

2016-17 Cincinnati Pro League Rules

I. League Teams

- a. The league will consist of four teams of seven or eight players per team. Any player not drafted will receive a full refund and be added to the Free Agent list.
- b. Each team will be managed by a team captain.
- c. Captains' Responsibilities
 - i. The captain will be responsible for being present at the league draft and drafting of his team.
 - ii. The captain shall be responsible for scheduling his team and ensuring a full lineup for each week of play.
 - iii. The team captain shall be responsible for setting his team's lineup in accordance with the league rules.
- d. The team captains, along with the 'rules official' (cannot be a captain) shall comprise the 'board' of the league. Each captain shall have one vote that is equal to the vote of the other captains. The board shall vote on all matters pertaining to the league. Matters which may be voted upon include, but are not limited to, rule changes; lineup or match disputes; addition or deletion of players from a team.
- e. In the event of a dispute or issue requiring a vote of the team captains, the team captains shall make every attempt to meet in person and discuss the issue before voting. If a meeting is not possible, then a discussion and vote through email or phone contact is acceptable. In the event any vote results in a tie, then team captains will contact a 'rules official' to break that tie.

II. Format

- a. Matches will consist of two courts of doubles and one court of singles.
 - i. Matches will consist of two tie-break sets using ad scoring and a 12 point tie-break played at 6 games all. If a court splits sets, the third set will consist of a 'super tie-break' (first team to ten points, win by two).
 - ii. A super tie-break will count for one set in the standings.
- b. Penalties for Tardiness
 - i. 0-9 minutes = loss of toss
 - ii. 10-19 minutes = loss of toss + one game
 - iii. 20 minutes + = DEFAULT and will be recorded as 6-0,6-0
- c. Defaults
 - i. If a team captain has four or fewer players (including free agents) who are available to play in the next match, that team captain must inform the opposing team captain by noon on Thursday (the day before the match). Subject to section (c)(ii) below, a team fielding only four players shall default the singles court. A team fielding three players shall default the second doubles court. A team fielding two players shall default the singles and second doubles courts. Defaulted courts will be recorded as 6-0, 6-0.
 - ii. No captain shall accept a default if his team is also short a player for the match in question. In the event that both teams can field only four players, the teams shall play two singles and one doubles match. Such a match shall consist of a first singles, second singles (each team's first singles player must be stronger than the second singles player), and first doubles. The singles scoring handicap system shall apply to both singles matches.
- d. Team lineups must be prepared in writing and presented to the opposing team captain (or designated captain) five minutes before the scheduled match time
- e. Match scores should be recorded and given to the 'Official Scorekeeper' on the night of the match or emailed/texted to the scorekeeper as soon as possible after the match.

III. Draft

- a. The draft shall be held at a place and time that is convenient to all team captains.
- b. Only the team captains are to be present at the draft.
- c. Any discussions about players in the 'draft pool' during the draft shall not be repeated outside of the draft. In essence, "what happens at the draft, stays at the draft."
- d. The draft pool shall consist of the players that have paid the full league fee in advance of the draft. Those players that are not drafted shall have their league fee refunded.
- e. Draft order will be determined by random draw of the captains.
- f. The draft will be a 'snake' format. Whoever drafts first in the first round will then draft last in the second round, first again in the third round and so on.

IV. Team Lineups

- a. Each team's roster will consist of the players chosen in the draft.
 - i. The draft will determine the players on a team, but not their rankings on the team.
 - ii. At the end of the draft, each captain will provide a preliminary ranking for the players on his team by giving a numeric rating (1-8, with 1 being the strongest) for doubles and singles. The final rankings for each team shall be set by vote of the other three captains.
- b. The lineup each week will be set as follows:
 - i. Doubles: Any player may play doubles. In setting the doubles lineup, the sum of the doubles rankings of each team's players playing on value of court 1 **must be equal to or lower** than the sum of the doubles rankings of that team's court 2 players.
 - ii. Singles: Any player may play singles. The difference between the singles rankings of opposing players shall act as a handicap. The player with the lower singles rank (*i.e.*, the higher number) will be awarded free points in the amount of the difference between ranks. (*E.g.*, In a match between Team A's #2 ranked singles player and Team B's #5 ranked singles player, Team B's player would receive 3 free points.) Free points may be used at any point **during the first 2 sets but may not be used in a third set/super-tiebreak**. A player wishing to use a free point shall inform his opponent that he is using a point prior to the playing of that point. When a free point is used, the players shall treat that point as having been played for purposes of switching between the deuce and ad sides of the court.
- c. If the sum of the rankings of the first doubles team is higher than the sum of the rankings of the second doubles team, and this mistake is corrected before the match starts, then there will be no penalty.
 - i. However if the above scenario presents itself and the match begins then the court in question can be recorded as a 6-0,6-0 loss by the violating team in question.

