

Davisville Tennis Club - Ladder Rules

(revision 2011-4)

The Ladder gives players the opportunity to play singles matches with a variety of players in a competitive, but friendly environment. There is a Ladder for Men & a Ladder for the Ladies.

Duration of the Season

The Ladder season runs from May 1st to September 30th, 2011.

Joining the Ladder

The Ladder costs \$10 for the season. Once you pay the Court Steward on duty (ask for a receipt, if you wish), they will write your name on to the Signup sheet.

At the beginning of the next month, the Player Development Director will place the new player into the Ladder, in an appropriate box.

To join the Ladder, you **must** have a player rating **OR** your level of play must be known to the Player Development director.

You can join the Ladder at any time, but remember that new entrants will only begin play at the beginning of the following month. So, for example, if you sign up on June 13th, you start Ladder play on July 1st.

NOTE: The number of participants on the Ladder can be capped at any time, at the discretion of the Player Development Director, so do NOT delay joining the Ladder.

When you do begin play, you will be in a Ladder box with players of similar skill level.

Remember that a tennis Ladder is to meant to give everyone competitive matches and placing new players according to playing level will ensure this.

NOTE: If you join the Ladder after June 1st and do not begin Ladder play until July 1st, you are unable to win the Ladder (either Most Points or Top of the Ladder), regardless of your standing at the end of the season.

Booking Matches

The type of Ladder that we are playing is called a Box Ladder. There will be 6 people in a Box. You will have 5 people to play against, in a month's time. You will play each person once. All Ladder matches are to be played at the Davisville Tennis Club, during Club hours.

At the beginning of a month, you will receive your Box, by email. All current boxes will be posted on the Ladder whiteboard, in the Clubhouse. You will use the information contained in your Club Directory to contact each player to arrange matches.

There are 2 ways to play matches on the Ladder. You can play **Instant Ladder** or you can book a specific date and time (for Court 4 only) for the dates & times that are available in the Ladder Court Booking binder, in the Clubhouse.

Instant Ladder

If you & someone else from your Ladder box are at the courts or are both going to be at the courts later that day, during **NON-DOUBLES ONLY** times, you are able to tag up for singles play and can make it a Ladder match! There is 1 major condition that applies to Instant Ladder matches. If you tag for a time and it **BECOMES A DOUBLES ONLY** time, you are **NOT** permitted to keep your court for Instant Ladder. For example, I'm at the courts and am going to play an Instant Ladder match with Glen. It's 10 am. & I tag Glen & I up for 12:30 pm. I call Glen and tell him to come to the courts for 12:30 pm. Our Instant Ladder match is set! Glen & I come to the courts at 12:30 and there is now a **DOUBLES ONLY** sign up for 12:30 pm. We are **NOT** allowed to refuse people of our playing level to tag with us, to play doubles. **IF IT IS FOUND THAT YOU HAVE REFUSED TO PLAY DOUBLES WITH SOMEONE OF YOUR LEVEL, WHEN THE DOUBLES ONLY SIGN IS UP, YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM LADDER PLAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH.**

You are able to play Instant Ladder matches any time during Club hours that are **NOT DOUBLES ONLY**. **ANY TIME AT ALL, EVEN IF THE LADDER BOOKING BINDER IS NOT ALLOWING MATCHES TO BE BOOKED FOR COURT 4, FOR A PARTICULAR DAY.**

Court 4 Bookings

The Ladder Court Booking binder is located in the Clubhouse, on the filing cabinet. You can call the Court Steward, during Club hours (**DO NOT LEAVE A VOICEMAIL TO BOOK A LADDER MATCH**), to ask them to write a match in for you or visit the Clubhouse in person and write it in yourself. Whenever possible, **USE A PENCIL TO WRITE YOUR NAMES INTO THE LADDER BOOKING BINDER**. It makes it easier to remove names when matches get cancelled. **ALL** pre-booked Ladder matches are to be played on Court 4.

Matches should be booked at least a full day in advance. If both players are at the Club and just decide that they want to play their Ladder match that day, that request may be refused based on court availability.

Anyone can call anyone else that is in your current Box, to arrange a match. Please respond to match requests promptly.

When contacting players, please use both email and phone, as using just one method of contact has sometimes proven to be unreliable.

You are not permitted to book matches in the next available month, as the Ladder boxes will change and you may not be playing the person that you may have booked a match with. Book for the current month only!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE DATE AND TIME FOR YOUR MATCH. IT IS SUGGESTED TO EMAIL AND CALL YOUR OPPONENT, SO THAT THEY KNOW THAT THE MATCH HAS BEEN BOOKED.

You can book as many of your 5 matches at a time, as you wish. Remember that you play a maximum of 5 Ladder matches per month. You are allowed to play each person in your box only one time.

YOU MAY ONLY BOOK A COURT IF YOU HAVE A CONFIRMED OPPONENT TO PLAY AGAINST. BOOKING A COURT WITHOUT A CONFIRMED OPPONENT WILL RESULT IN THE OFFENDING PLAYER BEING REMOVED FROM THE LADDER, FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH OF PLAY.

