chooses either five singles matches or three singles and two doubles matches with the second doubles match being the 5 player team's #4 and #5 players (first doubles) playing another set against the 7 player team's #6 and #7 players.

7 players/4 players If a team has only four players available for a match, the match format is singles matches and the 4 player team forfeits one match.

7 players/ 3 players If a team only has only three players available for a match, the match format is one singles and one doubles and the 3 player team forfeits three matches.

j. **Subs from lower teams:** Teams may bring players up from a lower level team to fill open slots if they will have fewer than 7 players at a match. Players brought up to sub may still play on their original team if there is no schedule conflict.

k. **Moving players between teams in the same conference.** Teams **may not** have players play matches on two different teams in the same conference.

l. **Playing up.** Players in lower grades may play on a team in higher conference than typical for their grade level if they have the appropriate skill.

m. **Absent players:** If players are unavailable for a match, each player ranked lower moves up in the line-up for that match. For example, if a number # 1 player is not at a match, the 2nd singles players should play # 1, the 3rd singles player play #2, the #4 player play 3rd singles. Higher ranked positions cannot be forfeited when lower ranked players are available. Higher ranked players cannot play a second set in a match if there is a player ranked #8 or lower at the match.

n. **Exhibition matches.** Additional sets will be played until every player present on each team has played at least one set. The number of sets played shall be based on the number of players on the larger team. The additional sets played as a result of using the larger number of players are exhibition sets.

If any team has more than seven players present, play according to the following:

Additional Required (Exhibition) Sets:

Team Size	Match Format
8 Players	Singles: larger team #8 vs. lowest seed on smaller team.
9 Players	Doubles: D3 match larger team's #8 & #9 vs. lowest seed on smaller team.
10 Players	1 Singles match (#8 vs. #8) AND 1 Doubles match (#9 & #10 vs. the lowest seeds on smaller team.)

The coach of the smaller team must make sure the players of like ability remain at the match site to play additional match(es) to play the lower placed players of the larger team.

If alternative formats are used, the team with fewer players **must** still have their players play sufficient exhibition matches to ensure every player of the team with 7 or more players (up to 10) get to play a match.

3. **Rules:** Each coach should bring a copy of the rules to the match.

4. **Default Time:** 20 minutes after the scheduled starting time. The non-defaulting team coach may waive a default.

5. **Warm-up:** 5 minutes including practice serves.

6. **Spectators:** It is each team's responsibility to control their own spectators conduct during the match.

i. **No one** is allowed on the court after warm-ups except for the players playing the match and coaches.

ii. Teammates and spectators *may not* offer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of a player.

iii. Players should not walk or stand behind courts while a set is being played.

iv. All players, parents, coaches and spectators must comply with the code of conduct rules as stated in the NVJCYO Rules and Regulations. See **Coaching** section below.

v. No parents, coaches, or players should make negative comments to players on opposing teams.

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7. **Player Behavior.** Upon agreement by both coaches present at the match, a player may be removed from the match and defaulted for unsportsmanlike conduct on the court. Removal from the match will be after one warning has been issued. Any incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior must be reported to the League Commissioner. Repeated unsportsmanlike conduct will be dealt with by the League Commissioner.

8. **Weather.** The coaches of each team should consult in the case of inclement weather. If they decide to postpone the match, they should inform the League and Conference Commissioner and reschedule as soon as possible.

D. COACHING

1. **Wimbledon I, Wimbledon II, and U.S. Open I.** May be coached and directed on rules *after* each point. Prior to serving, players should call out the scores. Players call their own lines. Repeated “bad” calls should be brought to the attention of the player and/or the coach. This may necessitate additional monitoring of the match.

2. For the **Wimbledon I, II and U.S. Open I** conferences, a parent (whose child is not playing on that court) monitor can be stationed at each court to assist with player positioning and to remind the server to announce the score before each point. Only the players may call the ball “in” or “out.” Parents should remind players that if the player is not sure if the ball is “in” or “out,” then the ball is “in.” Every attempt should be made to station a parent unrelated to the players on that particular court.

3. **US Open II and Fed Cup:** May be coached ONLY g the odd game change over. No coaching during a tie-break, except in the case of proper tie-break procedures. Only a player may request a line judge. The line judge will be a coach or a non-related adult volunteer. The line judge will not call the lines, but will settle disputes between the players as they occur.

E. MATCH RESULTS AND STANDINGS

1. The official NVJCYO Tennis Score Sheet Form should always be used to keep track of the match scores. A copy will be available for Download at the CYO Tennis Website: www.nvjcyo.org (select “Sports and Commissioners”, then click on “tennis”).

2. Both coaches are responsible for reporting the score to the relevant Conference Commissioner and League Commissioner by 8:00 pm the Sunday of the match in the following format: Date; Location; Conference/Division; Home team: sets/games won; Visiting team – sets/games won. Score sheets must be signed by both coaches and sent in PDF format to the relevant Conference Commissioner and League Commissioner.

4. **Team records** are based on team match scores. For example, if St. A wins 2 singles and 1 doubles sets and St. B wins 1 singles and 1 doubles sets – St. A is the winner by 3 to 2. St. A’s record would improve by three points and St. B’s by two points. Total games for each team must also be recorded.

5. **Standings.** Determined by the teams’ records (number of team points won and lost). If **two teams** have the same number of sets won and lost, the team winning the match between the teams tied will be ranked higher in the standings. If more than **two teams** have the same number of sets won and lost, with no one team has defeated the other tied teams, the standings will be determined by winning percentage for games won and lost.

F. PLAYOFFS

At the end of the league season, the Conference playoffs will be scheduled by the League Commissioner as follows. Trophies will be awarded to the top four teams in each conference.

1. **Conferences without Divisions.** Conference Semifinals: #1 v. #4; #2 v. #3 to be followed by the Conference Final and Third Place matches.

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2. **Conference with two (2) Divisions.** Conference Semifinals: Top two (2) teams in each Division unless schedule and number of teams allows a conference tournament. If only four teams playoff, the winner of each Division will play the second-place team in the other Division to be followed by the Conference Final and Third Place matches.

3. **Conferences with three (3) Divisions.** Conference Semifinals: Three (3) Division winners and the remaining team with the highest number of points (sets won). The fourth team will play against a Division winner not from its own Division. Conference Semifinals will be followed by Conference Final and Third Place matches.

4. **Conferences with four (4) Divisions.** Conference Semifinals: Four (4) Division winners. Team with most games won plays the team with the fewest games won (unless from same division) to be followed by the Conference Finals and Third Place matches.

5. Remaining teams in each conference will playoff for rest of conference standings.

G. MISCELLANEOUS

1. The length of the season, the day, time and locations of the matches will be determined by the League Commissioner. All matches must be played as scheduled by the League Commissioner unless the teams mutually agree to reschedule.

2. Depending on the number of teams entered in each conference, the League Commissioner can split the Conferences into Divisions.

3. School coordinators must distribute the current CYO tennis rules (*available on the CYO Website: www.cyotennis.com*) to all coaches, players and parents. These rules must be reviewed by the coaches with the players prior to match play and brought by the coaches to every match.

4. Coaches should bring a first aid kit and water to matches and practice.