

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

## Waiver of Claims

Players participating in the CITA League Tennis Program acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the CITA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## I. LEAGUE DIVISIONS

**A. CITA Traveling Leagues** consists of two Divisions: The North/Central Division and the Northwest Division. Within each division there are several leagues which are played on various days of the week and contain several levels from a novice “3.0” level on up to advanced “Open” levels. When applicable flights may be used to distinguish league levels. Red and Green Flights are not being played in the 2022-2023 Season.

**B. The North Central (NC) Division and the Northwest Division (NW) are separate Divisions**, regardless of the day of the week. A player may play for one club in the NC Division and a different club in the NW Division provided **the player is a member of both clubs**. Again, leagues are independent of one another. If player is a 4.0 on Wed. team, he/she is a 4.0 on Fri. team.

Players who play in the NW Division may play at one club in the Friday league and at a different club in the Wednesday league provided they are members of both clubs. A Wed. NW 4.0 women’s doubles player can play on the Fri. NW 4.5 team **but** if she plays *above court 3* on the Fri. 4.5 team, she is no longer eligible for the Wed. NW 4.0 team.

B.1. The NC Division Adult Doubles leagues:

<b>Wednesday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women’s 3.5 & under	
	Women’s 4.0 & under	

<b>Thursday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women’s 3.0 & under	

<b>Friday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women’s 4.0 & under	
	Women’s 4.5 & under	
	Women’s Open	

<b>Saturday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Men’s 3.5 & under	

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

	Men's 4.0 & under	
	Men's 4.5 & under	
	Men's Open	

B.2. The NC Division Adult Singles leagues are as follows:

<b>Thursday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 3.0-3.5	
	Women's 4.0-4.5	
	Women's 4.5-Open	

<b>Sunday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Men's 4.0	
	Men's 4.5	

B.3. The NW Adult Doubles leagues are as follows:

<b>Wednesday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 3.5 & under	
	Women's 4.0 & under	

<b>Friday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 4.5 & under	
	Women's Open	

<b>Saturday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's Multi-level (3.5 – Open)	

B.4. Juniors – The NC Division Junior Doubles leagues are as follows:

<b>Saturday League</b>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Boys High School	
	Girls High School	

## II. MEMBERSHIP AND SCHEDULES

- A.** All deposits, league fees, and membership dues must be sent to Michelle Granger at the address provided to guarantee the clubs' participation in the traveling leagues.

Any payments received after December 1<sup>st</sup> of current season need to be addressed with Michelle Granger. Access to CITA administration site will be turned off until resolved.

- B.** A schedule of participating clubs is provided which includes the starting times for matches as well as where teams are scheduled to play. Please make sure to send

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

the teams to the correct club. The club that sends the incorrect team positions will forfeit the total team points and may be subject to no show fees. The club winning by forfeit may fill out a “no show” report.

If there is a default by the club that had the correct team positions, those 3 points would be awarded to the club that had the incorrect team positions.

- C.** All matches must be played on the scheduled date and time. Matches are not to be postponed or canceled unless there is inclement weather or by mutual consent of the clubs involved. Player issues (e.g., not available, cannot play at that time) should not be the basis for rescheduling a match.

In the event of severe weather or tragic situations, matches can be rescheduled.

- D.** A copy of the schedule can be accessed by going to [www.citatennis.net](http://www.citatennis.net) and clicking on North/Central League or Northwest League. Click on the league you need the schedule for and click on schedules. Score sheets, directions, help manual, and the Rules can also be accessed at this web site as well as UTR link and CITA link.

- E.** CITA Schedule Generator does not cross read schedules for the NC and NW Divisions and therefore you may play the same team back to back.

### III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A.** All players must be current members of the club for which they are playing.
- B.** All players in the adult traveling leagues must be at least 19 years old. \*

*\*Exception:* NCM Open and Men’s 4.5 will allow (2) High School Junior or Senior players to play in the Men’s Open and 4.5 leagues. The Junior and Senior players may not play together on a court. All other high school players may play in the High School leagues.

B.1. Players will be allowed to play for another club if their original team drops out of the division.

