

Northern Virginia Junior CYO (NVJCYO) Tennis Rules

Revised: 9/30/2008

The NVJCYO Tennis league will operate by the following NVJCYO rules and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules pertaining to the USTA Junior Team Tennis program. Also, "The Code", as a handbook of ethics and fair play, should be understood and followed by every player, coach and commissioner. In the event of any inconsistency, the NVJCYO rules shall supersede the USTA rules.

A. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Each player must be enrolled in and regularly attending the parish school or CCD program of the participating parish prior to the end of the first month of the current school year and is properly rostered in accordance with the following divisions.
2. Each player must meet the following grade/age and ability criteria:
 - **Aces** – 1st, 2nd, 3rd grades – Beginner
 - **Wimbledon I** – 4th, 5th grades – Beginner
 - **Wimbledon II** – 4th, 5th grades – Advanced Beginner
 - **U.S. Open I** – 6th, 7th, 8th grades – Beginner
 - **U.S. Open II** – 6th, 7th, 8th grades – Advanced Beginner
 - **Federation Cup** – 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grades – Intermediate
 - **Davis Cup** – 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grades – Advanced
3. Players will be rostered on a team according to their skills and experience level. See the "Description of Competitive Divisions" chart on page 6.
4. All players will participate in the league; no child will be cut from a team.
5. Waivers to the above eligibility rules will be handled on a case-by-case basis and may be granted if approved by the Commissioner of the league. Waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the league Commissioner at least one week prior to the start of the season, using the official NVJCYO Waiver Request Form.
6. Any match that is played with an ineligible player will be forfeited by the offending team.
7. For each player, there must be submitted to the Commissioner a completed NVJCYO Permission and Release Form prior to the player's first match.
8. Each parish will pay a fee to cover court registration fees for matches, trophies and expenses for the championship tournament. Each parish will set its own fee schedule to cover its costs for practice and match balls, tee shirts and other equipment.

B. TEAM STRUCTURE

1. A Team will consist of a minimum of no less than five and a maximum of ten players headed by a Team Coach/Manager. In the advanced level Davis cup division, a minimum of four players on the roster are needed.
2. Players will be ranked on a ladder according to their ability. Matches will be played according to the ladder: #1 player on ladder plays #1 singles; #2 plays #2 singles, etc. (see "Required Match Pairings" chart on page 4). *Stacking is a forfeitable offense. Every attempt must be made to match players of like ability.*

C. MATCH FORMAT (All Competitive Divisions grades 4-8)

1. Matches will consist of enough sets – played consecutively – until everyone has played. The number of sets used for determining the outcome of the match shall be based on a five set match format (see page 4) for all divisions other than Wimbledon I. Wimbledon I matches will be based on three sets. However, the number of sets played shall be based on the number of the larger team. The additional sets played as a result of using the larger number of players shall be counted as exhibition sets. Sets will alternate between singles and doubles according to the level and number of players participating. Please see the "Required Sets" chart on page 4 for an easy to follow guide to varying team sizes and needed number of sets. All sets will be played with no-ad scoring.
2. **Wimbledon I Division will play six game pro sets DOUBLES ONLY.** A six game pro set is decided when one team wins six games - and is ahead by two games. If both teams get a 5 all score, they must play two more games to decide the winning team. The team that wins the next two games wins the match. If the set reaches a 6 all score, then a nine-point tiebreak should be played. There are no ads in this tiebreak. The team to first score five points wins tiebreaker and the set. Wimbledon I players do not have to execute a regulation serve. Wimbledon I is the only division permitted to use a "bounce and hit" serve. Players in the Wimbledon I division are allowed to serve inside the baseline, but cannot go over the service box line.
3. **Wimbledon II and U.S. Open and Fed Cup Divisions will play six game pro set both singles and doubles.** A six game pro set is decided when one team wins six games - and is ahead by two games. If both teams get a 5 all score, they must play two more games to decide the winning team. The team that wins the next two games wins the match. If the set reaches a 6 all score, then a nine-point tiebreak should be played. There are no ads in this tiebreak. The team to first score five points wins the tiebreaker and the set. Wimbledon II players are required to execute a regulation serve from outside the baseline.
4. **The Davis Cup Division will play eight game pro sets.** An eight game pro set is decided when one team wins eight games – and is ahead by two games. If both teams get a 7 all score, they must play two more games to decide the winning team. The team that wins the next two games wins the match. If the set reaches an 8 all score, then a nine-point tiebreak should be played. There are no ads in this tiebreak - rather the first team to score five wins tiebreaker and the set.
5. **Tie Breaker Rules:**
The 9-Point Tiebreaker (All Divisions)
The NVJCYO Tennis League uses the 5 out of 9 points "tiebreaker". Each server serves 2 points each and the serving order must remain in the same sequence as used throughout the match. The team to first score 5 points out of a possible 9 points wins the match. Teams should change sides after 4 points are played. In the event of a 4-all score, the last player serves the final point. The receiving team or player can decide the court side to be served. Home court rules take precedence at all times.

