

TCA Friendship Ladder Rules 2023/2024

TCA's Tennis Ladder is designed to create good competition, and a high level of fun, while increasing our member's skills and allowing them to meet other members.

Each challenge period will be given an odd or even designation, with **the first being even**, the next odd, and so forth (**odd or even will be designated at the top of the ladder, both in the club house and on the web.**) During each challenge period, the players on the designated rungs will be allowed to challenge the person in the rung above them. If the challenger wins, then the players will switch places (i.e. if you are on an "even" rung, and you challenge an "odd" rung and win, then you move up. The next week you will be able to challenge again since you are now an "odd" rung. If you lose, the positions stay the same and you wait to be challenged next week.) The ladder will begin **Monday, October 30th, 2023** and end **Sunday, February 04th, 2024.** **The Tournament is TBA.**

Please remember that signing up for the ladder is a **responsibility**, and in order to make the ladder effective, movement is essential. Players must be willing to make those **obligations**.

Ladder Rules

1. You may only challenge the person **directly above you**, except during the 3-up challenge weeks (**see rule 17**)
2. Either as a challenger or challenged, you should play **one** match a week.
3. The challenge will be one (1) week long (Monday through Sunday).

Exception: Nov. 20 - Dec. 03 is treated as one week as well as Dec. 18 - Dec. 31 due to the holidays.

4. The challenger arranges the match, and must give the challenged a minimum of two (2) alternative times; one (1) of these **must** be on the weekend; the other on a weekday. Please be cooperative when arranging matches.
5. If the challenged is unable to play the match, a **default** should be recorded, and the positions exchanged. In order for the ladder to be effective and fair, players need to take the legitimate defaults and keep moving.
6. Both the challenger and the challenged bring a **new** can of balls to the match. You play with one can, the winner takes the unopened can and the loser takes the can used in the match.
7. Each match will be best 2 of 3 sets with regular scoring, and a twelve (12) point tie breaker at six (6) all in any set. If a 3rd set is required it will be played as a Traditional ten point tiebreaker (NOT the KOMAN Rotation).
8. If the challenger wins, positions are exchanged, if not, positions remain the same.
9. The **winner** is responsible for recording the outcome of the match in the challenge record book, located at the front desk.
10. All challengers **must** contact their opponent by **Wednesday** of the challenge week. Challenged must have a minimum of two (2) days advance notice to schedule the match. If challenged after Wednesday, the challenged is under no obligation to play the match, but is **encouraged** to do so.
11. The ladder will be changed by Noon Monday of the next week, according to the challenge record book. If it is not in the challenge record book, your match will not be recorded. Defaults are important in facilitating movement in the ladder.

12. Once on a division, you must remain there until you can challenge onto the bottom of the higher division, or be dropped to the top of the lower division.
13. Should a ladder position be vacated, a person on the waiting list, or a bye, will be added to the vacated slot.
14. If either player fails to arrive within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time, the challenge is either dropped or defaulted, depending on which player is late. If a match is defaulted, it should be recorded as such.
15. If you join late, you can join at the bottom of division three (3) Women or four (4) Men, or go on a waiting list for the first open slot on division one or two or three.
16. There will be no "no default weeks". Instead, the two (2) weeks of November 20 and November 27, and December 18 and December 25 will be treated as one (1) week for the holidays.
17. **3-up challenge.** In order to mix up the ladder (a little more movement) we will have "3-up" challenges as follows:

Week 3: 3-up Even

Week 4: 3-up Odd

Week 7: 3-up Even

Week 8: 3-up Odd

The first 3-up challenge will be Week 3; Nov 13 - Nov 19. An Even week, the #10 will challenge #13, #12 will challenge #9, etc. Due to the nature of the 3-up challenge, (depending on odd/even week) players at the top or bottom of the ladder may be without a challenge. In that case, you're welcome to make a "friendly challenge" to another player without a match. If you have a "bye" you can challenge one of the pros!

Thanks and have fun!

If you have any questions please call Liz or Monica at 262-1691

Week 1: Oct 30 - Nov 05 = EVEN
Week 2: Nov 06 - Nov 12 = ODD
Week 3: Nov 13 - Nov 19 = 3-Up EVEN
Week 4: Nov 20 - Dec 03 = 3-Up ODD
Week 5: Dec 04 - Dec 10 = EVEN
Week 6: Dec 11 - Dec 17 = ODD
Week 7: Dec 18 - Dec 31 = 3-Up EVEN
Week 8: Jan 01 - Jan 07 = 3-Up ODD
Week 9: Jan 08 - Jan 14 = EVEN
Week 10: Jan 15 - Jan 21 = ODD
Week 11: Jan 22 - Jan 28 = 3-Up EVEN
Week 12: Jan 29 - Feb 04 = 3-Up ODD

The Tournament Weekend is TBA