



WITS General Rules

Revised 13th May 2006

1. Administration

WITS will be managed by the WITS Committee which will comprise of the President, Vice-President, Registrar, Treasurer, PR Co-ordinator, Events Co-ordinator, Division Co-ordinators and Scheduling Co-ordinator.

Players wishing to put forward comments or suggestions relating to WITS must do so by e-mail or letter to the President.

2. Calendar

- 2.1 There are 2 seasons a year, September through November, and February through April.
- 2.2 The playing dates for the season will be tailored to the number of teams in each division. The calendar will take into account school and public holidays wherever possible.
- 2.3 The calendar will be announced in prior to the closing date for registration on the website and through emails to the previous season's captains.
- 2.4 The divisions play on the following days:

Mondays or Tuesdays	A
Tuesdays	ALPHA
Wednesdays	B & BETA
Thursdays	C & D

3. Rules

The league will follow:

- WITS General Rules as outlined in this document. These rules supersede ITF and USTA Rules.
- International Tennis Federation (ITF) Rules (found online at www.itftennis.com)
- The Code – Players' Guide for Unofficial Matches (found online at www.usta.com)

Once a season begins, there will be no rule changes. Requests and suggestions are welcome by e-mail or letter to the President and will be considered for the next season.

4. League Format

4.1 Levels of Play

A	top level players with experience and a wide variety of shots, foot work, power and spin;
ALPHA	strong, dependable players in competition play;
B	players with a variety and dependable selection of strokes;
BETA	dependable players but still broadening their competition play skills, stepping stone to the B Division;
C	good dependability of shots, although still lacking in depth and variety;
D	beginners, new to competition tennis

4.2 Competition

A total of all points at the end of the season will determine the winner of each division. In the case of a tie for first place in a division, a winner will be decided using the following methods:

4.2.1 Ties/Playoffs (Doubles League)

The following procedures will be used in this order until a winner is determined.

1. Total matches won.
2. Head to head competition (based on number of matches won).
3. Number of sets lost.

Where teams are playing another team more than once and the lower of the scores are being discounted, these scores will not be used in the count-back process.

4.2.2 Ties/Playoffs (Singles League)

If there is a tie for first place in a division there will be no playoff. Both teams will jointly receive the winner's traveling trophy. There will be no runner-up awards.

5. Player Eligibility

5.1 The minimum age limit for competing in the WITS league is 18 as at the closing date of registration.

5.2 Players can only be on one team's roster in any season.

6. Team Placement in Divisions

6.1 New Teams

Teams should identify the division they believe they will be competitive in, based on an honest assessment of their players, such that they will not be overly dominant or under-competitive in a division. Please refer to [Skills Definition](#).

6.2 Existing Teams

6.2.1 Existing teams will be advised of their division placement according to their previous playing record.

6.2.2 Teams will be placed and moved up or down in divisions based on their performance and the needs of the league to balance the divisions. It is most desirable to have an even number of teams in each division, with the optimal being 8 teams per division.

6.2.3 For those teams placed in a higher division, a minimum of 50% of the players re-registering for the next season must move up to the higher division. Players who were on the roster but did not play during the season and players who have left the team will be taken into account.

7. Registration

7.1 Each team must complete a [Registration Form](#) and submit it along with a cheque for the \$200 entrance fee. Each player must sign a [Liability Waiver Form](#). This paperwork must be sent to the [Registrar](#) prior to the registration deadline.

7.2 Singles registration is not automatic and separate paperwork is required. The registration fee for singles is \$25 per team. Please see [Singles Registration](#) for more details.

7.3 Please see [Doubles Registration](#) for more specific registration details.

7.4 Registration deadlines are announced on the [Calendar](#).

8. Team Format

8.1 Teams may have a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 12 players on their roster. No substitute players.

8.2 Each team will appoint and name a Captain who will act as a liason between the league coordinators and the team.

8.3 Changes to rosters may be made up until the deadline date for additions/deletions each

season. The deadline for each season will be announced on the league calendar. This can be done by email only, to the Registrar.