B.2. A player can only play one position per match

**\*\*Top/Higher courts are defined as courts 1 and 2 in six (6) court leagues and court 1 in four (4) court leagues.**

**\*\*\*Bottom/Lower courts are defined as courts 3,4,5 and 6 in six (6) court leagues and courts 2,3,4 in four (4) court leagues.**

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

- C.** A player may play up an unlimited number of times in the next available higher level league at their club for leagues played on a particular day (see examples below for clarification). Players who are rostered on the top courts of the lower level league may play on the bottom courts of the higher level league. If a player in a lower level league plays on the upper courts of the higher level league, that player will no longer be eligible to play in the lower level for the rest of the season and the playoffs.
- D.** One Match Exception: If it is determined that a player is better served playing for a different team at the same club or for a different club, that player may be allowed a one (1) match exception, i.e., they can make the switch if they have only played 1 match for the original team. A written notification must be sent to Michelle Granger and opposing team captain to notify them of the possible exception. The points played will remain in effect. If no notification is given, the points will be forfeited to the opposing team.
- E.** A one match exception rule does not allow players who have subbed for one team to sub for the other team in the same league.

Example: if Player A from Club X plays on the Men's 3.5 team and subs for the Men's 4.0 (1) team, they will not be allowed to use the one match exception rule to sub for the Men's 4.0 (2) team. Loss of points will result. This scenario is for a club with two teams at the same level. In this example, two 4.0 teams.

- F.** Subbing Up a level e.g. From 3.0 to 3.5 or 4.0 etc.

**BE CAREFUL when doing lineups.** If you “accidentally” sub a player up in a TOP/higher\*\* court position, it may keep them from playing in more than one level.

F.1. Players may sub up an unlimited number of times.

F.2. Once a player plays on court 1 or 2 of any level, they are no longer eligible to play in the lower level going forward.

*Exception*: Any player on court 1 of the Men's Open team is not eligible to play in the 4.5 league.

Example 1: If a club has a 3.0 Team and a 3.5 Team, regardless of the day, the 3.0 player may play on the bottom courts\*\*\* of the 3.5 team. Likewise for a player on a 4.0 Team playing on the bottom courts\*\*\* of the 4.5 Team etc.

Example 2: If a club has a 3.0 team and a 4.0 team but not a 3.5 team, regardless of the day, a player can play on the bottom courts\*\*\* of the 4.0 team.

Example 3: If a club has a Men's 4.5 team and a Men's Open team, the men's 4.5 player may play on top courts\*\* on the Men's Open team. If the 4.5 player plays on court 1 of the Men's Open team, he is no longer able to play in the Men's 4.5 League.

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

Example 4: If a club has a 4.0 team but not a 4.5 or Open team and a player is clearly an 4.5+/Open level player, he/she must play with weaker partner on court 1 of the 4.0 team. Such that the 5.0 is paired with a 3.0 hence they play a 4.0 plus a 4.0 combination in the 4.0 level.

- G.** Adding or Dropping a Team is permissible, and the points played against a team that subsequently drops out of the league will not be counted.

Teams may drop out of the league at any point in time if defaults are the primary reason for dropping out. If a team wants to drop down a level, they must ask for the approval of the other teams in the lower level league to move down. Depending on the timing of the request or how many teams there are in the league, adding a team can be disruptive and may not be possible.

### IV. PLAYOFFS & FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- A.** The North/Central Division leagues will have playoffs at the end of the season to determine the first and second place teams. At the end of the season, the 1<sup>st</sup> place team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> place team and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team in the playoffs. The winners of each playoff match will play each other in the Finals. Players must have played 3 times on a team during the regular season to be eligible to play on that team for the playoffs and finals.
- B.** The Northwest Division will have a mini playoff in the last week of the regular season for that league. To vie for first place, the first and second place teams will play against each other. To vie for third place, the third and fourth place teams will play against each other, etc. If there are an odd number of teams, the last place team will receive a Bye. Players must have played 3 times on a team during the regular season to be eligible to play on that team for the playoffs/finals.
- C.** To be eligible to play in the playoffs/finals, if a player plays on a team in two (2) different leagues, the player must have played three (3) times on each of those teams.
- D.** A player will be eligible to play in the higher level league playoffs/finals **and** the lower level league playoffs/finals if that player has only played on the bottom courts of the higher level league.

### V. LINEUPS

- A.** Full lineups with first and last names of all teams of travelling leagues must be made available to the host club by **8:00 am** on the day of the match.

*Exception:* Full lineup for the Men's Singles match must be made available to the host club by 5pm on the Saturday prior to the match.

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

- B.** Teams must be placed in **order of strength** (example: court #1 team is the strongest in team strength; court #6 team is the lowest in team strength). If there is an infraction, there is a possibility of losing all three sets. Use 2 Spot Rule as guideline.

