

# IRMSL Tennis League

## Thursday 55+ Men's 3.5 / 5 court league

### Part I: League Structure

1. Play conducted under USTA Rules, The Code and Friend at Court unless existing league rules are in place to specify otherwise.
2. League will play five (5) positions of men's doubles.
  - a. Play will be on Thursday mornings normally December – April
3. Teams are comprised of 3.5 male players.
  - a. No 4.0 players allowed
  - b. 2025/2026 season will be trialing the use of TopDog's rating system.
    - i. Captains/club pros will assign players a starting rating knowing that ALL players are NOT of equal skill level.
  - c. It was decided at the Captains meeting to use ratings to the hundredths –
    - i. 2.75, 3.00, 3.25, 3.50, 3.75
4. Team registration fee of \$125.00 is required to be paid prior to the start of the season –
  - a. JABAAR LLC – PO Box 518 – Palm City, FL 34991
5. [IRMSL TopDog](#) will be the league team management/scoring website
  - a. Communicate with League Administrator (LA)
  - b. LA to communicate with captains & players
  - c. Manage teams
  - d. Print scorecards
  - e. Enter scores
  - f. [IRMSLtennis.net](#)
    - i. Other league offerings
    - ii. Resources – Useful information
    - iii. Area clubs/facilities
    - iv. Tennis events around town
    - v. Access to TopDog
  - g. [IRMSL Tennis League | TopDog Sports \(topdoglive.com\)](#)

## Part II: League Operating Guidelines

### Teams

1. Team rosters have no maximum
  - a. Each team shall have a Captain
    - i. A Co-Captain is strongly suggested but not required

### Players

1. Must be at least 55 years of age before playing a match.
2. Will be of a 3.5 or 3.0 rating/skill level.
  - a. Captain & club pros should help determine player's level.
  - b. **No 4.0** rated/skilled players are allowed to enter the league
  - c. If a Captain feels a league player is 4.0 skill, he will contact the LA to research & poll other captains before any action is taken against such player. Captain of the team such player is on is omitted from poll for obvious reasons.
3. Must be rostered on the team before playing in a match – deadline to add a player will be determined by the league schedule & all captains will be notified of exact date.
  - a. Captain or Player will submit NEW player's info to the LA before player can be added
    - Fill out/submit a [Brand-New Player Form](#)
    - Or <https://form.jotform.com/222644387305154>
  - b. Information needed for LA to communicate with players

### Format of Play

1. Best 2 out of 3 sets with a super tiebreak (first to 10 points by 2) played in lieu of a full 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
  - a. Playing a full 3<sup>rd</sup> set is not an option even if all four (4) players agree
  - b. Score for this is entered in TopDog as 1-0 for the winning team
2. [Coman Procedure](#) used for all tiebreaks
  - a. Set score 6 games all - tiebreak first to 7 by 2 points

### Matches

*League Administrator may check weekly match results & contact captains if scores are missing. This in an effort to ensure that all scheduled matches are reported according to the league guidelines for all teams to see.*

1. One (1) point awarded per position/court won.
2. Strength to weakness will be the concept maintained in weekly lineups.
  - a. With the trial of dynamic ratings, paired players combined ratings will determine strength to weakness.
3. Scheduled match start times will be determined by home team.
  - a. All match start times will be shown on league schedule.
4. New cans of yellow tennis balls appropriate for court surface will be furnished by the home team.
5. If a player is late getting to the match & has been in communication, both Captains can agree to let the other positions go ahead & start play
6. Defaults must occur in position/court #5 first & then go up.
  - a. If a default occurs when players are on site for the match, captains can rearrange their lineups
7. COACHING – is permitted **only** between the 2<sup>nd</sup> set & 10-point tiebreak being played in lieu of a full 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
  - a. Teammates, pros & spectators are permitted to provide this.

### **Rain Makeup Matches**

- ❖ Important – A match is not considered to be started until the 1<sup>st</sup> serve has been struck whether it was good or not. This means that position #1 could still be in their warm up when position # 2 has officially started their match. In case rain comes at this moment, position #2 will need to be resumed by the four (4) players on that court. Position #1 players could be changed by both teams if needed – in accordance with Matches Item #1 - because they did not officially start their match.
- ❖ Makeups can be done one (1) position at a time. All five (5) positions do not have to play at the same date/time.
- ❖ Home team should give a minimum of three (3) options to play to get the process started.
- ❖ Three (3) positions played to completion constitutes a legitimate scoreable match. The other two (2) positions CAN be entered as “double defaults” where neither team gets the win/loss for those positions.
  - Every effort should be made to play ALL positions.

1. Makeups need to be played within three (3) weeks & all match scores must be entered prior to any splits or playoffs.
  - Weeks with no play due to holiday's do not count in the 3 week timeframe for makeups
  - A match already in progress being completed on another day -
    - Players that started the match must be the same players to continue & complete play
    - Play resumes exactly where it was left off
      1. Same set score, game score, team/person serving, team/person receiving
    - Individual positions for an in-progress match being completed on another day may be played on different days upon agreement by all four (4) players involved.
    - All four (4) players are responsible for confirming & reporting the final score to their captains
  - A match already in progress is delayed but hopes of being resumed same day -
    - Both Captains need to agree on how long to wait for the courts to become playable before trying to resume play
    - It only takes one (1) player to say they don't feel safe playing & play will not resume
  - A match where both teams are at the match site but match play has not begun and play will begin on another day -
    - Lineups can be changed by both Captains
    - Any previous divulged forfeits are null/void
  - A match where both teams are at the match site but match play has not begun with hopes play may begin soon/same day -
    - Both Captains need to agree on how long to wait for the courts to become playable before trying to begin the match
    - It only takes one (1) player to say they don't feel safe play & play will not begin

## **Scheduling**

1. Season shall run - but is not limited to - December through early April.
2. A regular season shall consist of - at least but not limited to - each team playing every other team once IF the number of weeks allows.
  - a. Additional "round" of play can be scheduled if
    - i. Number of weeks permits
    - ii. Captains agree
    - iii. Is in the best interest of the league

- b. Playoff can be scheduled
  - i. Number of weeks permits
  - ii. Captains agree
  - iii. Is in the best interest of the league

- ❖ **2025-2026:** Twelve (12) team league -
  - Captains chose Option #4
    - Split into East & West – six (6) teams in each group
      - Play each team in group 2x = 10 weeks
      - Then take top 3 from each group to play 1x = 5 weeks & determine league winner
        - Bottom 3 teams from each group will also play 1x = 5 weeks

3. Once published, match dates/times are not subject to change unless both captains affected agree & the LA is advised.

### **End of Season Event**

Captains expressed desire to have one so one will be planned.

### **Captains Responsibilities**

- ❖ Be the spokesman for the team
- ❖ Attend Captain's meetings or send a designated representative
- ❖ Home captain, contact the visiting Captain 24 hours prior to the match to -
  - Confirm match start time
  - Confirm number of courts playing
  - Confirm directions to your club/facility
  - Confirm any other pertinent information like a gate access code
- ❖ Print the pre-populated lineup/scorecard for exchange with the opposing captain
- ❖ Home team Captain is responsible for entering match results on the website by 9:00 pm the day the match was played
  - Visiting team Captain responsible for confirming match entries within 48 hours or entries automatically confirmed
- ❖ Coordinate with team members and the captain of the visiting team for any "reschedule" matches.