



# LEE COUNTY WOMEN'S TENNIS LEAGUE

## ABOUT APPEALS

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This document is intended to provide clarity with the LCWTL ratings and appeals process.

The Lee County Women's Tennis League would like all players to play at their rating if possible to ensure that League play is competitive and fun for all. **Although an appeal may be granted to an individual player, she may exercise that appeal ONLY if there is no team available at her club, which will accommodate her rating. If a player does exercise her appeal, she must play on first court only, with only one appealed player playing per match per team.**

### **PLAYER'S PERSONAL RATING**

A player's personal rating is a number, based on the results of all matches she plays during the preceding season. When the player is first entered into the League's rating system, she is placed at the mid-point of the rating range number at which she self-rated. For example, if she self-rates as a 3.0, she is entered half-way between 2.751 and 3.000. A new player entering the League's rating system with a current USTA rating is placed at the midpoint of her rating range unless she rates herself higher. More information about the range of ratings can be located on the LCWTL website by clicking the **Information** link, **About Ratings**. After one season of play (October through April) the League's rating program calculates a player's rating based on her wins and losses. The player's rating number at the end of one season is carried forward to the start of the new season.

A new player's rating may be reviewed at the end of her first season and could be adjusted, up or down, if it appears her results are outside the expected norm for the season. A player who is underrated, or overrated, may have an adverse effect on both her partners, her opponents and the integrity of her division. The executive officers reserve the right to make periodic checks on new players during the playing season. If it is warranted and feasible, the reviewed player may be asked to move teams if her rating is obviously incorrect. On the rare occasion that this may occur it would be done in consultation with her captain, division officers, and club professional.

For every match being played, the player and her partner's rating are statistically compared with that of her opponents. The result of each calculation is the new rating that is taken into effect for the following match. This new rating relies on the correct score entry of each match. Therefore, is important that:

- Scores are entered correctly into the system each week
- Matches are entered by date order
- Each player monitors her weekly scores for accuracy

Captains and co-captains have the initial responsibility of entering or verifying match scores; however, each player is accountable for reviewing her scores to make certain they are correct.

Court positioning does not matter, as the computer takes the comparison of each team's combined ratings and calculates the expected result. If a team beats the result, that team's rating goes up. On the other side, if that same team loses by more than expected, their rating



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goes down. It is possible that a team's rating can go up even if they lose because the match was much closer than predicted. Just the opposite may occur, the team can win, and their ratings may go down as the match was much closer than predicted. Many times, there may be no change to a player's rating because the results are within the computer-projected range.

It is important to recognize that a player may be just below the division cut-off point. For example, she may have a rating of 2.994, which makes her a 3.0 rated player. It may only take two wins to make her rating move to 3.002 which would move her from a 3.0 rating to a 3.5 minus rating. Understandably, the opposite is true. Therefore, a player may play 25 times in a season, and her rating may not go up, but another player may play twice, and her rating will change, based on the computer-calculated results.

At the end of each playing season, a player can obtain her personal match history at no charge. This history will indicate how her rating went up, down or stayed the same with each match she played. In general, a player's rating may move very little, and if she has close, competitive matches, she is playing in the right place.

### **THE APPEALS PROCESS**

At the end of every season, when the final ratings are published, the Lee County Women's Tennis League allows you to appeal your rating to play down one division. The appeal process is especially important for those players who are on the crossover line between ratings. If a player's rating is right on the cusp, it is important to ensure she plays in the right place.

The LCWTL Appeals Committee is made up of a cross section of officers from all divisions who come together to review and evaluate a player's appeal information. An appeal, if granted, does not change the player's rating, it only allows her to play in a LOWER division.

The Appeals Committee has set criteria for the appeal process. If a player files for a first appeal and her rating is equal to or less than 0.050 of the rating division she may request, her appeal is usually approved. However, if the player's rating falls outside the 0.050 parameters, then the appeal will be denied. If the player received an appeal to play last season, the committee would make a decision whether or not she will receive the second appeal. Each player is reviewed **independently** based **only** on that player's match history information. It is strictly about the numbers.

No request to play up will be considered in the appeals process. A player cannot play in a higher division for which her rating does not qualify. There is only one exception to this rule. If a player has a rating below 2.5 and there is no team at her club for which she is eligible to play, she may contact the executive director for special consideration to play on a team at her club for which she would otherwise be ineligible.



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### **MEDICAL APPEALS**

For medical reasons such as major surgery; i.e., hip or knee replacement, a player may request to re-rate down to play on a lower rated team. The medical reason upon which a medical appeal is based must be a **NEW** medical issue that has occurred **AFTER** the last date of play in the LCWTL database. The player must send a **CURRENT** *Form 7, Request for Medical Appeal*, together with the attending physician's notes to the LCWTL Director by October 1. If there are extenuating circumstances, a medical appeal may be submitted during the playing season.