- 8.4 Team rosters are available to all the other teams in their division upon request from their captain.
- 8.5 Teams may not recruit more than 2 players who have previously played for a team in a higher division. This rule only applies to players who have played more than one season in a higher division. Teams may only recruit these players from the division immediately above their own.

9. Match Format

- 9.1 The format applies to all divisions, however, A Division players have a different scoring system and are self-ranked. Please see [A Division Specific Rules](#) for details on the A Division.
- 9.2 Each weekly round will consist of 3 doubles matches and for a minimum of four weeks of the season, 1 singles match. Please see [Singles Specific Rules](#) for additional singles rules.
- 9.3 Each line will play best of three (3) sets; regular scoring; tiebreak at 6 – 6, including third set.
- 9.4 The time allowed for changing ends (ie. on odd games) is 90 seconds except after the first game of a set and a tie-break when players shall change ends without a rest period.
- 9.5 Time allowed at the end of the first set is 120 seconds.
- 9.6 After the second set, players may rest for up to 10 minutes.
- 9.7 During rest periods players must not converse with other members of their team and shall remain on court, except for toilet breaks or obtaining water.
- 9.8 Toilet breaks, if required, should only be taken at a changeover or set break, if so a 'reasonable time' will be allowed.
- 9.9 Play shall never be suspended, delayed or interfered with for the purpose of enabling a player to recover his strength, breath or physical condition

9.10 Warm Up

- 9.10.1 Players should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to start time for warm ups.
- 9.10.2 Warm-ups will last 10 minutes.
- 9.10.3 When practicing serves, players should catch the ball and serve the ball back, rather than practice hitting their returns while the opponent practices their serves. This will make it easier to keep to the 10-minute warm-up time allotment.

9.11 Start Time

- 9.11.1 Match start time is 8-9.00am, as determined by the home team. There will be some flexibility in the start of matches. The home team may pick 8:00, 8:30 or 9:00 as a start time for the matches. This must be communicated to the Away Captain by Friday prior to the match. Home teams are asked to be sensitive to Away Teams needs if an earlier start time presents a problem.
- 9.11.2 If only two courts are available, then lines 1 and 2 will play first. Line 3 players should arrive no later than 1 hour after the start of the first two lines. However, teams can mutually agree to change the order of play. If mutual agreement cannot be reached then it will revert to the normal order of play.
- 9.11.3 A team that is 20 minutes late will forfeit the first set, and forfeit the match if 40 minutes late. If a player is 20 minutes late or more, they will not be entitled to a warm-up, match play should begin immediately.

9.12 Forfeits

- 9.12.1 If a team finds it necessary to forfeit a line match, they should make every effort to call the opposing captain as soon as possible, rather than inform them at the start of

a match.

9.12.2 The third line will be forfeited and the other lines will play first and second positions.

9.12.3 In the event of forfeiture, both captains must agree to this outcome. When a line is forfeit by the opponents, the other team should enter the names of their players on the score sheet to enable them to receive credit for playing a match (even though they win by forfeit).

9.13 Scoring

9.13.1 Doubles – Divisions Alpha, B, Beta, C and D

Scoring – best of 3 sets, regular scoring, tie-breaks in all sets including third.

Win 1 line	4 points
Win 2 line	3 points
Win 3 line	2 points
Bonus for winning 2 or more lines	1 point
Lose in 3 sets	1 point per line

9.13.2 Doubles – Division A

Scoring – best of 3 sets, regular scoring, tie-breaks in all sets including third.

	Winner	Loser
Win in 2 sets	3 points	0 points
Win in 3 sets	2 points	1 point
Bonus for winning 2 or more lines	2 points	

9.13.3 Singles

Scoring – best of 3 sets, regular scoring, tie breaks in all sets including third

Winner of the first set	4
Winner of the second set	4
Winner of the third set	2
If you lose both sets	1
Walkover	8

9.14 Handphones

Players must turn off their handphones during match play. They should not make or take phone calls during the match, as this results in time delays and distraction to others on court.

