

# Irvine Impact Team Tennis League

## 2026 Winter

### LEAGUE DIRECTOR – VICTOR RANCHES

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### Great Park Tennis Center

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## RULES

### 1. ETIQUETTE:

*Irvine Impact Team Tennis (ITT) is a socially competitive and recreational tennis league.*

*The league staff encourages cheering for teammates, with respect to the players on the court.*

*Opponents must be respectful of each other before and during match play. Players need to refrain from any form of obscenity and taunting of opponents.*

*Prior to each team match, if the public is playing on the designated courts prior to the warm-up time; please politely warn them that the ITT matches will be starting on the courts. Allow the public at least 10 minutes to finish playing before taking the court over.*

*Once a team match is finished, please relinquish the tennis court to the public.*

### 2. TENNIS BALLS:

The league is providing match tennis balls for the season. Each team will receive twelve (12) cans of tennis balls prior to the start of the season and will provide one can each match. Captains will keep the used tennis balls or distribute them among their teammates.

Captains can pick up an additional can of balls from the Great Park Check-in Office as needed for the playoffs.

### 3. GAME SCORING:

In ITT, game scoring is no-ad. This means a game is won by the first team to win four points (1, 2, 3, game) or (15, 30, 40, game). When the game score is deuce (3-3) (game point), the receiving team chooses which side to receive the serve except in the mixed doubles set where the serve must be gender to gender.

### 4. SET SCORING:

*A team match consists of six no-ad sets and includes one set of men's and women's singles and doubles, and two sets of mixed doubles (mixed doubles is always played last). Each no-ad set is won by the first team to reach six games. A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all in any set.*

### 5. ORDER OF PLAY\*:

On two courts, order of sets will be:

Women's and Men's Doubles or

Women's and Men's Singles

And Two Sets of Mixed Doubles (Always played last)

*\*Please note we want to encourage friendly competition, so if your opponents are short a player at the start of the match it would be nice if you start the Singles first, by the time you start the Doubles if they are still short a player you have to take a default for that set. This only applies to the regular season. The order of play in playoffs will be Doubles then Singles then Mixed Doubles.*

## **6. MATCH SCORING:**

Six set format (two mixed doubles sets): Both captain's must submit the starting line-up to the opposing team captain before the start of each set. Each team captain has until the end of the three-minute break between sets to submit the starting line-up for the next set. *Once the line-ups are submitted to the other captain, any changes made to the line-up will count as a substitution.* The winner of the team match will be the team that wins the most games.

If a captain wants to use text messages to communicate line-ups to another captain, both captains must agree upon this before the team match starts.

Please refer to the ITT Scorecard to determine the set numbers. Set #1 is Women's Doubles, Set #2 is Men's Doubles, etc.

When playing the six set format, sets 1, 3 and 5 on the ITT scorecard will be played on the odd numbered court while sets 2, 4 and 6 will be played on the even numbered court.

Players cannot play in both mixed doubles sets. For purposes of determining whether a match will go into Overtime, set number six will be the deciding factor. After both mixed doubles sets are finished and scores are recorded and totaled, the procedure is as follows:

- If the leading team won Set #6, the match is over.
- If the trailing team won Set #6, the match continues into Overtime until the leading team wins one game or until the score is tied. (See Rule 14. EXPLANATION OF TIEBREAKERS: Supertiebreaker if a tie occurs.)
- If the overall score ends tied, you automatically begin the Supertiebreaker.

**Overtime** is a continuation of the sixth set. The doubles team in Set #6 should be designated as the strongest mixed doubles team. Once a player has come out of any mixed doubles set, a player cannot return in Overtime. The first person to serve in Overtime is the person who was next to serve at the end of the sixth set. If the sixth set ends in a tiebreaker, the player/team whose turn it was to serve first in the tiebreaker shall be the receiver in the first game of Overtime, continuing in the same service order. This Overtime rule gives the trailing team a chance to make a comeback. It also emphasizes the importance of the mixed doubles set.

## **7. SUBSTITUTIONS:**

A team can at any point substitute a player (same gender) into a set for any reason. Once a player is replaced, he/she cannot return in that set. Once a player is replaced, he/she cannot return in that set and players cannot play in both mixed doubles sets. If a substitution occurs in doubles, the remaining player cannot change the side on which he/ she receives or the service order. Substitutions are allowed in Overtime if a player has not already played in mixed doubles. The Super Tiebreaker should be treated as a new set, and all substitutions are allowed.

## **8. WARM-UP TIME:**

All team matches have a scheduled warm-up time of 30 minutes prior to the match amongst team members. There is NO warm-up time before the first sets played. All players had 30 minutes to warm-up prior to the first sets starting.

A five-minute warm-up is allowed between sets. The warm-up time between sets must start within five minutes after the previous gender set had completed. For example, when men's doubles set finishes, players have five minutes before the five-minute warm-up will begin for the men's singles set.

