

July 1981

GODDARD TENNIS CLUB RULES

A. USE OF TENNIS COURTS

1. The Tennis Club has been delegated the responsibility for the proper use of the courts by the GEWA Council.
2. Only Tennis Club Members (Club Member) and members of their immediate families (Family Member) are entitled to use of the courts. Under special circumstances Officers of the Executive Committee may authorize use of the courts to others.
3. Guests of Members are not allowed use of the courts. However, if any court is vacant when Members with guests arrive, Members may sign up to play on that empty court with their guests. Members with guests must YIELD THE COURT IMMEDIATELY if bonafide Members present themselves for play on that court, i.e., rights to courts are forfeited by Members playing with guests to arriving Members. A Member may not reserve a court in advance using a guest's name, nor may he sign for first come, first served courts if Members are present and ready for play, except in the cases given below.

Exceptions:

If 2 bonafide Members have signed for a court (in advance or otherwise) and choose to invite guests to participate in doubles play with them, rights to the court are NOT forfeited.

A guest pass for one time play may be issued in special circumstances by the Club President to guests of Members or official/visitors to GSFC. These may be obtained by contacting the President for their issuances, and they may be used for an advanced reservation, as necessary.

4. Children (12 years old or less) of the Members are permitted to play tennis with an adult Club or Family Member. Otherwise, children are not permitted within the confines of the court fences.
5. Access to the courts is through the NTTF gate, not through the GEWA picnic area.
6. The courts are considered closed to play if the court gates are locked, or if the Grounds Chairman has decreed that the courts are unplayable.
7. Members MUST DISPLAY their membership cards during periods of play in the appropriate place on the fence behind each court or shall carry identification sufficient to confirm membership upon comparison of such data with the posted membership listing; or shall be able to present a court pass, if he is a non-member. Inability to present valid authorization for use of the courts will result in immediate forfeiture of the rights to the courts.

8. Courts 1-8 are available for play during the hours 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., courts 9 and 10 are available for play 24 hours per day (except for instances listed in D1 below).

B. MEMBERSHIP

1. Tennis Club membership is open to GSFC civil service employees, employees working for on-site contractors at GSFC, and their immediate family members living in the same household.

Definition: Family member is defined as an individual related to a Club Member through legal means such as spouse, or by blood ties such as children, brother or sister.

2. Membership cards are issued to all Members.

3. Membership expires April 1 of the year subsequent to the year in which dues were paid.

4. If a Member leaves GSFC for any reason such as retirement, job transfers, etc., and the individual has been a member for 3 years immediately prior to leaving, he may continue to join the Goddard Tennis Club by paying the required dues each year. However, if in any year dues are not paid, the individual may not rejoin the GTC thereafter, unless that person returns to GSFC and satisfies all requirements for membership.

C. FINANCES

1. Funds of the Tennis Club will be used to further the activities of the Club, and to assist in the maintenance and improvement of the courts.

2. Membership dues are established for each year by the incoming Executive Committee. The membership fee is reduced by 50% for those joining after August 15. Club members are assessed the basic membership fee. There is an additional membership surcharge fee assessed for each Family Member joining with a Club Member.

3. Reservation privileges for the season on courts 1 through 4 and 8 through 10 may be purchased for fees established for each year by the incoming Executive Committee. A Club Member or Family Member may purchase one or two privileges. The reservation fee is reduced by 50% for those joining after August 15.

4. To be eligible for ladder play, a single Member must purchase two reservation privileges. The first individual in a Family membership who wishes to play on the ladder must purchase two reservation privileges. All subsequent individuals in a Family who wish to play on the ladder must purchase at least one reservation privilege each.

5. Expenditures in excess of \$200 for individual improvements or Club activities must be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee.

D. RESERVATIONS

1. The Executive Committee may (1) reserve court time for club-sponsored activities and court maintenance; and (2) restrict play when it is determined that the courts are unplayable. The Executive Committee sanctions a standing, single exception for the preemption of reserved time on court 6 by the lessons instructor, if court 8 is unusable.

2. Courts 1 through 4, 8, 9 and Nighttime Play on Court 10

2.1 These courts are reservable in advance by Members who have purchased the privilege.

2.2 If a member has purchased on reservation privilege, his or her name may appear in one, and only one, outstanding reservation.

2.3 If a Member has purchased two reservation privileges, then his or her name may appear on two outstanding reservations.

2.4 The names of TWO persons, each with an outstanding reservation privilege, are required for each reservation. Whether the play is doubles or singles, two names will suffice.

