

# **Southern New England Indoor Tennis Association (SNEITA) – League Rules**

## **1. Match Length:**

All matches will last 1 ½ hours with a 10 minute warm-up period (including serves). Regular scoring is in effect. Home teams will supply tennis balls.

## **2. Time Limit:**

**Friday Ladies Doubles:** With 5 minutes left in the match, the game that is being played should be finished. At that point, if either team is 2 or more games ahead they are declared the winner of the set. If either team is only one game ahead, another game must be played to achieve either a 2 game lead (set won) or a tie. A 9-point tiebreaker must be played in the event of a tie. A third set should be played only if time allows. The third set follows the 5 minute rule.

**Mixed Doubles:** With 5 minutes left in the match, the game that is being played should be finished. At that point, if either team is 2 or more games ahead they are declared the winner of the set. If either team is only one game ahead, another game must be played to achieve either a 2 game lead (set won) or a tie. A tiebreaker must be played in the event of a tie. As each match is worth one point, a third set must be played to determine the winner, even if it only consists of a tiebreaker. If a match is not completed, no points can be awarded to either team. **Tiebreakers will be the 7-point tiebreak (first to 7 by margin of 2).**

## **3. Points:**

**Friday Ladies Doubles:** Each set won is worth 1 point. The maximum number of points awarded per position is 3 points.

**Mixed Doubles:** Each position won is worth 1 point. Points will be accumulated throughout the season.

## **4. Tardiness:**

The tardy team (according to the club's clock) begins to incur penalties as follows:

- 5 minutes after scheduled start time: loss of 1 game plus loss of serve.
- Every 5 minutes thereafter: loss of one additional game.
- **A 5 minute injury prevention warm-up is always allowed.**
- Match is defaulted if a team is unable to be fielded 20-minutes after scheduled start of match.

## **5. Defaulting:**

**Friday Ladies Doubles:** EACH MATCH DEFAULTED will result in 2 points being awarded to the opposition and the team defaulting will lose 1-point for each default.

- **The team receiving the default may submit any names they choose, but only one (1) default can be used towards either player's four (4) match minimum for playoffs.**
- **RETIREMENT:** If a player retires before the match is completed – may it be for an injury or for personal reasons, each set that has been played will stand as is. A maximum of 3-points will be awarded between the teams. No points will be taken away for the retirement.

## **5. Defaulting (continued):**

**Mixed Doubles:** EACH MATCH DEFAULTED will result in 1 point being awarded to the opposition.

## **6. Switching on sets**

All teams must switch sides of the court after each set.

## **7. Reporting of Scores:**

Scores should be reported to Fore Court via Fax (401-334-4505) immediately upon match completion. Type or use black pen for all reporting. Scores written in pencil will not come through the fax legibly. Feel free to e-mail the scoresheets or scan and e-mail to [Rwyatt@forecourtri.com](mailto:Rwyatt@forecourtri.com).

## **8. Make-ups:**

No make-up matches will be allowed after the last scheduled match of the season. The postponing team will be automatically defaulted and points will be awarded according to the default rule (see #5).

## **9. Level Requirements:**

In all levels of the doubles league, all teams are required at each match to field a minimum of 4 out of 8 players with the appropriate level. The top team must be in level, but the remaining 3 teams may be mixed in order to include players at a lower level. At no time may a team with a higher overall rating play below a team with a lower overall rating. (Ex. 3.5 / 3.5 cannot play below 3.5 / 3.0).

## **10. USTA Ratings:**

Players must use current rating to start the season. When year-end ratings are set in December, players may use the higher rating if the player's rating is increased, but are not required to do so. Players may not use the lower rating if the rating is decreased. Any player without a current USTA rating must be rated by the head tennis pro at the home club. USTA Early Start ratings may NOT be used.

## **11. Team Commitment:**

Individuals will be allowed to play for two teams provided the teams are at different levels (ex. 3.5 & 4.0). Once an individual plays for a team twice, he/she remains committed to that team for the duration of the season.

## **12. Player Eligibility:**

Only Adult Players are allowed to play. Players must be above the age of 18, and no longer in High School to compete.

## **13. Playoff Eligibility:**

To be eligible for Friday Ladies' Doubles Playoffs at the end of the season, a player must have played in four (4) matches for the same team. If a player has played 2-matches for one team (i.e. 3.5) and two (2) more for another (4.0), this does not meet the playoff eligibility rule.

## **14. Rules Committee:**

**The SNEITA Rules Committee is comprised of: Joe Bevilacqua – Centre Court; Russ Steere – Rally Point; Paul Staiti – TRI – East Bay; and Russ Wyatt – Fore Court.**