If a player is still playing and is a part of one of the mixed doubles sets, players will wait until the set is completed. After a five-minutes, the five-minute warm-up will begin for the mixed doubles set

Team matches will start promptly at the designated start time. This must be adhered to so that all sets will be completed in the time allotted.

*There is no warm-up time for substitutes coming into the match.*

A five-minute restroom break can be allowed once per set. If the restroom is further away from the court, an additional five-minutes can be added.

## **9. SERVICE ORDER:**

The home team will be determined by “the toss”. Whichever team wins “the toss” can choose to be the home team or away team and can decide on whether to play singles or doubles first. (“The toss” can be determined using a coin or the bottom of the racquet. One captain calls one side of the coin or racquet bottom and if they are correct, they get to choose.)

The home team serves first in all gender doubles sets. The away team serves first in the singles sets. The away team serves first in Set # 5 mixed doubles and the home team serves first in Set #6 mixed doubles.

Note: Since the serving order is predetermined, the receiving team selects from which end of the court they want to receive.

In the playoffs, the team with the higher seed will get to choose whether to be the home team or away team.

## **10. CHANGING ENDS:**

After every four games players change ends. In the nine-point tiebreaker, change ends only after the first four points.

## **11. SERVICE LETS:**

**Let's will be played.** When a serve hits the net and bounces within the service court, the ball is playable. In doubles, either player on the receiving side may return the ball after it bounces. In the middle of a point, If any player on the court calls “let” he/she loses the point. If players on both teams call “let” In the middle of a point, the point will be replayed.

## **12. COACHING/LINE CALLS:**

Coaching is allowed throughout the match as long as it does not interfere with continuous play. Spectators cannot coach. Only the two players (singles) or four players (doubles and mixed doubles) can make the line calls. Upon a player request, one of the captains will act as the line judge for the match. Only the players in the match may ask for a line judge. If the captains are unavailable, a volunteer from another team will be the line judge. Line judges can only help with any disputed calls only when asked by the players playing. The call the line judge makes is final.

## **13. DEFAULT RULE:**

If the home or away team player does not show up on time for his/her match, there will be a 15-minute default time. If during the default time, the player does show up, there will be no additional warm-up time allotted to the arriving player.

EX: A team does not have any female players at 7:15pm. At 7:25pm, a female player shows up for the team, the arriving female player is not allowed any additional warm-up time.

If a set is defaulted, the score should be recorded as 6-0 in favor of the players present. The default rule will not apply when the missing player is on court playing a previous match. If a player defaults during a set and cannot be substituted, the score will be recorded with the games played standing with the opposing team receiving six games. Full team defaults will be recorded 6-0 in each set with no players being recorded.

If a team defaults a match, the courts where the match was scheduled are considered public courts and cannot be used for team practice.

#### **14. EXPLANATION OF TIEBREAKERS:**

##### **Nine-Point Tiebreaker**

A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all in any set. The person who is to serve next begins the tiebreaker. Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. Players change sides after four points. The first team (or person) to score five points wins the tiebreaker. If the tiebreaker reaches 4-4, the person who served the eighth point serves the ninth (final) point. The receiver, however, has the choice of sides (except in mixed doubles, where the service must be gender-to-gender). The winner of the ninth point is the winner of the set. Note: You do not have to win by two points.

##### **Supertiebreaker**

If the match enters into a Supertiebreaker, a coin toss will decide which team serves first in the Supertiebreaker. The Supertiebreaker is mixed doubles and should be treated as a new set and substitutions are allowed. Either player on the serving team may serve first. In addition, court positions may be changed (i.e. person who played forehand position may switch to play backhand position). Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. Players change sides only after the first six points. The first team to score seven points wins the Supertiebreaker. If the Supertiebreaker reaches 6-6, the person who served the 12th point will serve the 13th (final) point. Since this set is mixed doubles, the final serve will be gender to gender. The winner of the 13th point wins the Supertiebreaker and the match. The Supertiebreaker counts as one game in overall match scoring.

#### **15. RECORDING/SENDING IN SCORES**

The winning team must report the scores online. The losing team may check the scores later for accuracy.

The League Director will provide captains with the deadline in which they can enter scores. All unreported scores after the deadline will be recorded as loss for both teams.

#### **16. INCLEMENT WEATHER MATCHES**

Matches can only be made up because of inclement weather (ex: rain), no exceptions. ***Matches can only be postponed because of inclement weather until two hours before the scheduled match time.*** All inclement weather match communication must be done between captains only. The League Director must be notified if an inclement weather match has been postponed. Please use double headers to complete make-up matches.

If a match is rescheduled and the inclement weather match cannot be completed during the season and one team cannot play during the inclement weather week, that team will lose the match via default.

