



North Shore Women's Platform Tennis League Rules

1. Series & Teams

1. General Admission of a Team into the NSWPTL

1. Levels of team play will be divided into Series according to competency. The highest competency will be represented by Series 1. The Executive Committee may formulate each Series and teams within each Series at its discretion and in order to manage, organize and otherwise maintain proper growth of the NSWPTL.
2. Admission and placement into the NSWPTL is at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
3. In addition to the requirements listed in I.C-E, the Executive Committee will look at:
 1. Whether a petition would promote growth for NSWPTL, and not simply reallocate players from one club to another.
 2. The location of the team within or outside of the NSWPTL's official boundaries.
 3. Capacity within the requested series (for non-entry level and grossly misplaced petitions)
 4. The likelihood of disrupting the ability of an existing team to compete within their series.
4. NSWPTL recognizes and makes all attempts to incorporate out-of-boundary teams into the NSWPTL when appropriate and at the proper levels.

2. Deadlines

1. Clubs wishing to add new teams to the NSWPTL must file the appropriate application.
2. Deadlines for filing applications are strict and late applications will be considered at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Deadlines for filing a petition to add a new team are as follows:
 1. Entry Level Team –Due August 1
 2. Non-entry level teams – Due August 1
 3. Petition for pro to play on non-Series 1 team or lower than Series 2 if Series 2 is the highest series at the player club –Due August 1
 4. Grossly misplaced teams- Due August 1

3. The NSWPTL recognizes that teams may not be able to field complete rosters on their applications by August 1 deadline. The application should contain the identity of as many known players to be rostered as possible. Any players not identified on the initial application, must be supplied to the NSWPTL August 15th for non-entry level and grossly misplaced teams and August 30th for entry level teams.

3. Entry Level Teams

1. A new team to the NSWPTL may file a petition with the Executive Committee to request placement at the entry-level Series. See Petition Forms Entry Level Team.
2. The petition should contain substantial information for the Executive Committee to consider including:
 1. A minimum of eight (four double teams) rostered players.
 2. Team member experience in NSWPTL and other league play.
 3. Completed Attestation Forms for all rostered players.

4. Non-Entry Level Teams

1. A new team to the NSWPTL may file a petition with the Executive Committee of NSWPTL to request placement in a series other than the entry-level Series. See Petition Form for Non-Entry Level Team.
2. The petition should contain substantial information for the Executive Committee to consider including:
 1. Minimum of eight (four double teams) rostered players.
 2. Team evaluation by a certified racquets professional (preferably not their club professional)
 3. Any tournament results by team members
 4. Match results from the last season, including final results
 5. Team member experience in NSWPTL and other league play
 6. Signatures of all team members on the attestation section of the application to show that the team is committed to fully participate in NSWPTL matches
 7. Identification of the series the team would like to play on.

5. Grossly Misplaced Teams

1. In very rare circumstances, an existing team in NSWPTL may file a petition with the NSWPTL Executive Committee based on being “grossly misplaced” in its current Series. This typically means that the team could not achieve the appropriate Series placement within 3-4 sessions or 2 seasons. See *Petition Forms for Grossly Misplaced Team*.
2. The petition should contain substantial information for the Executive Committee to consider including:
 1. Roster of all Players

2. Team evaluation by a certified racquets professional (preferably not their club professional)
3. Any tournament results by team members
4. Match results from the last season, including final results
5. Team member experience in NSWPTL play
6. Signatures of all team members on the attestation section of the application to show that the team is committed to fully participate in NSWPTL matches
7. Identification of the Series the team would like to play on
8. Any additional circumstances or factors that the Executive Committee should consider

6. Dissolution of a Team

1. In instances where a team has shown a lack of involvement or interest in the NSWPTL based on excessive forfeitures, or where teams within a club can no longer be supported, NSWPTL will work with the member club in accommodating those team members wishing to play while streamlining the club's teams within NSWPTL.