2.5 Reservation privileges may not be used for or donated to any other person, except as in D2.6.

2.6 A Club Member with reservation privileges may donate, at most, one reservation privilege to each Member of his family who is on the ladder and who has purchased only one reservation privilege. A reservation privilege bought for a Family Member may not be donated to the Club Member. A Club Member is not permitted to substitute his or her name in a reservation time period originally reserved for a member of his or her family nor may such Member play instead of the Family Member. But at NO time may a Member have more than two outstanding reservations.

2.7 A reserved court not in use by the original reservers within 15 minutes of the stated starting time may be reserved by ANY two members for the remaining portion of the reservation time period. Such reservation would not require reservation privileges.

2.8 If by the start of a reservation period on any of these courts no reservation has been made, then ANY two Members may sign for the court for that time period. Such reservation would not require reservation privileges.

2.9 Reservations for these courts are made on sheets at the reservation board.

2.10 A reservation not in accord with these rules will be removed by officers of the Executive Committee. The players will not be personally informed, but the removal will be registered by entry of action and cause on the Court Reservation Violations sheets. No other persons may effect any change in any reservation at any time with the exception of the application of rule D2.7.

2.11 Court 10 will be reservable from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. See D3.9 for further details.

2.12 Court 8 may be reserved by an authorized tennis instructor for lessons. Notice of lesson dates and times will be posted at least 3 days in advance next to the reservation board. At these times, lessons will have precedence over Member play.

3. Courts 5 through 7, and Daytime Play on Court 10

3.1 These courts can not be reserved in advance. Members intending to play on a given court MUST BE PRESENT AND READY TO PLAY BEFORE the court may be reserved. If on arrival these courts are all in play, you may make a reservation for next available hour.

3.2 Play is limited to 1 hour on these courts for either singles or doubles. After initial playing time has expired, court MAY NOT be re-reserved. However, play may continue if no one is waiting, but court MUST be vacated immediately if Members arrive to play.

3.3 NO Member may sign up for one of these courts if he is presently playing on ANY court.

3.4 A reservation MUST contain the names of 2 players on a court, and show start and end times to nearest 1/4 hour.

3.5 If NO starting time is recorded, waiting Members may assume the full playing time has ENDED, and RESERVE the court for their IMMEDIATE use. Present players must then vacate promptly upon request and statement of reason.

3.6 Membership Cards of two players on a given court MUST be displayed in the appropriate place on the fence behind each court. Players unable to produce membership cards in the Goddard Tennis Club will be asked to vacate the courts.

3.7 Sign-up sheets for courts 5 through 7 and 10 are located at the gate at court 6.

3.8 Court 10 will be unreserved from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. but will become a reservation court from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. Play started on this court prior to 8 p.m. must be terminated at 8 p.m. unless (1) the court is not reserved for the 8 p.m. time period, or (2) it is reserved for the 8 p.m. time period but the reservers have not arrived to play. In the latter case, if the reservers arrive ready to play by 8:15 p.m. they may claim the court

immediately. After that time they forfeit their reservation rights. Similar rules apply to reservation periods which begin at later times, e.g., 9:30 p.m., 11 p.m., etc.

E. LADDER

1. General

1.1 The purpose of the Ladder is threefold: (a) to be a means of ranking players according to their talents, (b) to give active players a ready source of competition at their skill level, (c) to increase an individual's ability.

1.2 A member obtains a position on the ladder by fulfilling certain requirements as specified in the Goddard Tennis Club Rules.

1.3 The ladder season is from April 15 to October 31.

1.4 A player from the previous year retains his position on the ladder if he pays his membership dues and ladder fee by April 15. On April 15 players in arrears are removed from the ladder. Upon payment of all fees he is reinstated, but with the penalty of being positioned five places below his previous standing.

1.5 A new player is positioned at the bottom of the ladder.

2. Challenges

2.1 Players may challenge up to 10 positions above their own ranking. These relative positions are those at the time the challenge is made. Exceptions--(1) A player may challenge and play anyone ranked high during the period April 15 through May 15 provided the match is played within this period. (2) See E3.2 below.

2.2 A player may make only one outstanding challenge.

2.3 A player must accept a challenge and play it within 10 days, or within 10 days after the completion of a match to which he is presently committed. However, a person challenged may decline if (a) he is presently obligated to play 2 matches (1 as a challenger/1 as a challengee or 2 as a challengee), (b) he is physically unable to play tennis at all, (c) he will be away from GSFC on business or vacation for more than 5 days out of the interval of 10 days in which the match could be played.

2.4 If a challenger wins, he assumes the position of the challengee. The defeated player, and all those between the previous position of the challenger and challengee, move down one position.

2.5 The results of a match must be submitted by the winner within 24 hours of the play. The results are to be recorded on the 3x5 cards provided

at the courts, and by movement of the magnetic name plates on the ladder board if necessary. The card should be signed by both players in order to insure accuracy.

