

**Sent: Thursday September 10, 2020**

**Subject: LCWTL Updates**

Dear Division Officers, Captains and Players:

Hope this email finds each of you well and that you have enjoyed your summer thus far.

As we close in on the beginning season, we wanted to provide an update regarding a few key changes and clarify frequently asked questions. Players, captains and officers are reminded to check the LCWTL website often for updates and other important information.

- 1.) The season is currently set to start as scheduled.
- 2.) LCWTL has provided Safer Play Guidelines to be used by all players for match play. Participating clubs may have additional guidelines. Captains will need to monitor adherence by players to these guidelines and ensure all players have received a copy and understand requirements.
- 3.) LCWTL put forth a Covid Statement/ Player Acknowledge that requires any player that will participate this season, to electronically sign. Captains must confirm player compliance before placing in line up.
- 4.) Clubs and/or teams not participating will need to default all match courts not played. Points will go to the opponent. LCWTL expects teams to make every effort to fill as many courts as possible with available players.
- 5.) Teams that are unable to host home matches until a later date due to club management decision, may choose to participate in traveling matches
- 6.) Courts not fielded will be defaulted by the team(s). In the spirit of our Creed, it is expected both team captains will be forthright regarding their ability to field courts and properly record double defaults as they occur. The league stresses the expectation of integrity and honesty by all team captains.
7. ) The Executive Board has voted on a temporarily special exception for the 2020/2021 season, to suspend the current rule for using subs for this season to allow for more flexibility in fielding courts. Eligible subs will be allowed to sub for an **unlimited number of times** in a division in which they are eligible. Eligibility ranges and all other rules regarding subs will remain.
8. ) The Executive Board has voted on a temporary special exception for the 2020/2021 season, that will suspend the current rules regarding repeated team court defaults and associated reprimand and sanctions.

- 9.) The Executive Board has voted on a temporary special exception to cancel all regularly scheduled Executive, Division and Captains meetings through December.
- 10.) Captains/ Players should contact their home club regarding season participation. LCWTL has no control over decisions by clubs and management companies.
- 11.) LCWTL will be polling teams in the coming days to determine home match and away match participation.
- 12.) Teams postponing league play until a future date, will need to provide (2) weeks written notice to the league prior to jumping in. After notification to LCWTL, teams will resume match play based on current published schedule.
- 13.) In an effort to reduce costs, the yearbook will be scaled down this season with some sections removed. The entire yearbook will be available online. Those players that jump in later in the season will not be guaranteed a year book. It can be printed off the website.
- 14.) Player rating and team standing systems will remain as usual. The rating system parameters allow for potential uneven pairings in both playing partners and opponents.
- 15.) LCWTL will be following all regulatory guidelines issued by local and state authorities in regards to Covid-19. Additionally, we will look to USTA for tennis related ideas and information.
- 16.) Home captains will be required to notify traveling captain, the night before match of ability to field courts and/ or expected defaults. Captain shall advise if their club has any special requirements or restrictions.
- 17.) Home captains are required to enter scheduled match scores and/ or defaults as are normally required in the rules regardless whether the team has elected to participate at a later date in the season.
- 18.) At this time, the league has not made any consideration for refunds of team registration dues for teams. Our expenses are heavily weighted during off season to prepare for season. At this time, the league has no season match interruptions. Any other restrictions, limitation or interruptions by others, are out of our control. We are however making a concerted effort to reduce costs wherever possible and will visit financial related issues later in the season.
- 19.) The Executive Board has voted on a temporary special exception to cancel the 2020/2021 Rules Committee.
- 20.) With the majority of league business occurring by email communications, it is imperative to follow proper communication channels. Players should follow the

organizational communication chain by directing questions to their captains. If captains need clarification, they should contact their appropriate division officer. Division officers should contact the appropriate league officer for additional information or clarification.

21.) Those teams unable to host home matches will not be able to reschedule matches at another club or their opponents club. This puts an undue burden on other clubs and their court availability.

With season almost upon us, LCWTL is continuing to stress the importance of each individual player, making an informed and very personal decision regarding their participation in league match play. We support each players individual decision to do what is best for their overall health and wellbeing.

Our approach has been and remains, to facilitate play for those who have made the decision to do so, while respecting those who are unable or uncomfortable participating. Those who make the choice to participate are reminded to act responsibly, follow all Safe Play Guidelines and those guidelines found in the Covid Statement/ Player Acknowledgment. While we still expect and hope for a full season of competitive play, we also must prepare for unanticipated challenges and disruptions

Obviously due to the Covid virus, our season is going to look and feel noticeably different. We ask each of you to please, show a little extra kindness, patience and understanding towards one another during these imperfect times. Let's all honor this great sport and enjoy our time on the courts together!

Tiffany Gaede  
Director  
LCWTL