



BAYSTATE TENNIS CONFERENCE

2025-2026 TEAM MATCH RULES

The rules below highlighted in **RED** have been modified or added this year

ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Players/Substitutes must be members of the Club they represent.
- B. Players/Substitutes may only represent one Club in the League.
- C. Players may not play as regular members for more than one team.
- D. Players must be 18 before play of the first match.
- E. Teams must be aligned according to strength. Previous performance record will be used to determine accuracy of alignment after two full rotations of play. Position #1 in the Championship Division is open and all other positions are required to be 4.5 USTA or below and also aligned according to strength.
 - 1. A violation of the above Alignment Rule will result in the loss of a point for the position that was mis-aligned and all positions below. Example: #2 position was mis-aligned will result in the loss of 2 points. One for position #2 and one for position #3.
- F. Team rosters should be submitted on the website by September 9th. Dues should be mailed to the coordinator by October 1st (one check per team) **\$30.00 per player**
- G. A Team must consist of a minimum of 6 rostered players.
- H. A rostered player must move up a division after subbing in five (5) matches in that higher division or subbing five (5) times at multiple higher divisions.
- I. That player will be placed on the team at the next higher division.

FORMAT:

2 hour matches \$26.00 per player

Host team provides new balls

2 hours

2 out of 3 sets

15 minute warm up, including serves – Home team players are to enforce

Switch on odd games

12 pt tiebreak at 6All

Play out the deuce point

All teams will finish the game in progress at the buzzer. Contact with the ball must be made prior to the sound of the buzzer in order for the game to begin.

If a team is ahead by at least 2 games, they win that set

If the match is incomplete, the point is split

1 ½ hour matches \$26.00 per player

Host team provides new balls

1 ½ Hours

2 out of 3 sets

10 minute warm up, including serves – Home team players are to enforce

Switch on odd games

5 PT Tiebreak at 6-All

No ad scoring, receiver's choice.

All teams will finish the game in progress at the buzzer.

Contact with the ball must be made prior to the sound of the buzzer in order for the game to begin.

If a team is ahead by at least 2 games, they win that set.

If the match is incomplete or you split sets, count the TOTAL games played to determine the winner.

If the games are tied, the point is split. If a team loses by 1 game, that team would receive 0.5 and the winning team 1 pt.

If a player must stop play because of an injury, a one-time ten- (10) minute time-out may be taken. An injury time-out or bathroom break cannot be used in the last 15 minutes of the match. If any injury occurs in the last 15 minutes of the match the injured player must continue or retire.

- A. Reason for default/retirement must appear on score sheet.
- B. "No school announcements or late openings in either host or visiting Town will automatically cancel a match **with the exception of 11:30am matches, when this is a delayed opening.** Please adhere to no school announcements for Duxbury for Kingsbury matches. Matches may only be canceled due to inclement weather. Canceling team must notify opponents Captain/Club by 8:00am of match day.
- C. The Chairman will call each Club's Management for a decision regarding inclement weather (if there is school) and inform all Clubs by 8:00 am of match day.

- D. MITA does reserve the right to extend the season in the event of excessive cancelled matches...OR utilize vacation break dates.
- E. Babysitting is only available at SSY & Kingsbury Club
- F. Cell phones and Bluetooth watches MUST be turned off during match play; a delay in match could result in default.
- G. No more than **20 seconds may be taken by players, between serves and points, 90 seconds on changeovers and 120 seconds between sets, water breaks are allowed on changeovers only.**
- H. One quick bathroom break may be taken per match
- I. All Clubs must have a buzzer or bell system, in place for all matches.
- J. The match officially starts at the beginning of warm-ups.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

The MITA Board has the right to suspend or remove a player from a roster if she violates the Code of Contact (please see under Downloads)

SCORING:

- A. The Team Captain may make a copy of the scorecard which can be downloaded from the website. The sheet is to be used to record the information that must be entered into the website after the match and must be signed by both captains and retained by the Home Team Captain for confirmation.
- B. **The Home Team Captain is responsible for entering the information into the website. Deadline for website reporting for Wednesday match is Friday @ 11:00am and Saturday @ 11:00am for Thursday & Friday matches.**
- C. It is the responsibility of both Captains to keep their rosters up to date with regular members and substitutes. **Substitutes must be entered onto the website by the end of the match day, so that scores can be accurately recorded.**
- D. It is the responsibility of the Visiting Team Captain to check the website for clarification and to notify the Chairman immediately, should a discrepancy be determined.
- E. Scorecards are to be left at the front desk in plain view, prior to play.
- F. If a match cannot be made up due to a snow day, an average will be taken from previous head to head matches. If there are more than two snow days to be made up, the first score will be round up and the second score will be round down