2. Players

1. Player Affiliation

1. Each player must be a bona fide member of her club or a member of the professional racquets staff at that club.
2. Generally, all lower numerical series players must be better than those on a higher numerical series.
3. Professional racquets staff at a member club must play as a regular team member, not solely as a substitute player.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee, professional racquets staff at a member club must play on a Series 1 or 2 team if the Series 2 team is the highest series at the member club or a Series 1 team at another member club.
5. A player may not play for more than one club in the same Session or Season.
6. Players transferring from one club to another may be rostered with the new club (as a player or a substitute) between the last match of the Season and before the first match of the following Season and at no other time.
7. A player may play and be a rostered player on only ONE team; either the women's night league or the women's day league. They may not play/be rostered as a player in both leagues.
8. Players must be over 21 years old.
9. Players for the Women's Night League series is Level A (Series 2-5), Level B (Series 6-8), Level C (Series 9-11), Level D (series 12-14), Series E (15+)

2. Declared Players

1. A minimum of eight (8) players for each club team must be declared and reported to the Series Facilitator before the commencement of the season's match play. These players are known as the team's Declared Players.
2. A Declared Player may not at any time play on a higher numerical series than that on which she is declared.

3. Substitute Players

1. A substitute must be a bona fide member of her club as defined in the bylaws.
2. Substitutes must be rostered as a substitute at the appropriate series to match their current and present skill and experience.
3. A substitute must be listed with the Series Facilitator before the match.
4. A substitute must be played on the appropriate court within the context of the team for which she is subbing.
5. A substitute may only play for a team twice within a Session. The third time the substitute plays for a specific team; she is considered a member of that team and may not play for a higher numerical series team for the remainder of the Season.
6. If a club has more than one team in a series, a substitute may play for each team two times; the third time she plays for one of the teams she becomes a member of that team and may not play for a higher numerical series team or for the other team in that series for the remainder of the season.
7. In situations where a club has two teams in the same Series, no substitute can play against the same team in the same series twice within a session.
8. In situations where a club has two teams in the same Series, a Series team member cannot sub for the other team in the same Series.
9. Substitutes for the women's night league must follow all rules for substitution.

4. Captains

1. Each team will designate a captain, or captain and co-captain for the Season.
2. The Captain is responsible for the following:
 1. To know and advise their team of APTA and NSWPTL rules.
 2. To input the team roster and substitutes with complete information into the NSWPTL website by the date required and before the start of the Season.
 3. To identify the top two players on their team (#1 & #2) and provide those names to their Series Facilitator prior to the start of the Season's match play.
 4. To field her team's match line-up in accordance with the rules regarding line-ups. (III.D. & E.)
 5. To bring a written line-up to the match, including the names of the players on all four courts, and exchange that line-up with the opposing captain prior to the start of match play. If the captain is not available, she may assign this responsibility to a team member.
 6. To know her player's availability for a make-up match should a postponement of a regularly scheduled match become possible.

7. To communicate to their Series Facilitator, in a timely and comprehensive fashion, the use of an unrostered substitute; or a substitute rostered on another equal or higher numerical Series team, prior to the start of match play.
8. To communicate all issues and questions to her Series Facilitator and, if necessary and appropriate, submit complaints or protests to her Series Facilitator via email in a timely manner.

5. Host Captain

1. In addition to the above requirements (II.D.), host captains are responsible for the following:
 1. To contact the Captain from the visiting team no later than Monday prior to the Thursday match and Tuesday for the Friday match, to review match arrangements and exchange contact information. For women's night league Captains should be contacted by Friday afternoon.
 2. To see that new balls, beverages and breakfast/lunch is provided for the match.
 3. To ensure courts are suitable for match caliber play on the designated match day and time, with the understanding that extreme weather conditions may cause unforeseen delays.
 4. To enter the match scores and line-ups of players on the NSWPTL website before 5:00 p.m. on match day.
 5. To maintain a hard copy of the results of each home match until the end of the Season.

3. **Matches**

1. **Match Season & Sessions**

1. The Season is made up of two Sessions: Fall Session and Winter Session. The Fall Session is from September/October to December and the Winter Session from January to March. Schedules will be determined prior to the start of each session.

2. **Match Schedule**

1. The chart below outlines the days and times of match play for all Series based on split courts - two of the four courts play first followed by the second two courts.
2. When courts are not split:
 1. Captains may agree to play all at the same time and/or at a time other than 9 am.
 2. All Thursday morning matches must start before 10:15 am to ensure play is completed before the afternoon matches start at noon. All women's night league on Monday matches will start at 6:30/7:00 pm and 7:15/8:00 pm.

