



**Lower Mainland Women's League**

## **NSWC LADIES LEAGUE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Updated March 2025 Ladies league sub-committee (LLSC) and Racquets Committee.

The Lower Mainland Women's League ("League") is a competitive league that runs annually from April to June. This document provides a framework that governs the teams representing the NSWC.

The policies and procedures hereunder must conform to the Lower Mainland Women's League Rules and Regulations.

### **DEADLINES**

#### **September 1**

Tennis Director to email all tennis members regarding League and applicable deadlines.

#### **October 1**

- Returning player rosters to be submitted by the Captains to the Tennis Director.
- Existing player requests for movement to another team must be submitted, in writing, to the Tennis Director.

#### **January 15**

- Final date for completion of all challenge matches.
- Teams are confirmed and will be posted outside ladies change room when approved.

## LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

- League play is open to any NSW player (3.0 or above) who agrees to these Policies and Procedures, including the round robin challenges and league game schedules. The Tennis Director will maintain a waitlist of eligible players who have requested to play League but are not on a team.
- League play is open to full and trial members who also pay the annual Tennis activity fee. (Exception: Women's OPEN Division)
- OPEN teams, or Division 1 teams if there is no OPEN team, may carry players who are Affiliate Members: high performance players who have or previously had an association with the NSW as a tennis pro or junior member of the NSW. To play as an Affiliate member, the player must be recommended by the Tennis Director.
- A maximum of 12 players per team and on rare occasions, at discretion of LLSC alternates may be added to a maximum of 14 players (including 2 alternates). The cap will not apply to the Day and Night Division 5 teams. The LLSC will recommend the number of players for the Day and Night Division 5 teams, which are subject to approval by the LLSC , Tennis Director / Pro.
- Teams are identified by division number (indicating level of competition) & each player is given a court placement (indicating relationship to other NSW players on that team).
- It is the objective of all NSW teams to win their division title.

## TEAM FORMATION

Teams are made up of two player categories:

a) Regular players: those who are available for participation in at least 70% of scheduled matches and who are willing to participate in round robin challenges.

b) Alternates (2 max): those who cannot fulfill the above requirements for the current season.

Note: There is no distinction made between alternates and regular team members on the League rosters; this is an internal distinction which is intended to reflect the ability of the player to commit to playing 70% or more of the league matches.

Once formed, League teams will remain intact, subject to challenges. If a League team has less than 12 players for any reason, the LLSC (in consultation with the input of the NSW Tennis Director/ Pros ) will invite players to move among teams (at the players option), with reference to the objectives stated herein.

## MOVEMENT REQUESTS

The NSW is committed to maintaining a fair and competitive environment for all players. To ensure this balance, the following Movement Policy has been approved and is to be followed by all participants in League:

Eligibility for Moves

- Lateral moves between teams within the same division will only be considered if the spot cannot be filled by an eligible player moving up from a lower division based on their win percentage. If team has reached full capacity, lateral movement (moving between teams within the same division) will not be permitted. This prevents overcrowding and helps maintain an even distribution of players across the division.
- The lateral move will only be approved if the team has space and needs a player. The priority will always be given to players who qualify for upward movement.

- No Movement to lower divisions: movement to a lower division will be denied if that division or team is already full.
- No Challenging Down: Players are not permitted to challenge for a position on a lower division team, as this could negatively affect the competitive balance of that division.
- Conditional Approval: If a player wishes to move down and their current spot on the team can be filled by an eligible player moving up, the request may be considered. This ensures upward movement is prioritized and that competitive integrity is maintained in all divisions.

### Ensuring Competitive Balance

- Maintaining Fair Play: This policy is designed to maintain fair competition and balance within each division.
- Approval Process: All movement requests are subject to approval by the LLSC Tennis Director / Pros , who will review the availability of spots in the requested division and assess the impact on competitive balance.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to ensure a fair, consistent, and competitive environment for all participants in the Ladies' League. This policy helps to protect the integrity of the league while offering reasonable solutions for players who seek to move teams or divisions.