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BOOK BACK TO BACK TIME SLOTS. DOING SO IS CONTRARY TO DAVISVILLE'S TAGGING RULES. IF YOU ARE FOUND TO HAVE PLAYED CONSECUTIVE LADDER MATCHES (OR HAVE YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN TO THE LADDER BOOKING BINDER IN CONSECUTIVE TIME SLOTS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT YOU ACTUALLY PLAYED TWICE IN A ROW), YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LADDER FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH AND YOU WILL RECEIVE ZERO POINTS FOR THE SECOND BOOKED MATCH.

IF YOU OR YOUR OPPONENT NEED TO CANCEL A MATCH THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN IN TO THE LADDER COURT BOOKING BINDER, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REMOVE YOUR NAMES FROM THE DATE/TIME SLOT THAT YOU HAD BOOKED AND NOTIFY THE COURT STEWARD, SO THAT THEY CAN FREE UP THE SLOT IN THE LADDER BOOKING BINDER AND THE TAG BOARD. IF YOU OR YOUR OPPONENT FAIL TO DO SO, YOU WILL BOTH BE REMOVED FROM THE LADDER FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

Defaults

TYPE 1: If a match has been set up and a player does not show up or cancels within 24 hours before the match was to have taken place, the offending player loses by **DEFAULT**. The player who defaults is awarded **ZERO** points. The "Winner" of the match is awarded **8** points. When recording the score for a Default on the Ladder Box sheet, please record an **8** (circle it) for the Winner and write **DEFAULT** in the other player's score box. **YOU CANNOT REBOOK THIS MATCH OR PLAY IT VIA INSTANT LADDER. IF YOU DO PLAY THE MATCH AFTER THIS TYPE OF DEFAULT HAPPENS, BOTH PLAYERS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LADDER FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH.**

TYPE 2: If a player fails to respond to a match request or declines to play, they will lose by Default. The player who defaults is awarded **ZERO** points. The "Winner" of the match is awarded **8** points. This type of Default win will only be given in the last few days of the particular month and must be requested by the Player who has not received any contact from the offending player(s). **YOU MUST ASK THE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, BY EMAIL, TO APPROVE THIS TYPE OF DEFAULT WIN, BEFORE YOU RECORD IT ON THE SCORESHEET IN THE CLUBHOUSE.** Every chance should be given to your fellow players to get your matches played. Do not assume that they are avoiding you, as life is busy!

TYPE 3: If you are late for your match (even 1 minute), you start the match down 1-0. If you are 5 minutes late, you start the match down 2-0. **IF YOU ARE 10 MINUTES LATE FOR YOUR MATCH, THE MATCH IS CONSIDERED TO BE OVER (NO MATTER WHAT YOUR EXCUSE FOR BEING LATE IS) AND THE COURT WILL BE RELEASED BY THE COURT STEWARD. ANY MEMBER PRESENT CAN NOW TAG FOR THAT COURT. YOU DO NOT HAVE TAGGING RIGHTS TO THIS COURT AFTER 10 MINUTES HAVE PASSED. THIS SITUATION RESULTS IN A DEFAULT WIN FOR THE PLAYER THAT WAS PRESENT AND WAITING FOR THE PLAYER THAT WAS LATE. BOTH PLAYERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BOOK THE MATCH AGAIN OR PLAY IT VIA INSTANT LADDER. IF PLAYERS ARE FOUND TO PLAY THE MATCH AFTER THIS SITUATION OCCURS, YOU WILL BOTH BE REMOVED FROM THE LADDER FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH.**

TYPE 4: **IF BOTH PLAYERS FAIL TO SHOW FOR A BOOKED TIME AND NEITHER PLAYER NOTIFIED THE COURT STEWARD ON DUTY, SO THAT THEY COULD FREE THE BOOKING TIME AND/OR THE COURT TIME, THE MATCH IS CONSIDERED TO BE OVER AND CANNOT BE REBOOKED OR PLAYED VIA INSTANT LADDER. THIS WILL BE RECORDED AS A DOUBLE DEFAULT.**

IF A PLAYER HAS MORE THAN 1 DEFAULT IN A MONTH, THEY WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LADDER FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

No bonus points are awarded for Default wins.

ALWAYS NOTIFY THE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, BY EMAIL (PD@DAVISVILLETENNISCLUB.COM), WHEN RECORDING ANY DEFAULT WIN, SO THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE SITUATION.

The Ladder Court Booking binder contains the schedule of court availability for each day of the current year. Although it should be 100% correct, sometimes your matches will be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. This should be rare and every effort will be made to avoid this situation. The Court Steward may call you in advance to let you know of the cancellation, but may not be able to. Please call ahead if you think that your match might be cancelled for any reason.

Please try to play as many matches as possible, each month.

IF YOU PLAY ZERO MATCHES, 2 MONTHS IN A ROW, YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM LADDER PLAY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON. YOUR \$10 FEE WILL NOT BE REFUNDED.