If a match is rescheduled and the inclement weather match cannot be completed during the season and both teams cannot play during the inclement weather week, both teams will lose the match via default.

The League Director will make the decisions regarding if there are multiple postponed matches due to inclement weather.

If some of the match has been played and the match is postponed due to inclement weather, the make-up match will start where the postponed match ended. Both captains need to agree on the scores of the match before the team match is postponed.

## **17. NTRP PLAYER RATINGS**

A player's National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) rating will not exceed the division NTRP rating they are playing in.

All player's NTRP ratings, including self-ratings, must be verified through the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

## **18. ROSTERS AND PLAYING TIME**

Teams cannot exceed a maximum of 14 players.

**Captains have until Monday, January 19 at 10am PT** to remove players from their team. Captains will need to contact the League Director to remove a player from the team.

Captains cannot remove players to add another player (replace players) for any reason, including sickness or injury.

**Players can still be added onto teams until Monday, March 2 at 10am PT**, upon approval from the League Director. A screenshot of the NTRP Rating on the USTA website of the added player must be sent to the League Director.

Players can only be on one team each night. Players cannot switch teams once the season starts. No in-season trades of players.

All players must complete the following before playing their first match:

- ITTrec.com registration
- City of Irvine Waiver

The League Director will approve players on the ITT website up until 5pm PT of the day of the match. This will be done through the adding players deadline of **Monday, March 2 at 10am PT**.

The league is not in control of playing time. This is a recreational league; the captain must ensure teammates get a fair amount of playing time.

Any decisions regarding playing time made by the captain is final.

## **19. PLAYOFFS**

Every team makes the playoffs (if applicable). A team's season record will determine the playoff seeding.

All players must play two team matches to qualify for playoffs. Defaults do not count toward the team match qualification.

The league playoffs will be a single elimination draw for the following divisions this season: 3.0 Tuesday, 3.5 Tuesday, 3.5 Thursday, 4.0 Monday, 4.0 Wednesday and **Open Thursday**.

There will be no playoffs for the following divisions: 4.5 Thursday

Team records and tie-breakers will be used to determine final league standings for 4.5 Thursday and Open Thursday and seeding for 3.0 Tuesday, 3.5 Tuesday, 3.5 Thursday, 4.0 Monday, 4.0 Wednesday and **Open Thursday**.

Tie-breakers will be taken into consideration if teams have the same # of losses. Tie-breakers will be determined:

- Head to head (team matches)
  - EX: Team 1 and Team 2 are both 7-3, but Team 1 beat Team 2 twice. Team 1 gets the better seed
- Head to head (most games won between teams)
  - EX: Team 1 and Team 2 are both 7-3, but Team 1 and Team 2 are 1-1 against each other. The team having more sets over the other will get the higher seed
- % of games won throughout the entire league (if no head-to-head)

## **20. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – [WEBSITE LINK FOR DATES](#)**

For every four (4) teams in the division, one (1) team may represent Irvine ITT at the Regional Championships (Regionals). These teams are determined through the local league playoffs. Qualifying teams may add one player from the league to their team for Regionals as long as the team National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) rating stays under the qualified rating. Any team expense for the Regionals is to be paid for by the participating team.

Regional Championships teams have a maximum of 10 players per team, five men and five women.

## **21. LEAGUE DIRECTOR RULINGS**

League Director will make decisions and deliver punishments if “spirit of the league” type violations occur throughout the season. For example, if a person represents themselves as a rostered person on a team. Punishment can include, but are not limited to, set defaults or full team disqualification.

Match disputes and grievances will be handled by captains only and in this process:

1. Match disputes must be e-mailed to the League Director within 48 hours. Once e-mailed, a decision will be made within another 48 hours.

## **22. ALL ITT RULES APPLY; HOWEVER, ALL LOCAL LEAGUE RULES SUPERCEDE NATIONAL ITT RULES.**

## **23. AGE REQUIREMENT**

Must be at least 18 years of age prior to the end of the ITT regular season.

## **24. SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY**

Sportsmanship is the foundation of tennis. It is essential to tennis as a welcoming, open, and inclusive sport. Sports integrity follows a boundless set of core values and attributes that enrich the lives of all who participate. These attributes include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding and following the rules
- Being fair
- Acting with character
- Respecting others
- Winning with humility and losing with grace
- Maintaining composure
- Being accountable for one's own actions
- Giving others the benefit of the doubt

Tennis is more fun when players are good sports, and when persons associated with the players and the sport reinforce the ideals of good sport conduct. It entices people to stay involved with the sport their entire lives. Being a good sport is its own reward —both on and off the tennis court. Sportsmanship builds trust, generates mutual respect, and promotes friendship among all people. As we grow and develop the game, we do so with the highest commitment to sports integrity.