

OFFICIAL RULES
BALTIMORE MEN'S PLATFORM TENNIS LEAGUE
Divisions 1-3 2017-2018
(edited 12-14-17)

1. Each match will consist of four doubles teams. One point will be scored for each doubles match won. The team on court #1 should be better than the team on court #2 while the team on court #2 should be better than the team on court #3, etc. (no stacking please).
2. **Making the playoffs: At the end of the regular season, the top 8 teams in Division 1, the top 8 teams in Division 2 and the top 4 teams in Division 3 based on winning percentage will engage in a playoff to decide the League Champion.** If two teams have identical records at the end of the regular season, the first tiebreaker will be head to head match results, then head to head sets. If there is still a tie between two teams for making the playoffs, a one-night playoff will ensue. If three or more teams are tied after total matches (or if two teams who are both in the playoffs are tied for a seeding position), then head to head matches, head to head sets, then season long sets percentage will be used.
3. **Tiebreaker for individual matches during the playoffs:** If a playoff match ends tied after 4 matches have been played, total sets won will decide the winner. If still tied, a one set playoff will be played. The team used for this one set playoff will be chosen by the captain but may have only one player from court 1 on the team.
4. In the playoffs, the teams will be seeded in the traditional manner with the lowest seeded team playing the highest seeded team (8 v 1, 5 v 4, 6 v 3, 7 v 2 OR 4 v 1, 3 v 2). The winner of the 8v1 match plays the winner of the 5v4 match while the winner of the 6v3 match plays the winner of the 7v2 match (no reseeding). Unless court conflicts prevent it, all playoff matches in all divisions are to be played at the home club of the higher seeded team, except for the D1 and D2 finals which are played at L'Hirondelle.
5. To be eligible to play in the D1 and D3 playoffs, a person must have physically played in at least three (3) regular season league matches. To be eligible to play in the D2 playoffs, a person must have physically played in at least five (5) regular season league matches.
6. All matches are to be played on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30 PM for Divisions 1 and 3. Division 2 matches will be played at 6:30pm on Tuesday evenings. The default time is 6:45 PM. Please make every effort to field a full team and urge all players to be prompt. Players who are unexpectedly late for a match should call the club as early as possible to let the opposing captain know whether they are coming or not. An excessive number of defaults will be cause for the Commissioner to take action.
7. Home team supplies the balls, beer and other drinks (water, gatorade, etc.).
8. Individual matches will be best 2 out of 3 sets (first to 6 in each set) with a 12-point tie-breaker to be used in all sets of all matches.
9. If an individual match is halted because of weather, it is to start again at the point where it stopped, unless all participants agree to replay the entire match.
10. Division 1 teams may use one non-member club pro or their assistant. Pros are ineligible in Division 2 and 3. The playing position of the pro (if used) will be determined by the team captain but shall be no lower than position 2. A pro should not be used if other club members can fill out a complete team. No player can play for more than one team in a Division.
11. Each team captain is responsible for posting the scores on the website within 48 hours. Please make sure the scores and names are accurate. Because the number of sets is an official tiebreaker, keeping track of individual match scores is critical.
12. Captains of opposing teams should exchange line-ups simultaneously before the start of the first match. Playoff lineups must be submitted to the division commissioner at least 24 hours before the scheduled playoff match.

13. Players should refrain from wearing solid yellow shirts which are the same color as the ball. Any player who does so must change shirts at the request of his opponent.
14. **Postponing matches:** In Division 1 only, a total of three matches may be postponed but only at the #1 and #2 position. The request must be made at least 48 hrs in advance. The team receiving the request has the right to decline to reschedule. #3 and #4 matches may not be postponed. Postponed matches which were originally scheduled before the Christmas break must be made up no later than December 31st. Postponed matches which were originally scheduled after January 1st must be made up no later than two weeks prior to the end of the regular season. No postponements are allowed in the final two weeks of the regular season or the playoffs. A request to play a match early (“preponement”) is considered identical to a request to play a match late (“postponement”) and counts toward the three allowed postponements.
15. **Restrictions on Interdivisional play.** Players ranked in the top 5 on their roster are ineligible to play in a lower division (if they do, they forfeit the point for the match). Players 6 through 8 may play down but only on court 1 or 2.
16. **Post-Season Realignment** – At the end of the season, a captains’ meeting will be held to consider reassigning teams to different divisions based on performance. Clubs will also be given the opportunity to add or withdraw teams from the league if necessary to meet the needs of their membership. The league may also decide to change the number of divisions and/or the number of teams per division. The goal of realignment is to put teams of roughly equal strength in divisions together to encourage competitive matches.

Saturday Morning League Rules

1. 4 teams per squad
2. 2 out of 3 sets, regular scoring
3. Each match worth 1 point
4. #1 team should be better than #2 team; #2 team should be better than #3 team, etc - no stacking
5. Home team provides balls, gatorade and water if possible
6. If the weather looks bad, contact the other captain to determine whether to play
7. No more than two players who play at either #1 or #2 in the Tuesday Division 2 league are allowed.
8. Playoff tiebreaker is sets; if tied after sets, then each team sends out one player from #1 and one player from any other position to play a one set playoff.
9. Start times – At L’Hirondelle - all 4 matches start at 10:00am; At Pine Valley and Roland Run, the #3 and 4 matches start at 9:15 and the #1 and 2 matches start at 10:30.