V. Playoffs

- a. The playoffs will consist of the top three teams based upon overall record. The team with the best record will be the #1 seed and receive a bye in the semi-finals. The team with the second best record will receive the #2 seed and play the third place team in the semi-finals.
- b. In the case of a tie in overall record for any seeding position then the tie will be broken as follows:
 - i. Number of total matches won
 - ii. Number of total sets won
 - iii. Number of total games won
 - iv. Head to head record
- c. If two or more teams are tied in overall record for any one seeding position then the tie will be broken as listed above until one team receives the seeding position. Once the tie is broken, if there are still remaining ties for another seeding position, then the tie-breaker system will start over with head to head record between the remaining teams tied and so on.

VI. Disputes and/or Objections

- a. Any disputes or objections shall be raised by a team captain to the other captains and a meeting shall take place to discuss the issue. The captains shall discuss the issue and vote on a resolution to the problem.
- b. The four team captains may resolve the problem in any way they deem appropriate. In the event of a tie, the 'rules official' will break the tie.

VII. Free Agents

- a. The captains shall be responsible for creating a list of "free agents." "Free agents" may include players who applied for the draft but were not drafted and other players who express interest in being designated as "free agents." Free agents shall provide their phone number and email address for the free agent list.
- b. Use of free agents in individual matches:
 - i. When a captain cannot field a full team of five players for a regular season match, that captain shall inform the opposing captain that he is seeking a free agent. The captain seeking a free agent shall send an email or text to the entire free agent list and shall copy the opposing captain. The email shall specify the deadline (Thursday at noon) to respond, request responders to "reply all" and inform recipients that players will be selected in order of response.
 - ii. The first free agent to respond that he is available will be selected (if two free agents are needed, then then the first two responders will be selected). The two captains will confer to assign the sub a singles and doubles ranking to be used for the upcoming match based on where the free agent would be ranked if he were a member of the team for which he is subbing. If the two captains cannot agree on a ranking, they shall submit the dispute to the Board, and the Board will resolve the dispute prior to the match.
 - iii. Free agents selected to play in an individual match shall pay \$30, which will be added to the pool of prize money.
 - iv. No team may use more than two free agents in any regular season match. No team may use a free agent in the playoffs.
- c. Use of free agents as mid-season replacement:
 - i. If a player leaves a team during the season, that team's captain may seek to add a mid-season replacement to the roster.
 - ii. A captain seeking a mid-season replacement shall inform the other captains he is seeking a mid-season replacement by copying them on an email sent to the entire free agent list requesting responses by a specified deadline.
 - iii. The other three captains will review the free agents who have expressed an interest in becoming a mid-season replacement and will select the player who is closest in ability to the departing player. This determination shall be made by a vote of the three other captains. In the interest of competitive balance, if the other three captains unanimously determine that the eligible free agents are unsuitable because they are significantly stronger than the departing player, then no free agent will be selected as a mid-season replacement. The team in question may still make use of the individual match free agent procedure where appropriate.
 - iv. If a free agent is selected as a mid-season replacement, the other three captains shall assign the mid-season replacement a singles and doubles ranking and may re-order the rankings of other players on the team as appropriate in their discretion. Upon payment of a

pro-rated entry fee, the mid-season replacement shall become a full-fledged member of his team and shall be eligible to play in the playoffs and to receive a pro-rated amount of prize money.

v. Departing players who are replaced by a mid-season replacement will receive a pro-rated refund of their entry fee and will remain eligible for a pro-rated amount of prize money.

IX. Working Rules

a. The rules set forth above are a 'working' set of rules. They are subject to change, additions, or deletions by the team captains.

Team Captains:

- Matt Poulos
- Mike Hon
- Pat Hagan
- Darrin Heinz

Official Scorekeeper: Mike Lint

Rules Official: Bill Lofgren or Steve Contardi. In the event a "rules official" is needed, the captains will contact both Bill Lofgren and Steve Contardi, and the first person who indicates an ability to assist with the dispute shall become the "rules official" for the purpose of resolving that dispute.

Approved by a vote of the Team Captains on 12/14/16.