In doubles, the procedure for singles shall apply. The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first two points. Thereafter, each player shall serve in rotation for 2 points, in the same order as previously served in that set, until the winners of the game and set have been decided.
6. It is recommended that tennis rules be reviewed by the coaches with the players prior to the start of the match. This is especially important in the Wimbledon and U.S. Open Divisions. Each coach must bring a copy of the rules to the match.
7. Team Default Time: 20 minutes (default time) after the scheduled starting time. The non-defaulting team coach may waive a default. Recommendations are to play the match within a reasonable waiting period or reschedule the match since the purpose of the league is for the match experience.
8. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes including practice serves.
9. It is the Home Team's responsibility to control the spectators conduct during the match. No one is allowed on the court after warm-ups except for the "on-court" players, coaches, and in the case of

Wimbledon and U.S. Open Divisions, parent volunteers, if needed. Teammates and spectators *may not* offer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of a player. All players, parents, coaches and spectators must comply with the code of conduct rules as stated in the NVJCYO Rules and Regulations.

10. The home team spins the racquet to determine who serves first or who chooses sides. Standard overhead or underhand serve is used. Standard USTA tennis rules apply to all match play.
11. Upon agreement by both Coaches present at the match, a player may be removed from the match and defaulted for unsportsmanlike conduct on the court. Removal from the match will be after one warning has been issued. Any incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior must be reported to the League Commissioner. Repeated unsportsmanlike conduct will be dealt with by the League Commissioner.
12. Home Team provides tennis balls for match site, three cans per match.
13. The Home Team is responsible for checking the match site for playability in the case of inclement weather and should inform the Visiting Team Coach at least 2 hours before the scheduled match if possible. It is the responsibility of the Home Team Coach to contact the Visiting Team Coach if rescheduling is necessary.
14. Rained out matches must be made up within two weeks of the scheduled match date. Both coaches must make every reasonable effort to make up every rained out match. Rescheduled matches that cannot be played for any other reason except due to weather will be forfeited by the canceling team.
15. The length of the season, the day, time and locations of the matches will be determined by the League Commissioner. All matches must be played as scheduled by the League Commissioner.
16. Depending on the number of teams entered in each division, the League Commissioner can split the Division teams into Conferences.
17. Winning coaches must report the match results by 5:00 pm (Eastern) the day following the match (usually Mondays). A winning coach's failure to report match results by this deadline will result in a half-point score, rather than the full point victory.
18. **Coaching is encouraged as follows:**

Wimbledon & U.S. Open Divisions

May be coached and directed on rules *after* each point. Prior to serving, players should call out the scores. Players call their own lines. Repeated "bad" calls should be brought to the attention of the player and/or the coach. This may necessitate additional monitoring of the match.

For the Wimbledon I and U.S. Open I divisions, a parent monitor will be stationed at each court to assist with player positioning and to remind the server to announce the score before each point. Only the players may call the ball "in" or "out." Parents should remind players that if the player is not sure if the ball is "in" or "out," then the ball is "in." Every attempt should be made to station a parent unrelated to the players on that particular court. (For the Wimbledon II division, parent monitors may be stationed on the court, if needed.)