Miscellaneous

What happens if my Ladder match gets rained out? You are permitted to re-book it or play it via Instant Ladder.

What happens if my opponent doesn't show up because he/she thought it was raining or the courts were wet (and they were not)? **A DEFAULT WIN FOR THE PERSON THAT WAS THERE WAITING. YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RE-BOOK THIS MATCH OR PLAY IT VIA INSTANT LADDER.**

It rained during our Ladder match and we didn't get to finish! What do we do? You are permitted to re-book it or play it via Instant Ladder.

Warm-Up

Please keep your warm up time under 5 minutes. Remember that you only have 40 minutes to play your match. The longer you warm up, the shorter your match will be and less points will be scored!

Scoring & Match details

All Ladder matches are 40 minutes in duration, regardless of whether or not there is someone coming on the court after you.

When serving for the first time, please allow **FIRST IN**. As the warm-up time usually does not allow for serve practice, this is recommended. If both players agree to NOT play FIRST IN, that is acceptable.

The Ladder match is played as a Pro Set. A Pro Set is a set where the winner is the first to win 8 games, by a margin of 2 (for example, 8-6). If a match is tied at 7-7, a 12 point tie breaker is played to determine the winner of the match. The score after a tiebreaker will always be 8-7.

At the beginning of the match, both players should agree to either play out Deuces (as is normal in tournament play) or play No-Ad scoring (which is normal for a Pro Set). If both players agree, you can play the way that is agreed upon. If you cannot agree which way to play, you should play with No-Ad scoring. Note that playing out Deuces will reduce the amount of games that you are able to finish and thus reduce your point totals for the match.

If you decide to play No-Ad scoring, games that go to Deuce are decided on the next point, with the receiver's choice of side to return serve from. So there is only 1 point played after Deuce. The winner of that point is the winner of that game.

If you have not reached the end of the Pro Set in the allotted time, whomever is winning after the 40 minute time period has expired is declared the winner. **YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO FINISH YOUR GAME, ONCE OTHER PLAYERS HAVE ARRIVED AT YOUR COURT TO REMOVE YOU. YOU CAN BREAK A TIE WITH ONE MORE POINT (IF YOU ARE TIED), OTHERWISE YOUR MATCH IS OVER.**

If the score of the match is tied (5-5, 30-30, for example) after 40 minutes, the players must play one more point to determine the winner (5-5, 30-40, for example). The winner of that last point gets a game added to his/her total. So, in our example above, one player's score would be 6 and the other player's score would be 5.

If you do not break a tie, no bonus points will be awarded to either player.

You will be awarded one point for every game that you win. For example, Player A defeats Player B by a score of 8-5. Player A receives 8 points and Player B receives 5.

The winner of the match receives 3 bonus points. The loser of the match receives 1 bonus point. So by our previous example, Player A would receive 8 points for games won & 3 points for winning the match; 11 points total. Player B would receive 5 points for games won & 1 point for playing the match; 6 points total.

Recording the score

After the match is completed, the participants are responsible for recording the final score of games won, directly on to their Ladder box sheet, posted on the Ladder whiteboard in the Clubhouse. Please **CIRCLE** the score of the **WINNER** of the match.

Do not record bonus points on to the Ladder box sheet. Bonus points are calculated by the Player Development Director, at the end of the month.

There is a scoring example sheet posted on the Ladder whiteboard (under the Ladies Ladder boxes), in case you need assistance recording your score(s).

Movement on the Ladder

At the end of each month, the Ladder will be adjusted by the Player Development Director, with new boxes being created.

The movement process will be adjusted during the Ladder season, to determine what is the best way to adjust the Ladder boxes. Once the best way to do this is found, it will be posted in this space. Until then, the adjustment of the Ladder boxes is at the discretion of the Player Development Director. Please be patient as this process is adjusted.

NOTE: IF A NEW PLAYER JOINS THE LADDER, THEY WILL BE PLACED IN TO AN APPROPRIATE LADDER BOX, ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAYER RATING, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR.

The top 2 ladies in the highest box on the Ladies Ladder will have the option (they will be asked in advance of the end of the month) of moving to the Men's Ladder. They are not required to go to the Men's Ladder; it is optional. If they choose to move to the Men's Ladder, they will be placed into a box on the Men's ladder with players of similar skill level.

If a Lady chooses to crossover to the Men's Ladder, they do so with the following caveats.

- They are moving to the Men's Ladder for the remainder of the Ladder season. Their name will no longer appear anywhere on the Ladies ladder.
- They are not able to win the Ladies Ladder, either for Most Points or Top Of The Ladder.
- The only way that they can play against another lady on the Ladder is if both ladies are on the Men's Ladder.
- They can win the Men's Ladder, either for Most Points or Top Of The Ladder.

Year End Winners

There are 2 ways to win the Ladder:

1. Be the player who is at the top of the Ladder, at the end of the season.
2. Be the player who has accumulated the most total points on the Ladder, at the end of the season.

Prizes are awarded separately for the Men's & Ladies Ladders.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Player Development Director via email at **pd@davisvilletennisclub.com**