2.6 A ladder match consists of the best two out of three sets, with play governed by the USLTA tennis rules. Any of the accepted tie breaking schemes may be used, if mutually agreeable to the players.

2.7 The challenger furnishes the balls--(a) positions 1-10, new balls, (b) positions 11-30, balls which have been used in no more than 1 previous match, (c) positions 31 and below, the balls must be in good condition and acceptable to the challengee.

2.8 Any challenge match may be umpired if so requested by EITHER of the players in a ladder match. If the players cannot agree on the selection of an umpire, an umpire may be obtained by contacting the Club Vice Present, who will appoint one. The umpire has final authority on all decisions during the course of the match.

2.9 Play shall be continuous unless interrupted by rain, darkness, or the expiration of court time. If the interruption occurs before one set is completed the results are void, however, after one set of play the match is to be resumed exactly at the point of interruption. An interrupted challenge match must be completed within 10 days of the interruption or be considered void.

2.10 Ladder challenges will be played on the har-tru courts unless mutually agreeable to both players. If no reservation period is available on a har-tru court (or if asphalt has been agreed upon) within 10 days of the challenge, the challenge should be played on the first available reservation court. This does not preclude the option of playing the challenge sooner on a non-reservation court if agreeable to both players. Time of day (or night) of challenge match is set by mutual agreement.

2.11 A player forfeits a match if (a) he refuses a challenge for any reason other than those allowed by 2.3 or those stated reasons are determined to have been false, (b) he neglects to give his opponent a 60hour notice that he cannot appear for a match, (c) he is more than 15 minutes late for a match. A forfeiter is penalized five ladder positions. The imposition of this penalty is the obligation of the forfeitee, who should adjust the magnetic board and write up a ladder result card briefly describing the situation. A forfeited match is not a win for the forfeitee.

2.12 A match terminated for any unilateral reason (sickness, broken racket, etc.) is a win, by default, for the other player.

2.13 If a player loses a challenge match, he must wait 7 days before challenging the same person to another match. If a challenger loses 2 challenges in succession to the same person, he must wait 2 weeks before challenging that person. Exceptions to this rule may be made with the consent of both players.

3. Exceptions for New Players

3.1 The normal challenging interval as defined in 2.1 is counted as starting at the top of the continuous group of new players at the bottom of the ladder, all of whom still possess unrestricted challenges (a player group we call the CGNP).

3.2 A new player is allowed two unrestricted challenges. These may be used anytime, during the season in which he joins, against any player outside of the normal challenge interval, as defined in E2.1. The use of such a challenge must be noted on the ladder result card.

3.3 If a new player loses both of his unrestricted challenges while within the CGNP, he then moves to the top of the CGNP.

F. OTHER RULES

1. Only flat, rubber sole tennis shoes are permitted on the courts.
 2. All Members are expected to police the courts and surrounding areas, and to place their trash in the cans provided outside the fences.
 3. The use of loud or abusive language is forbidden.
 4. Players are to avoid hitting the nets or court surfaces with any objects other than in-play tennis balls.
 5. Spectators are invited to observe play, but they are not permitted within the court fences.
 6. Play with children must be controlled so as not to excessively disturb other players on the courts.
 7. Maintenance is solely the responsibility of the Grounds Chairman. No one else is authorized to perform maintenance tasks such as watering, rolling, etc., except under the Grounds Chairman's supervision and direction.
 8. Additional Officers are required to conduct the activities of the Club. These are Ladder Chairman, Lessons Chairman, Picnic Chairman, Tournament Chairman, and Team Captains. Individuals are appointed to these positions by the Club President. These officers are not members of the Executive Committee.
 9. The GTC participates in Interclub play with other tennis clubs in the area. ALL Members are eligible to play on these teams. Individual team captains have the authority to determine their team's membership.
 10. The GTC sponsors tournaments for its Members throughout the season. ALL members are eligible to play in these tournaments subject to rules of entry. The Tournament Chairman has the authority to determine the number and type of tournaments, and eligibility rules.
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G. RULE VIOLATIONS

1. Failure to abide by any of the Club Rules will result in immediate expulsion from the courts and a verbal warning from an officer of the Executive Committee.

A second violation of the rules will result in the issuance of a written reprimand from the Club President.

Subsequent violations of the rules will result in the suspension of playing privileges for time periods determined by the Executive Committee. The offender will be issued a written notice from the Club President stating the duration of, and the reason for the suspensions. Repeated or flagrant rules violations which occur after periods of suspension will result in expulsion from the Club for the duration of the season if so determined by the Executive Committee.

2. All Tennis Club officials will enforce proper observance of the Club Rules in the sake of fairness to all. Complaints or suggestions should be made known to the officers of the Executive Committee.