- It is not mandatory to all start at the same time; if one player cannot, then captains should revert back to the standard start times.

Series	Match Day	Courts	Warmup Start Time	Match Start Time	Default Time
1-7 & Southwest Series	Thursday	3 & 4	9:00am	9:15am	9:20am
		1 & 2	10:15am	10:30am	10:35am
8-12	Thursday	1 & 2	12:00pm	12:15pm	12:20pm
		3 & 4	1:15pm	1:30pm	1:35pm
13-16	Friday	3 & 4	9:00am	9:15am	9:20am
		1 & 2	10:15am	10:30am	10:35am
Southwest Series	Thursday	All	9:00am	9:15am	9:20am
		All	10:15am	10:30am	10:35am
		All	11:30am	11:45am	11:50am
WNL	Monday	3&4	6:30/7:00pm*	6:40/7:10pm	6:50/7:15pm
		1&2	7:30/7:45pm*	7:40/7:50pm	7:45/8:00pm
*Start times are based on club court availability. Captains will exchange start times. Winnetka, Exmoor do not have courts available until 7:00 pm.					

3. Pre-Match Conditions

- Team members are expected to know and understand both the NSWPTL Rules and APTA rules for match play.
- NSWPTL Rules govern all matters leading-up to and following match play.
- Spirit of the League is fair play, whether with lineups, substitutes or how matches are played. All members of NSWPTL are responsible for maintaining Spirit of the League.
- APTA rules govern all match play, with the following exceptions:
 - In NSWPTL, a tiebreaker is played in all 6-6 sets.
 - In NSWPTL, foot faults are called as a "let" until a legal serve is obtained.

5. APTA's sportsmanship and etiquette are fundamental to Paddle. NSWPTL's goal is to keep egregious behaviors out of the game and to raise the level of civility on the court. NSWPTL is determined to keep the game fun and competitive while adhering to good sportsmanship in accordance with the APTA rules.
6. Coaches may watch matches but not coach players during match play.
7. When active players enter the warming facilities between sets, teammates are not allowed to coach or give advice regarding match strategy.

4. Rankings

1. Captains must identify the two most highly skilled players on their team, rank them #1 & #2, and provide those names to their Series Facilitator prior to the start of the Season.
2. Within the first two (2) weeks of the Fall Session, adjustments to those rankings may be allowed under special circumstances at the discretion of the Series Facilitator.
3. Re-rankings are allowed between the Fall and Winter Sessions with notice to the Series Facilitator
4. No adjustments to the rankings are allowed after the start of the Winter Session.
5. If during either session, the #1 or #2 ranked player can no longer play, or will be out for an extended period, the #3 player on the team must be identified and moved up to the #2 position and the new ranking reported to the Series Facilitator.

5. Line-ups

1. Captains must adhere to and field their teams based on:
 1. The ranking of the top two players submitted to their Series Facilitator at the beginning of each Session; and,
 2. ongoing win/loss records of the players.
2. Players ranked #1 or #2 on their team cannot play on Courts 3 or 4. If players ranked #1 and #2 play together, they must play on court 1.
3. Teams must be fielded according to their current and present ability:
 1. Court 1 team should beat Court 2 team;
 2. Court 2 team should beat Court 3 teams;
 3. Court 3 team should beat Court 4 team.
4. Once lineups are exchanged for a match they cannot be changed.

6. Warm-up

1. Standard Warm-up is 15 minutes:

1. 2 minutes – one team at the net, one team at the base line. Baseline team hits ground strokes to the net opponent in front of them. The ground stroke should be at $\frac{3}{4}$ speed. The volley should pass the service line.
2. 2 minutes – baseline team lobs and the net team hits overheads.
3. 4 minutes – repeat sequence - baseline team comes to the net and the net team moves to the baseline.
4. 1 minute – home team spins paddle for serve and visitor chooses heads or tails. Winner chooses to serve, receive, defer or side to start the match.
5. 4 minutes – service – 2 minutes each side – deuce and ad courts. One player will serve and the other will catch the ball and serve it back. Alternatively, the players can agree to serve and return but the entire service should not take longer than 4 minutes both sides.