*Exception 1:* Stronger players pushing others down more than 2 spots.

*Exception 2:* Stronger players pairing with lower court players.

*Exception 3:* Defaulted court uses top court players names as placeholder for purposes of qualifying for playoffs only. Top court players should not be used in bottom courts for this purpose due to admin reasons.

- C.** The only change that can be made **after** the scheduled start time is to insert a last minute substitute(s) for a no-show. A substitute should have no impact on the lineup for the other positions and if an equal match sub cannot be found but a player is available to play, choose to play for fun. Default points may apply however “ineligible” player rules will not impact other position see Example 2 below.

Note: “Last minute” substitute is one hour prior to start of match.

- D.** Falsifying lineups will result in a 9-point default at the site along with the attendant default No Show fees. Falsifying lineups may result in up to an 18-point penalty. Examples of falsification of lineups:

Example 1: Two teams who play in the same league are supposed to play against each other. Instead of playing the match, a false lineup and scores are inputted. In this case, the penalty will be 18 points if it is a 6 court league or 12 points if it is a 4 court league. If the two teams who were supposed to play each other are from the same club, an 18 point penalty will be assessed against each team.

Example 2: In order to avoid a default, an ineligible player is placed in the lineup. The ineligible player may be a player who has played the top courts in a higher league. If the ineligible player is a higher level player playing down, all points from the match the player played in as well as the points from the matches below will be awarded to the opponent.

## VI. DEFAULT RULES

- A.** NOTICE for Match Defaults: If you must default a match, **notify the opposing club no later than 7:00pm the day before the match** so they can notify their players/teams. Early notification gives the non-defaulting club the ability to get their defaulted players an inhouse match or different league match. You must default to the lowest position at that site and move all the remaining teams up. If players are not available for court 2, you must default court 3. In other words, players move up one spot. If players are not available for court 4, you must default court 6.

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

A.1. In the Men's and Women's NC/NW Open league, at the discretion and agreement of the two coordinators, the two teams may agree to Default Court 1 due to strength in lineup for that match.

The team defaulting Court 1 will lose 3 points and the opposing team will receive their 3 points. Courts 2-6 in the Women's Open and Courts 2-4 in the Men's Open will then be played at their original positions/strength of lineup.

**B. SAME DAY Defaults:** You are allowed two same day defaults by your team within a league. If you incur a third same day default, a financial penalty of \$100 will be assessed in addition to the no show fees incurred by the default. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration by the CITA Board of Directors upon verification by the players involved.

**B.1. 7:00pm prior to the match and later** is considered "same day default." This is to avoid any change in lineups and defaults on the day of the match. Applies to singles and doubles for men's and women's leagues.

B.2. Same day defaults are a per league default.

B.3. Lineup switches due to same day defaults are **not allowed two hours prior** to match time. Player switching after lineup is printed and viewed cannot be altered.

Do not send players home until issue is resolved completely amongst Captains. Be patient as many Captains/Coordinators may not be immediately available. Contact Club and Captain/Coordinator. Contact Michelle Granger if neither can assist.

While resolving any lineup changes/disputes, please remind players that are waiting to play that the warm-up time is in progress.

Example 1: Team arrives to opposing club at wrong time and is not able to make it to the scheduled time. If court 5 is the team that arrived at the wrong time, courts 4 and 6 play their match as scheduled. Defaulted court 5 incurs fees and loss of points.

Example 2: Player calls in sick day of match 2+ hours prior to match, Coordinator can substitute a player and based on the subs level, a lineup can be adjusted with the agreement of opposing team Coordinator. Teams may also agree to play for fun.

**C. The defaulting club** is responsible for their portion of the fees. The club receiving the default must fill out a No Show report.

**D. Sanctioned Double Defaults (SDD)** are agreed upon by the CITA Board at the beginning of season but may be added if needed. SDDs are for the purpose of



# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

playing fewer courts without loss of points typically during Holidays or COVID or Tripledemic peaks, for examples.

Please give two (2) day notice for with opposing Captain/Coordinators.

In a 4 court league, 3 courts are played and in a 6 Court league, 4 courts are played without loss of points or fees. Please advise Michelle Granger of your club's SDD as this has to be done on her end for scoring purposes.