9.15 If there are any questions about the game or match format, please contact your division coordinator.

10. Home Team Responsibilities

10.1 Courts

Teams must provide at least two available courts for home matches with the necessary toilet facilities. Please see [Finding a Court](#) if you need any assistance.

10.2 Contacting Visiting Team

Home team captains will be responsible for informing the away team captain of court location by Friday prior to each Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday or Thursday match.

10.3 Refreshments

Home teams are asked to provide the following for each match:

- Drinking water and ice (must be available at the beginning of play);
- Cold Refreshments (soft drinks, lemonade are examples);
- Sweet and Savory Snacks (coffee cake, fruit, pretzels, chips, finger sandwiches);
- paper cups and napkins

10.4 Match Balls

Home teams will provide new, standard size, tournament quality tennis balls for each match.

11. Rain Delays/Pollution & Adverse Air Quality

11.1 If rain conditions exist, all players must show up at the courts ready to play. If the courts will not be playable within 1 hour, then the players can mutually agree to wait, or reschedule the matches.

11.2 If rain occurs during match play, players should wait for 30 minutes to remain available to play in the event the rain stops. If the rain stops within the 30-minute period, players should wait another 30 minutes for the courts to dry. If they are not dry within the 30-minute period, the matches can be rescheduled. Common sense should prevail.

11.3 When matches need to be rescheduled, it is not necessary to schedule all 3 matches at the same time. The captains should trade player telephone numbers and allow the players to reschedule their own matches.

11.4 If an agreement on date and time cannot be reached between two teams for a make-up match, or the make-up matches are rained out, the default day for replaying a match will be the second Saturday, at 1:00, following the original rained out match day. In the end, if a match is not made up, both teams will receive 0 points for that match.

11.5 It is the captains responsibility to check the PSI reading as stated on the government website:
<http://app.nea.gov.sg/psi/>

11.6 If at 8am on the morning of the match the PSI reading is 100 or over then players have the **option** of postponing.

11.7 However, **all players must show up at the courts** to either mutually agree to play or reschedule.

11.8 Individual lines may mutually agree to play or reschedule.

11.9 In the event a match is postponed, teams have until a week the following Saturday at 1pm to reschedule or if the PSI readings remain high and the match is postponed again, until the last day of the season as stated on the calendar.

12. Injuries

12.1 If a player is injured during match play, they shall be allowed one, 15 minute time period during the match to recuperate.

12.2 Time shall be noted for everyone, and kept by the opposing team players.

13. Reporting Scores

13.1 The names of the players for the match should be entered on the score sheet by the captain (or captain's representative) and exchanged with the opposing team before the start of the match. The exchange should be simultaneous.

- 13.2** After the match both team captains should complete the score sheets and sign them.. However, only the Home Team Captain need fax (or e-mail if no fax available) the score sheet to their Division Co-ordinator. All captains should retain their score sheets.

14. Team Awards

- 14.1** At the end of the each season, an end of season event will be held to award trophies.
- 14.2** Trophies will be awarded to the winning team and runner-up team in each division for doubles. In singles, only a traveling trophy will be awarded to the winning team.
- 14.3** All winners in both singles and doubles will receive bag tags.
- 14.4** Trophies will only be provided to those players who have signed the waiver form prior to playing their first match, and have played 2 matches or more.

15. Questions, Issues and Disputes

- 15.1** If questions, issues and disputes arise during a match, every attempt should be made to resolve them according to USTA rules and WITS guidelines. An amicable tone and nature should prevail on both sides during problem resolution (remember this is only tennis).
- 15.2** Only the players involved in the match can discuss the issue. Other team members may not get involved in the discussion, with the exception of the captains, who can be called upon to clarify rules. No one other than the players involved can make comments about the points or circumstances in dispute.
- 15.3** Unsportsman-like conduct is unacceptable, and will be addressed following inquiries of the circumstances and situation.
- 15.4** Questions and issues can be brought to the attention of the President or Division Co-ordinators by e-mail or letter. However, it is strongly recommended that the players themselves make every attempt to resolve disputes on the court.
- 15.5** The decision of the WITS Committee in all matters will be final.