

INTERURBAN TENNIS

League Rules 2015 Season

1. A minimum of four couples constitute a team. It is at the captains' discretion as to whether the mixed doubles starts first or last.
2. A set is completed if the two players win 6 games with a margin of at least 2 games over their opponents. If the set score reaches 6-6, the OTA 12 point tiebreaker rules apply.
3. Sixteen sets constitute a tournament.
4. If a Club does not field four couples, it forfeits the matches in which the absent players would have participated. Defaults will be scored 6-0 each set. Every effort should be made to field a team or mutually arrange an alternate night. The above default method should be used only as a last resort.
5. Matches begin at 7:15 pm sharp. Matches, upon mutual agreement, should start earlier if a club has less than four courts. Players showing up after 7:30 pm default the first set and after 8:00 pm default the second set of the first match (if agreed upon by the captains).
6. In the case of rain on Tuesday, the match must be played on the Thursday of the same week unless both clubs agree to make other arrangements. If any player from either team feels it is unsafe to continue play, then play is suspended. If after 30 minutes either team feels that conditions have not improved, then the match should be rescheduled as in Rule 17.
7. **BOTH TEAM CAPTAINS ARE TO SEND THE RESULTS WEEKLY** to the coordinating club for the year, **REPORTING THE NUMBER OF SETS AND GAMES WON BY EACH CLUB**. See annual mailing package from the coordinating club.
8. Use the attached score sheet form for recording match results. Please place the full name of each player on the player sheet.
9. Refreshment after each Inter-club match is to consist of a beverage and one other item.
10. Four tins of new balls (top quality vacuum packed brand names i.e. Dunlop, Wilson, Penn) must be provided by the host Club.
11. Each team captain must declare his/her team order in writing on the interurban score sheet. The two captains should then exchange their previously completed sheets. If a nominated player is injured during the match, the remaining part of the match is defaulted. The games won by the retiring side at that point are to be counted towards their team total. For the future match (i.e. mixed doubles, if

men's and ladies' doubles are played first), a substitute is permitted. Likewise, if a nominated player becomes unavailable for whatever reason, a substitute is permitted.

12. Playoffs

- a) The divisional playoffs will consist of the top four teams in the division. To be eligible for the playoffs, each player has to have played at least two interurban matches in the division prior to the playoffs. For two-division clubs, once a player plays up FOUR times in the regular season, that player is eligible to play in the play-offs in only the upper of the two divisions for the club. Where a player is in Division 2 and qualifies for both Division 1 and 2, they may play up in a play-off match without losing their Division 2 eligibility.
- b) The play off positions will be determined by the total number of sets won by each team during the season. In the event of a tie, the total number of games won over all shall determine the winner. If there is still a tie, the game differential (games for minus games against) will determine the winner. If there is still a tie, the total number of games won in the meetings of the Clubs involved shall determine the winner, and if there is still a tie, the convener shall decide by the toss of a coin.
- c) In all divisions the first placed Team will play the fourth placed Team and the second placed Team will play the third place Team in a home and away series for the semi-finals. The winners of the semi-final matches will play a home and away final series, with the winner being declared the winner of the playoffs.
- d) In all divisions, the top team in the final standings has the choice of the first game home or away in the playoffs.
- e) There will be no formal consolation matches. Teams not eligible for playoffs can choose to play each other in an exhibition home and away game if desired.
- f) In the playoffs, a tie is defined as total sets being equal. In the event of a tie score, the outcome must be determined first, by the sum of the games earned over the two evenings, otherwise by a single extra mixed doubles set. This tiebreaker must be played that night. Participants of a tiebreaker must be members of the team playing the night of the tie. If the tie cannot be broken on the evening of play due to extraordinary circumstances (inclement weather or lighting problems) the captains shall agree on alternate arrangements.

13. Procedures in case of inclement weather:

- a) In case of a rainout, the play, or replay, will take place on the Thursday of the same week, or, if mutually agreed upon, on an alternate date. Failing this, the team not able to play by the next Thursday of the following week, must default.
- b) If the tournament has progressed to the point where 9 sets have been completed at the time play is called, the balance of the sets may be prorated. If 9 sets have not been played the entire tournament is replayed.
- c) Where no match can be arranged to the satisfaction of both Clubs, the results can be calculated on the basis of the results at the time play was called, using the ratio of wins and losses by each Club applied to the total possible points. For example, if the Clubs have completed 8 of the scheduled games and are forced to terminate because of a sudden rain storm with the score being Club A, 2 games (25% of the total games played) and Club B, 6 games (75% of the total games

played), by mutual consent the final score may be declared as Club A, 4 games and Club B, 12 games.

14. Changing Divisions:

- a) The playoff winner (Division 2) will move to the next higher division in the following season.
- b) The team with the fewest sets won in Division 1 will move to the next lower division in the following season.
- c) If the moving up and down creates a situation whereby a Club has two teams in the same division, the method used to solve this problem will be determined at the annual meeting.

15. Player Eligibility:

- a) Each player representing a Club must be a member of the participating Club. Players representing clubs that are pay as you play are eligible to participate.
- b) A player belonging to more than one Club is eligible to play for one Club only. No player may play for more than one club.

16. The league will consist of Divisions 1 and 2.

17. The rules for league play are as follows:

For all divisions, each team will play at least a home and away series.

Note: Due to the fact that some clubs field teams in more than one division, scheduling alternating home and away games for each club within a division may not be possible. Every attempt will be made to balance the schedule as fairly as possible. It will be deemed acceptable if some teams play up to three consecutive games either home or away. In all cases, total home games equal away games.

a) Division 1 Tournament Level

For this division, 1 male and 1 female player from the following categories are eligible per match. A player who is ranked in the top 30 provincially or higher (according to the December 31 ranking of the previous year or *the actual date of play*) in the Open Class of competition during the past 5 years, or who was on a tennis scholarship at a school in the previous year or holds a current junior ranking in the top 30 in the Under 18, or in the top 30 in the Under 16 classification, or is a full-time teaching pro who earns his/her primary source of income teaching tennis.

b) Division 2 (and 3) – the following restrictions apply:

- (1) No pros.
- (2) To play in Division 2, a player must be 18 as of January 1 of the year the Interurban games take place. If a captain is unable to field a team without the use of a player younger than 18, a younger player may be used with the permission of the opposing captain, with scores to be counted as usual. Players ranked in the top 20 (Under 18) or the top 10 (Under 16 on the OTA website on the day of play may not be used for that purpose. It is up to team captains to ascertain the ranking prior to the start of the match. If no consultation has taken place, and a player under the age of 18 is used, the opposing captain has one week to research the status of the player, and challenge the results.
- (3) No scholarship players current to 5 years.

- (4) No adult player with a ranking in the top 50 men or the top 20 for ladies based on the December 31 ranking of the previous year or *the actual date of play*.
- c) To speed up play, the number 1 doubles teams and the number 2 doubles teams must play mixed together.
 - d) Individuals must be ranked according to ability (1 to 4) on any given night.
18. If any of the eligibility rules are contravened, the captains can, at their own discretion and agreement, play those matches to count.
19. Using Ineligible Players:
- a) Any club using an ineligible player in a match loses the amount of points that player won in that evening (a maximum of 4) and the other team gains those points (to a maximum of 16)/
 - b) Once a complaint has been filed, the ruling becomes retroactive.
20. It is the home team's responsibility to call off a match if it is raining. This must be done by 5:30 pm. on the day of the match.
21. The method of resolving an appeal is for the convener to contact three experienced captains to get a consensus of what seems fair.
22. Defaults to count as 16 – 0 points in the regular season.