The Fed Cup and Davis Cup Divisions may only be coached during the odd game change over. No coaching during a tie-break, except in the case of proper tie-break procedures. ** Only a player may request a line judge. The line judge will be a coach or a non-related adult volunteer. The line judge will not call the lines, but will settle disputes between the players as they occur.

** Federation Cup coaches should discuss the tie break procedures with players tied at 6 games, so that the tie-break runs smoothly without interruptions. Davis Cup players should know how a tie breaker is played, but may also contact the coaches when the games are tied at 8 games, prior to beginning the tie breaker.

D. REQUIRED SETS AND MATCH PAIRINGS

Sets needed to be played based on the number of players of the team that has the largest number of players present at the location on the scheduled match date to ensure all players present get a chance to compete. However the following five set match format will determine the winning team.

Required Match Pairings:

S1: Your #1 vs. Their #1

S2: Your #2 vs. Their #2

S3: Your #3 vs. Their #3

D1: Your #4 & #5 vs. Their #4 & #5

D2: Your #6 & #7 vs. Their #6 & #7

If a team has less than seven players present, the lowest seeds must play D2.

If any team has more than seven players present, play according to the following:

Additional Required (Exhibition) Sets:

Team Size

Match Format

8 Players

Singles: larger team #8 vs. lowest seed on smaller team.

9 Players

Doubles: D3 match larger team's #8 & #9 vs. vs. lowest seed on smaller team.

10 Players

1 Singles match (#8 vs. #8) **AND** 1 Doubles match (#9 & #10 vs. the lowest seeds on smaller team.)

All matches consist of enough pro sets, with no-ad scoring – played consecutively until everyone has played. The number of pro sets played depends on the size of the larger team. *Stacking is a forfeitable offense. Every attempt must be made to match players of like ability. This generally means that the #1 and #2 players (as seeded on that match roster) may not play a second match, as they would be playing a match against a player much lower on the ladder. The coach of the smaller team must make sure the players of like ability remain at the match site to play additional match (es) to play the lower placed players of the larger team.*

E. SCORE KEEPING/TEAM RECORDS

1. The official NVJCYO Tennis Score Sheet Form should always be used to keep track of the match scores. A copy will be available for Download at the CYO Tennis Website: www.nvjcyo.org (select "Sports and Commissioners", then click on "tennis").
2. Scoring: The game scoring is love- 15 - 30 - 40 - game. This is no-ad scoring. No-ad scoring means that when the score is tied at 40 all (deuce) the next point wins the game (you do not have to win by two points). The receiver(s) may select in which court to receive the final serve following deuce. Players shall call their own lines and maintain the score. Coaches should only be called in to settle a dispute if the players cannot do so themselves. In case of a scoring discrepancy - a general rule is to go back to a score that all players involved agree upon.
3. Both coaches are responsible for reporting the score. Score sheets must be signed by both coaches and turned in to the school coordinator and to the division score coordinator, as assigned by the League Commissioner (see C.17) . Scores from the division score coordinators must be sent by email to the CYO Tennis League Commissioner within two (2) days after the completion of the match using the reporting format specified in the league score sheet form.
4. The CYO tiebreak is a modified version. If a pro set is tied at 6 all (novice/intermediate. divisions) or 8 all (advanced divisions) then a nine-point tiebreak must be played. There are no ads in this modified version – therefore the team to first score 5 points first wins the set. (See section C, item 5, for tiebreaker details.)