- E. Double Default:** A double default is when both clubs fail to field a team at the same position. This is considered an “unexcused” default and each team is assessed 0 of the 3 available points. **(3 points are added in the Standings points Lost for each Double Default.)**

### VII. MATCH SCORING AND RULES for Doubles and Singles

#### DOUBLES

- A. Scoring:** Each match will consist of 3 sets with 1 team point awarded for each set won. With 6 teams playing (3 home/3 away), a total of 18 points is possible. With 4 teams playing (2 home/2 away) a total of 12 points is possible. Use a 12-point set tiebreaker when the set score is tied at 6-6. Switch ends after each set.
- B. Warm-up Time:** is limited to 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time. No practice serves after the 15-minute warm-up. Returning a serve indicates that you have finished practice serves and match starts when opponent finishes serve warmups. Continue to warmup regardless of players missing or breaks taken.
- C. Tardiness to Match** is being **on the court** 16-30 minutes late—5 minute warm-up and loss of 1<sup>st</sup> set; 31 minutes late—loss of match.

If players from each team are 16-30 minutes late, no penalty will be assessed. If both players from each team are 16-30 minutes late, but one player is 31 minutes late, the player/team who was only 16-30 minutes will receive 3 points. If both players from each team are 31 minutes late, the match will be considered a double default.

- D. Time Limit Scoring** – play is limited to two hours with no exceptions.

If a set is tied, the point is split. If a team is ahead by one game, the point is split. If the set hasn't started, the point is split. If a team is ahead by two games, that team wins the point. Any game point in progress (“in progress” is defined as “an attempt” at first service) at the time limit (i.e., the sound of the buzzer or timed alarm used to indicate the end of the timed match) must be played. If a point is in progress and a player should stop play mid-point at the sound of the buzzer, the point in progress



# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

will be awarded to the opponent. If the game is not completed or if the set tiebreaker is not completed, the game or the set tiebreaker does not count.

For CITA purposes, an attempt at first service is defined as the motion of tossing the ball with the intention of serving. Bouncing the ball before serving does not count as an attempt at first service. If the bell rings in between first and second serve, the point must be played out. If the bell rings after a first serve fault, the player is still allowed their second serve and the point is played out. This applies to Doubles and Singles.

Please note: if there should be a buzzer malfunction and the attending captain calls time, play the point out as if the buzzer sounded.

### SINGLES

- A. Scoring:** Each match will consist of 2 out of 3 sets with a super tiebreaker played in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. With 6 teams playing (3 home/3 away), a total of 18 points is possible. Use a 12 point set tiebreaker when the set score is tied at 6-6. Use a 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of playing a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. Switch ends after each set.
- B. Warm up Time** is limited to 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time. No practice serves after the 10-minute warm-up.
- C. Tardiness to Match:** 11-20 minutes late – 5 minute warm-up and loss of 1<sup>st</sup> set; 21 minutes late – loss of match.
- D. Time Limit Scoring** - play is limited to one hour and 30 min with no exceptions

If a player wins 2 out of 3 sets, the player will be awarded 2 points plus 1 bonus point for a total of 3 points. If the players split sets and were not able to play or complete the match tiebreaker, each player will receive 1.5 points for a total of 3 points. If the players split sets, and a match tiebreaker was played and completed, the player who won the match tiebreaker will receive 2 points and the other player will receive 1 point for a total of 3 points. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> set is not completed, the remaining 2 points will be calculated as follows: if one player has won the 1<sup>st</sup> set and is ahead by 2 games s/he will receive a total of 2.5 points (1 pt. for the 1<sup>st</sup> set, 1 pt. for the 2<sup>nd</sup> set and .5 pt. for the unplayed 3<sup>rd</sup> set). The other player will only receive .5 pt. for the unplayed 3<sup>rd</sup> set. If one player has won the 1<sup>st</sup> set and the 2<sup>nd</sup> set is tied, that player will receive 2 points (.5 pt. for tied 2<sup>nd</sup> set and .5 pt. for an unplayed 3<sup>rd</sup> set). The other player will receive 1 point (.5 pt. for tied 2<sup>nd</sup> set and .5 for unplayed 3<sup>rd</sup> set).

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# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

point must be played out. If the bell rings after a first serve fault, the player is still allowed their second serve and the point is played out. This applies to Doubles and Singles.

- E. Entering Scores for matches:** Upon completion of matches the players will record their match scores on the score sheets. Scores and players names should be verified by both teams to avoid any mix-ups or errors. The league Coordinator/Captain will record the scores from their matches into the website database (Login to [www.citatennis.net](http://www.citatennis.net); login and click on Scores).