7. Forfeiture

1. If a team knows it is short of its full 8 players or 6 for the women's night league in advance of the match, and it cannot secure a substitute, it must field its top teams in sequential order regardless of where the vacancy has occurred. (i.e play courts 1,2,3, and forfeit court 4); and it must forfeit the match on the unfilled court(s).
2. The captain of the forfeiting team should notify the opposing team's captain of the forfeiture as soon as possible.

8. Default

1. A default is declared if a player fails to show for the match within 20 minutes of the warm-up start time and courts are available.
 1. Teams scheduled to start at 9:00 AM must default if not present by 9:20 AM and second round teams starting at 10:15 by 10:35.
 2. Teams scheduled to start at 12:00 PM must default if not present by 12:20 PM and second round teams starting at 1:15 by 1:35 PM.
 3. The default will occur on the court where the late player is designated on the written line up.
 4. Women's night league will default if not present 20 minutes after scheduled start time.
2. A default will also be declared if a match, already in progress, must be discontinued for any reason other than Inclement Weather (III.I.1.a).
 1. The team losing the player(s) will default the match to the non-defaulting team.
 2. The non-defaulting team will win the match; however, the defaulting team will retain all points won up to the point of the default.

9. Postponement

1. A match may be postponed for the following reasons:
 1. Inclement Weather – cold to an extreme that it constitutes a hazard to the health of the player or hazardous playing conditions (ice on the court, lightning, heavy rains).
 2. Hazardous driving conditions – ice or snow-blocked roads; electrical storms or blizzard conditions.
 3. Conflict with any one player playing in any of the five Grand Prix events including the APTA National Tournament.
2. *In Advance of the Match Captains in Agreement:* If, in advance of the match, but not more than 3 hours before, the Captains agree to postpone the match due to the conditions listed in III.I.1.a)-b), they should immediately reschedule the match for the following Monday at the same time and location unless all 4 players on a court agree to play at another time.
3. *In advance of the Match Captains not in Agreement:* If captains cannot agree in advance to postpone a match, the teams must go to the match location with the intent to play the match as scheduled. Once at the match location, and if any of the conditions listed in III.I.1.a)-b) are present, the Captains should agree, on a court by court basis, to postpone.
4. *Match already in progress:* if a match already in progress must be stopped because of inclement weather (III.I.1.a), it shall be resumed on the following Monday with the following:
 1. the same players
 2. at precisely the same point in the interrupted game
 3. same serve
 4. same server
 5. same sides of the court
 6. same order of service
 7. If the four players agree to play at another time, other than Monday and before the next match, they may do so with the approval of the Series Facilitator.
5. A warm-up preceding resumption of play is allowed.
6. Complete line-ups must be exchanged at the beginning of the newly scheduled match or the first match played whichever happens first.
7. Once line-ups are exchanged they cannot be changed.
8. If a second or third match is postponed, the same rules apply.
9. The Series Facilitator must be advised immediately of all postponements and must give approval for the new schedule.
10. In all cases, postponed matches must be played before the next scheduled match, or if it is the last match of the session, within one week of the originally scheduled match date.
11. In the event postponement is necessary under III.I.1.c):
 1. The conflicted court can play prior to the Thursday on which the match would have otherwise taken place.

2. The captain for the conflicted player(s) must give notice to the Series Facilitator prior to the match taking place.
3. The captain must identify the Grand Prix event causing the conflict.
4. If the parties cannot agree on a rescheduled date or time, the match will be rescheduled for the following Monday at the same time and location as the original match.
5. The postponement for this court does not impact the schedule of play for the other three courts.

10. Match Result Scoring

1. All scores must be entered into the NSWPTL website no later than 5:00 pm on match day or for the women's night league Tuesday at 8:00 pm.
2. Names of all players should be entered as well as complete scores. Scores will not post to the overview page if any names are missing.
3. When recording a forfeiture, the names of the players for either the forfeiting or non-forfeiting team do not need to be listed.
4. Each winning set counts one point and each winning match counts one additional point.
5. The team that wins 2 out of 3 sets wins the match.
6. The winning team earns three points.
7. The losing team earns a half point for each tiebreaker lost.
8. In a three-set match, the losing team is awarded one point for the set won. A maximum of two points could be earned by the losing team in a very close match. (Win 1 set lose 2 tie-break sets).