5. If a team forfeits – having less than four players or is a no show – (unless previously rescheduled) the match will be reported as a 5 sets to 0 win with each set recorded as having won 30 games or 40 games to 0 win (depending on the division prosets). Wimbledon I level forfeits are reported 3 sets to 0 win with 18 games to 0 attributed to the non-forfeiting team.
6. As stated in the guidelines, team records are based on team match scores. For example, if St. John's wins 2 singles and 1 doubles (pro sets) and St. Mary's wins 1 singles and 1 doubles (pro sets) – St. John's is the winner by 3 to 2. St. John's record would improve by one and St. Mary's would incur one loss.
7. At the end of the league season, the following teams in each Division will play in the Division Finals matches to be scheduled by the League Commissioner.
 - 7.1. If the Division was split into two (2) Conferences, the top team in each Conference will qualify to play in the Division Finals.
 - 7.2. For Divisions that were not split into Conferences, the top two teams in each division qualify for the championship tournament.
 - 7.3. Conference or Division winners are determined by the team records (number of team matches won) to qualify to play in the Championship Tournament.
 - 7.4. In case of tied team records, the average games won for each set played will be used to break the tie. For example, in a single Conference Division, if St. Ann's record is 5-1 with 187 games won in 35 sets played; St. Luke's is also 5-1 with 166 games won in 33 sets played and Blessed Sacrament is also 5-1 with 180 games won in 38 sets played. The two teams who will play in the finals will be St. Ann's and St. Luke's. St. Ann's average games won per set played (Total Games won divided by Total Sets Played) is 5.34 and St. Luke's was 5.03. Blessed Sacrament's Average Games per set played was only 4.74. This same formula will be applied to determine the top team in a Conference that will play in Division Championships.
8. CYO Tennis official score sheets are available for the Wimbledon I division (double matches only) and for the higher divisions (singles and doubles). PDF versions are available for downloaded from the CYO Tennis Website: www.nvjcyo.org (click on "sports and commissioners", select "tennis")

F. MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

1. Coordinators must distribute the current CYO tennis rules (*available on the CYO Website: www.cyotennis.com*) to all coaches, players and parents. These rules must be reviewed by the coaches with the players prior to match play.
2. Coaches should bring a copy of the players' medical forms to the matches and practice.
3. Coaches should bring a first aid kit and water to matches and practice.
4. Both Coaches should watch each of the matches to see how the players match up. Are they having good rallies? Are they competitively matched? Sometimes the game scores alone don't reflect this. This will help with the seeding for the next round of matches, especially when one team has a very large team and the other has a small team who will need to play more than one match. The goal is to match the pairings for a most competitive match for the players. No one wants a "blow-out."

CYO TENNIS DESCRIPTION OF COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS
--

SKILL LEVEL	DESCRIPTION OF SKILLS REQUIRED	DIVISION NAME	GRADES ***
Beginner	No previous experience required. May have played on a CYO Tennis team last fall but has not played much tennis over the summer.	Wimbledon I	4 & 5
		U.S. Open I	6,7,8
Advanced Beginner	Played on Wimbledon I or U.S. Open I team last year or, played on a summer tennis team or was enrolled in a year round program. Can serve from the baseline and keep score. Player is comfortable with singles and doubles play and can maintain a fairly consistent rally.	Wimbledon II	4 & 5
		U.S. Open II	6,7,8
Intermediate	Played on a Wimbledon II or U.S. Open II team last year and played on a summer tennis team or was enrolled in a year round program. Player is capable of maintaining consistent rallies and serves consistently.	Federation Cup	6,7,8
Advanced	Player is capable of maintaining consistent rallies and serves consistently. Player is familiar with USTA rules and knows how to play a tie-break. Player may have a formal rating and may participate in sanctioned matches and tournaments.	Davis Cup	6,7,8

*** Players from lower grades may play in “higher” divisions if their skill level matches.

CYO TENNIS DEVELOPMENTAL DIVISION

- **Grades 1-3** Players will participate in a non-competitive program to develop basic tennis skills and will feed into the higher grade and ability levels. Players from **Grades 2 & 3** may participate in “Rally Ball” tournaments to provide some opportunities to play against other schools. Players from these younger grades may be rostered to competitive teams, if their skill level matches.

**For updated rules, forms, schedules and results,
please see: www.nvjcyo.org (select ‘sports & commissioners’, then ‘tennis’)**