Input scores within 6 hours of match results. Any scores missing after five days of play, will be recorded as defaults. MUST click “Final Scores” to transfer.

- F. End of Regular Season Ties:** If at the end of the regular season any teams are tied, the highest place will be determined by their set scores against each other during the season. If the sets are tied, games will determine the higher team.
- G. End of Season:** If a team’s win-loss percentage is below 30% or above 70% at the end of the season, a review will be conducted to determine the appropriate action. Appropriate action may include placing a low percentage team in a lower level league, placing a high percentage team in a higher level league or requesting the movement of players to a lower or higher level.

## VIII. PROTESTS OF LINEUPS AND PLAYERS

- A. Protests:** Any protests regarding a match be resolved between the affected league coordinators. If no resolution is reached, a protest can be filed with the CITA League Protest Committee. Protests to the CITA League Protest Committee must be made within 48 hours of the match in question. Protests must be in the form of a written communication by email to the Executive Director who will then contact the CITA League Protest Committee.

End of Season Playoff/Finals filing a protest also requires a non-refundable payment of \$100. The CITA League Committee has final judgment on all participants, and all problems which may arise. The 2022 – 2023 CITA League Protest Committee consists of Manny Valesco, Chris Sheldon and Donna Marks.

## IX. ALL OTHER CLUB AND COURT RULES

- A. Wilson U.S. Open balls** will be used for all CITA Traveling League matches as Wilson is the official sponsor of CITA Leagues. The first time Wilson U.S. Open balls are not used, a warning letter will be sent. Thereafter, the team will lose their matches by default (9-0).
- B. USTA Rules:** In situations not addressed by CITA rules, USTA Rules and “The Code” will apply.

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

- C. Babysitting:** Clubs are not required to have babysitting available to players. Players must take the responsibility to provide childcare services outside of the Club unless membership includes childcare.
  
- D. Power Outages and other similar short term issues:** If the match has started, but the 1<sup>st</sup> set was not completed, the first set's points will be calculated by the 2 game rule. If the score is tied, the first set point will be split. If one team is up by 2 games, that team will get 1 point. The rest of the set points (sets 2 and 3) will be split. If the match is into the second set and the power goes out, the 2 game rule will apply. And the third set will be split.  
  
Players should remain at the club for 30 minutes after the power goes out. Once the power comes back on, there may be a slight delay before the court lights are fully operational. This delay will not count towards the 30 minutes
  
- E. Severe Weather Warning:** In the event of a severe weather warning, the league Captains are responsible for calling the clubs to determine whether matches should be played or canceled. Otherwise, the points will not be counted.
  
- F. Refreshments:** The league prefers light snacks and water bottles be served following matches to encourage social activity amongst players however, it is not a necessity and clubs may choose to NOT provide anything. Please do not provide lunch for host team members OR provide anything above and beyond the recommended refreshments.
  
- G. Electronic Devices:** Players must turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices when on the courts.
  
- H. Court Curtains:** Each hosting club may make their own determination as to whether the court curtains should remain open or closed during match play.
  
- I. A club representative or Coordinator** must be present during all matches. If the home club does not have such a person present and there is a dispute, the home club will automatically lose the dispute.
  
- J. Audible Devices:** All clubs must provide an audible device (buzzer, timed alarm) to indicate the end of the 2 hour time limit. The players must be notified of the device being used to signify the end of the match.
  
- K. Coaching:** At no time is coaching allowed amongst Captains/Coordinators and Players. Line calls are expected to be fair and accurate of which no one viewing the match should interject their opinions or comments.

# Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Association

## 2022 – 2023 RULES and General Guidelines

- L.** Stalling: As the match approaches the last 10 minutes, please let players know that bathroom and water breaks are unnecessary at this time. Play should continue at a steady pace and deliberating keeping an opponent from serving, clearing a missed first serve that doesn't need to be cleared, taking longer than the time needed during a rest period such as between games are constituted as stalling.
- M.** Court placement/Distractions: When booking matches court placement should be considered. If possible, please keep Pickleball lessons/matches or kickboxing or distracting cardio activities away from tennis matches. Cardio music should be off or not near matches.
- N.** Misconduct/Poor sportsmanship: Loud outbursts, throwing racquets and name calling are all constituted as poor sportsmanship and is subject to penalty point loss or worse case, not permitted to continue playing in CITA.
- O.** Injury Time Out: If a player stops after the match has begun due to an injury and cannot continue after 10 minutes, the player(s) is (are) defaulted.