

# **COLUMBIA TENNIS COMMITTEE TOURNAMENT RULES**

(Revised 1/17/01)

**These tournament rules were developed by the Columbia Tennis Committee (CTC) to:**

- A. Promote enjoyable and equitable tennis play.
- B. Govern all tournaments sponsored by the Columbia Tennis Committee
- C. Be compatible with the policies and rules of the Columbia Association (CA) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

## **THE RULES**

The USTA Code and Rules of Tennis will apply in all CTC tournaments unless a local rule applies.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR CTC TOURNAMENTS.**

- A. Open to all tennis players except for the Club Championship Tournament. Only CA members who purchase any plan that includes tennis can participate in the Club Championship.
- B. National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) or Club-Rating.
  - 1. Players must have a current NTRP or Club-rating. (See C below)
  - 2. Players must play at or above their rating.
  - 3. Juniors must be rated or re-rated each tennis season within two months prior to their first CTC Tournament and within one month prior to the Club Championship Tournament.
- C. Club Rating. A player without an NTRP Rating must obtain a Club Rating from an authorized Tennis Professional at one of the CA Tennis Clubs.
- D. CTC has the option (in consensus with CA) to waive the above requirements for special events.

### **CATEGORIES OF PLAY**

- A. Singles: Players will play at their NTRP/CTC level or higher.
- B. Doubles: Players will play at their NTRP/CTC level of the higher rated player or higher.
- C. Masters: Players who are age 50 or older during the calendar year.
- D. Junior Veterans: Players who are age 40 and older during the calendar year.
- E. Juniors: Players who are age 18 or under.

### **LIMITS ON ENTRIES**

Maximum of two events per tournament week. Specific tournaments may have other restrictions defined in the application.

### **TOURNAMENT FEES**

Fees will be specified in the tournament application.

### **TOURNAMENT DRAW/SCHEDULE**

The tournament application will specify the date and location of the posting of the tournament draw.

### **RAIN POLICY**

- A. Players must be prepared to play at the posted time and place unless the match has been postponed by the Tournament Director.
- B. Players are responsible for calling the host tennis club and/or Tournament Director.

### **PARTNER SUBSTITUTION**

With permission of the Tournament Director, a qualified player may substitute on a doubles team prior to the team's first match if the substitute has not entered the same category of the tournament.

### **BALLS**

- A. Both players/teams will bring a new, unopened can of yellow USTA approved tennis balls to the match.
- B. A new can of balls may be opened at the start of the third set if both players/teams agree. If a second can is opened, the winner takes the balls of his choice.
- C. The CTC will provide balls for a tournament's finals. A new can will be provided at the start of the third set at the request of either player/team

### **DEFAULT TIME**

- A. When the Tournament Director calls the match, the USTA penalty point system will be enforced.
  - 1. Up to 5 minutes late = loss of toss and 1 game.
  - 2. 5.01 to 10 minutes late = loss of toss and 2 games.
  - 3. 10.01 to 15 minutes late = loss of toss and 3 games.
  - 4. 15.01 minutes late = default.
- B. After an intermission (see rest breaks, A below):
  - 1. Up to 5 minutes late = loss of 1 game
  - 2. Over 5 minutes late = default.

### **WARM-UP TIME**

10 Minutes

### **REST BREAKS**

- A. Between the second and third sets, players may take a ten minute intermission at the request of either player/team.
- B. Between matches:
  - 1. Unless otherwise authorized, a maximum of a 30 minute break is permitted between matches.
  - 2. Additional time may be authorized by the Tournament Director.

### **RESTROOM BREAKS**

Players may take reasonable restroom intermissions.

### **PLAYER'S MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MATCHES PER DAY**

Players may be required to play up to 3 matches per day.

### **INJURY TIME OUTS**

An injury timeout of up to 10 minutes per injury is allowed.

## **LINE CALLS AND FOOT FAULTS**

Any player may request a Tournament Committee Member or any designated person to observe line calls and foot faults.

## **MISCELLANEOUS RESPONSIBILITIES OF PLAYERS**

- A. Submit completed tournament application and fees by the deadline.
  - 1. Read and follow directions.
  - 2. Contact Tournament Director with questions.
  - 3. Save your receipt until Tournament is completed.
- B. Check posted draw sheet for date/time/place of match.
- C. Check-in with both tennis club desk and Tournament desk.
- D. Report completed match scores to the Tournament Director.

***THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABOVE RULES AND FOR ANY RULES NOT SPECIFIED ABOVE.***

The CTC welcomes any and all comments regarding the Tournaments. Please direct your comments to:

Columbia Tennis Committee  
c/o The Owen Brown Club  
or Web Site  
[members.home.net/catennis](http://members.home.net/catennis)