* If teams are tied at the conclusion of the season, the tie will be broken in the following manner:

1. Head to head.
2. Number of sets won.
3. Number of games won

****Make up dates have been scheduled for March 19th & 20th for the following divisions****
Champs, Aces & Division 4

DEFAULTS:

- A. The Host Club must default if courts are not available at the scheduled times.
- B. Teams must play at assigned Club or default.
- C. **For 2 hr matches, a player/team arriving 15 minutes late, forfeits warm up time and a player/team arriving 20 minutes late is defaulted. For 1 ½ hour matches, a player/team arriving 10 minutes late, forfeits warm up time.**
- D. **A player/team arriving more than 15 minutes late is defaulted. The player MUST be on court and ready to play in order to avoid being defaulted.**
- E. **If a full position must default, prior to a match, positions 1 and 2 will be played. If an individual player is defaulting, her assigned position must default.**
- F. Verbal and Non-verbal communication between players and coaches during a match is prohibited.
- G. The Host Club will charge Court fees for an idle court caused by default.
- H. The team that did not default is awarded the match point.
- I. When a team is being defaulted for being **fifteen (15) minutes** late for the 1 ½ hour match and when a team is being defaulted for being **twenty minutes late**, for a 2 hour match, the other team will be required to stay at Club until ten (10) minutes past the scheduled hour and be available for play of the remaining match time. All teams will be responsible to pay for the court. After ten (10) minutes, the team may leave and the late team will be required to pay for the entire court.

SUBSTITUTES:

- A. Substitutes must adhere to all Rules.
(Must be member of Club they are substituting for)
- B. Use of the Substitute must be noted on the score sheet **(S)**.
- C. It is the responsibility of the team captain to ascertain whether the substitute has played in MITA before. If it is the third time, the **\$30.00** dues must accompany the score sheet until **1/3/26** and **\$20.00** thereafter.
- D. The substitute will be rostered in the division and on the team on which they played their third (3rd) match. At that time, they will no longer be a substitute, but will become a rostered player of that team and will be subject to the rules of rostered players. If a substitute is permanently replacing a team member, it must be noted on the score sheet and she is now a regular team member.
- E. A regular team member listed on the team roster is not permitted to substitute for another Team in the same Division.
- F. **New substitutes may not be introduced INTO BTC after February 6, 2026.**
- G. **Clarification of Substitutes:**
Substitute: One who has played 2 times and has not paid dues
- H. No more than three (3) substitutes per team, per match, may be utilized.
- I. In the case of two (2) teams in the same Division, a substitute may alternate between the two teams until they play the third (3rd) time on one of the teams. At this time, they then become a rostered member of that team and may NOT substitute on the other team.

GRIEVANCES:

- A. The team captain, team coach, and teams administrators should discuss any grievance before it is submitted. It should be the goal of the coaches and administrators to find a resolution to any issue, with a grievance being the last resort.
- B. Grievances must be submitted by phone to the Grievance Chairman Billy Horne (781)545-1184 **within forty-eight hours** or via email: bill@srfclub.com. The grievance "Formal Protest" form (available on the MITA website) should be completed and emailed to The Grievance Chairman by the League Representative for that club. The Chairman will then forward a copy to all of the other league representatives.
- C. The Grievance Committee will be composed of the team representatives who are not involved with the protest. The Grievance Chairman will notify them and forward the grievance to them for a resolution. If the Chairman's club is involved in the grievance, he/she will recuses themselves and appoint a representative to chair the committee and bring the process to a resolution.

The Grievance will be handled in the following manner:

1. The Chairman will select the Committee.
2. A copy of the Grievance will be sent to the committee and the League Representative of the protested team.
3. The protested team will have an opportunity to defend the protest to the committee but must respond within two (2) days of notification.
4. The Grievance committee will collectively discuss and then vote on a resolution to the grievance.
5. All correspondence must be by email. All correspondence will be forwarded to all of the league representatives.
6. The committee will advise all concerned parties of the protest resolution.
7. The committee has five (5) days to respond to the protest.
8. The decision is final.

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Thank you and have a great season !!

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