### ELIGIBILITY TO CHALLENGE UP TO A HIGHER DIVISION

All challenges are to the higher ranked division (or A team) or challenges are from the lower ranked division (or B team). All exceptions are subject to approval of the Tennis Director / Pros and LLSC.

In the event there are two or more teams in a division, challenges are to the lower ranked (or B team). Players from the B team may challenge up to the A team.

All challenges should be completed by January 15.

The LLSC will invite players to be involved in challenges as per below eligibility:

- a) **The player must have played 70% of teams' total matches ON Court 1 and Court 2**
- b) **The player must have played minimum 30% of all teams' total matches on**

## Court 1

- c) **The player must have at least a 65% winning percentage for Court 1 and Court 2 combined.**

Note: Matches played on court 3/4 do not factor into these winning percentages.

## CHALLENGE PROCESS

The LLSC will initiate all challenges and will approach players who have met the criteria.

Process:

- The LLSC will contact the eligible players who qualify to challenge as well as the 2 -4 lowest ranked players from the team above. Those players will have played Court 3 or 4 and stats will be based on prior year performance, captains input and NSW Tennis Pro input. Single player challenge will involve the 3 lowest ranked players. If 2 players are challenging up it will involve the 2 lowest ranked players. If 3 players are eligible to challenge, an additional player will be invited to play a round robin with the other 3 to determine the top 2 who will then move into the challenge with the team above.
- All players who participate in a challenge process must accept the placement of the higher team if earned.
- If a player declines the challenge, player will be moved down and the challenger/s will move up.
- Once the date for the challenge has been agreed upon, the challenger/s and lowest ranked players from the team above will play a round robin.
- The round robin will consist of a 1 hour 15 minutes matches; one match partners with each player in the round robin (as per direction of LLSC).
- Following completion of the round robin, the player/s with the lowest number of GAMES won will move down or remain on the lower division team. The player/s with the highest number of GAMES won will move up or remain on the higher division team. Partnerships who challenge up will be required to earn their spots as individuals.

## EXAMPLE:

Match 1: player 1&2 vs. player 3&4: 6-4, 3-1

Match 2: player 1&3 vs. player 2&4: 6-1, 2- 0

Match 3: player 1&4 vs. player 2&3: 6-0, 5-0

- The player/s with the lowest number of games won will play on the lower division team.
- If there are openings on a team above, it is at the LLSC's discretion to contact the player/s on Court 1 or 2 from the team below and invite the player/s with the best stats to fill the position above.

## SPARING

Spares are to be drawn from an existing roster only and must comply with Tennis BC League Rules and Regulations. NSWC tennis members who are not currently on a roster may NOT spare for League.

Spares should be drawn from the team directly below the requesting team and should be requested in order of court i.e. Ask court 1 players first, then if they cannot, go to the court 2 players. Spares are only used when there are not enough roster players to field the team (including alternates).

## PLAYING TIME

This is a competitive league. You win and lose as a team, whether you played all the matches or none of them.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

### a) LOA- By choice

A player missing one league season by choice must initiate a challenge to determine her placement for the new league season.

The player is required to challenge into the division from which she left even if that team has been moved up or down a division or failing that, into a division below that which she left.

b) LOA – Due to illness or injury

A player missing one league season due to illness or injury has the right to reclaim their position for the following league season.

c) LOA – Exceeding one league season: player should contact the Tennis Director.

### **WAITLIST POLICY** (\*approved by Racquets committee October 16, 2024)

As per Tennis B.C. ladies' league and regulations and 2023-member survey results, NSWC will put forward the strongest, most competitive teams in all divisions, understanding that this could entail some restructuring of teams to allow for optimal player placement. The need for tryouts will be reviewed at the beginning of each season and will depend on wait list numbers and/or team competitiveness at the beginning of each season.

After each league season, processes will be put in place to assess skill level for players on the current waitlist. Round robin formats will be facilitated by a NSWC tennis professional, that will include all players on the wait list and lowest division 5 teams (days / nights). Information and outcome of the tryouts will be communicated to both teams during the round robin process.

### **LEAGUE ISSUES, APPEALS AND DISPUTES**

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Racquets Committee. All league issues will be adjudicated by a subcommittee consisting of the Tennis Director and the LLSC.