4. Protests and Complaints

1. Protests concerning Violations of the NSWPTL Rules

1. A violation of the NSWPTL Rules provides the basis for a Protest.
2. A team is allowed to file two (2) protests per season.
3. If a captain is uncertain whether a protest is warranted she should discuss the issue with her Series Facilitator prior to filing a protest.
4. To file a protest the following steps must be taken. (See Form - Protest for Violation of the NSWPTL Rules):
 1. The captain should draft an explanation of the events as specifically as possible using the NSWPTL Protest Form. The draft should include all of the information requested on the form.
 2. The Series Facilitator will notify the opposing team's Captain and Club Coordinator that a protest has been filed against their team.
 3. The Club Coordinator and opposing captain will prepare a response to the protest, again, being as specific as possible.
 4. The Series Facilitator may request follow-up information.
 5. The Series Facilitator will forward the protest, the response and any additional, relevant information to the Facilitator Coordinator and the NSWPTL Executive Committee for a decision.

6. The Executive Committee will issue a decision and, if a violation is found, withdraw points from the offending team.
 7. Decisions of the Executive Committee are final.
5. In order to foster spirit in the league, any team wishing to file a protest arising from a match, must wait until 24-hours after the match to do so. Notwithstanding this, the deadline to file a protest is the Wednesday following the match in question.

2. Complaints concerning Sportsmanship/ Etiquette under the APTA rules

1. APTA Rules provide the rules for match play and guidelines for sportsmanship and etiquette while playing a match.
2. Questions or concerns by a team about an opponent's sportsmanship or etiquette should be directed to the Series Facilitator.
3. Even In the event the Captain is uncertain whether the action rises to the level of a formal complaint, it is important to let the Series Facilitator know the concern so that she can address it with the team in question and/or make note of it for the future, should a similar issue arise.
4. The Series Facilitator and the complaining captain will decide if a formal complaint should be filed.
5. If the Captain and the Series Facilitator decide that a formal complaint should not be filed, the Series Facilitator may address the issue with the team in question and/or make note of it for future should a similar issue arise.
6. If a formal complaint is warranted the following steps must be taken:
 1. The captain should draft an explanation of the events as specifically as possible using the NSWPTL Complaint Form. The draft should include all of the information requested on the form.
 2. The Series Facilitator will notify the opposing team's captain and Club Coordinator that a complaint has been filed against their team.
 3. The Club Coordinator and opposing captain will prepare a response to the complaint, again, being as specific as possible.
 4. The Series Facilitator may request follow-up information.
 5. The Series Facilitator will forward the Complaint, the response and any additional, relevant information to the Facilitator Coordinator and the NSWPTL Executive Committee for a decision.
 6. The Executive Committee will issue a decision and, if a lack of sportsmanlike and/or etiquette is found, the Executive Committee will log the documentation. If a second incident arises involving the same player, the Executive Committee will vote if a suspension from play is appropriate.
 7. Decisions of the Executive Committee are final.
7. Series Facilitators have discretion to treat situations individually.
8. In order to foster spirit in the league, any player or team wishing to file a complaint for lack of sportsmanship and/or etiquette arising from a match, must wait until 24-hours after the match to do so. Notwithstanding this, the deadline to file a complaint is the Wednesday following the match in question.

5. **Final Standings**

1. **Series Winner**

1. Each team that is in first place in a Series at the end of the Session will be deemed the winner of the Series for that Session.

2. **Series Ties**

1. All end-of-Session ties between teams competing for a trophy and/or movement between Series shall be determined as follows:
 1. Winner of head to head match, if a tie, then,
 2. Winner of the most games within the head-to-head match, if a tie, then,
 3. Winner of Court 1 in head-to-head match.

3. **Team Movement**

1. The first and second place team in a Series will move-up to the next lower numerical Series for the next Session.
2. The two lowest teams in a Series will move-down to the next higher numerical Series for the next Session.
3. When preparing for a new Session and despite final standings of the previous Session, alterations to the teams within the Series can be made by the Executive Committee to accommodate:
 1. New entry and non-entry level team petitions
 2. New grossly misplaced team petitions
 3. Any other movement necessary to manage, organize and otherwise maintain proper growth of the NSWPTL