

Format Guidelines

1. Team Composition

A Team match is played on 2 courts for 2 ½ hours.

1.1 Match format, times & recommended order of play: **Example**

1.1.1 Women’s and Men’s Doubles: **5:00 pm – 5:50 pm**

1.1.2 Women’s and Men’s Singles: **5:50 pm – 6:40 pm**

1.1.3 Two Mixed Doubles positions: **6:40 pm – 7:30 pm**

A team is comprised of a minimum of at least (4) four players to begin the competition, two men and two women. An individual player may play in up to (3) three sets per match. If playing three times, a player may play singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. A maximum of (10) ten players may compete in any (1) one match. The match fee is \$90.00 per team

2. Scoring

2.1 Eight-game pro set with no ads. Each no-ad set is won by the first team to reach eight games.

2.2 A five-point tiebreaker is to be played at 7-7 games all.

2.3 At the end of 50 minutes of regulation time, if a team is not up by 2 games in the set, the home club match ending criteria of **Extra Time or no Extra Time** will be used. Refer to section “8. Locations”.

How to play a deuce point: When the score of a game reaches deuce, the next point played will determine the winner of the game. The receiver in singles chooses which side to receive serves from (deuce or ad). Receiving team in single-gender doubles will decide which player will receive the serve. In Mixed, when serving at deuce, the serve is to the same gender. If the receiver doesn’t choose a side/person and the point is played, that point was played in good faith, and it stands.

How to play a Five-point tiebreak: A 5-point No-Ad Tiebreak is the first player or team to 5 points with 1 point ahead and is played at 7-7. Players do not change ends during a No-Ad Tiebreak. ▪ Service remains in rotation with the player whose turn it is to serve in the set serving the first two points. Each server following serves two points. All start from the Ad side. The 4th player to serve will serve three points. If the tiebreak reached 4-4, the player who served the (8th) eight-point serves the (9th) ninth and final point. The receiver has the choice of sides, except in mixed doubles, where the serve must be gender to gender.

3. Warm-up time limit: 5 minutes, including serves, begins at the scheduled match time. Exchange lineups before each set. It is extremely important that players arrive on time since these are timed matches.

4. Winner of a Match

4.1 The winner of a match is determined by the team with the most games won.

4.2 If tied in games won, tiebreak procedures are as follows:

4.2.1 most individual matches won

4.2.2 fewest sets lost

4.2.3 fewest games lost

4.2.4 highest percentage of games won

4.2.5 If teams are still tied, flip a coin

5. Coaching

Coaching is allowed by a team member or a designated non-playing player throughout the match if it does not interfere with continuous play. Coaching is not allowed between first and second serves, as the second serve must be struck within 20 seconds. No substitution of players is allowed during match play.

6. Players on the Court

Only players registered on their team roster, which may include a non-playing captain, may be on the court during match play. Spectators are not allowed on the court at any time while match play is in progress.

7. End of Season

Standings will be determined as follows: the team with the **most games** won will be the winner of the flight. If there is a tie in the final standings between two or more teams, the following tiebreak procedure will apply:

- 7.1 Most individual matches in the entire season
- 7.2 Fewest sets lost
- 7.3 Fewest games lost
- 7.4 Highest percentage of games won
- 7.5 If teams are still tied, flip a coin

8. Locations

- 8.1 Winchester Tennis Club- Extra Time
- 8.2 Longfellow Natick Club- Extra Time
- 8.3 Wayside Athletic Club- Extra Time
- 8.4 Sportsmen's Tennis Club- **No Extra Time**

Extra Time -when time runs out if teams are tied, or a team is up by 1 game to play a 5pt tiebreaker to decide the winner of the match.

No Extra Time- when time runs out, play a deciding point to decide the winner of the match.

9. Eastern MA League Coordinator

Viola Schutter

ema-league@newengland.usta.com

508-321-6195