

## Sports Monster Tennis Rules and Regulations

### SAMPLE OF GAME RULES TO LIVE BY:

1. **Player's Eligibility:** All players **MUST** sign the League's Liability Waiver to play in any Sports Monster Corporation of America (SMC) league. Failure or refusal to sign SMC liability waiver form shall result in the player not being allowed to participate in league. Any player found to be playing without signing the liability waiver shall be immediately suspended from that match and may only return to play upon signing the liability waiver following that match. There are NO exceptions for failure to agree to waive liability. Player must also be sure to sign the appropriate team's waiver or could be ruled ineligible. Waiver forms are available at the field or information table.

*Note: Your team's waiver of liability form is the actual team roster. Submitted registration rosters are not considered official until each player has signed the waiver of liability and participated in league play.*

All players must be **19 years** of age or older - picture ID's must be produced upon request of referee or league official. Failure to produce accurate picture ID upon request shall result in removal of player from match play until such time as proof of age/identity can be verified.

To be eligible for playoffs, all players must have participated in a minimum of two week's matches.

2. **Starting the Match:** **Starting the Match:** Players must register with the scorekeeping table prior to each match. Matches are to be started no later than 10 minutes into the hour. Game warm-up is at the discretion of both teams as long as the game begins within the 10-minute limit. A one set penalty will be assessed by SMC for each additional 5 minutes. The teams playing determine format order. As long as all six formats are played, it does not matter what order the match is played.
3. **Match Scoring:** All matches are scored by total games won through the six(6) set format. Games are scored 1 - 4 = Game. Sets can be won by one game (example: 6-5). There is no ad in/ad out or deuce. Scores are to be announced prior to each service as a courtesy to your opponent. Matches are won by a one game advantage. Contact SMC rep with any game rules or fault infraction questions regarding scoring. Tie matches (total games through the six set format) will be scored as such. There will be a minimum of 2 courts available for match play with a 5-minute warm-up period prior to each set. Matches must be completed within 1 1/2 hours. If any format is not complete within this time, scores up to that time will be recorded.

Playoff ties will be decided by one Coed Doubles game. Player A1 will serve first, followed by B1, then A2, B2, etc (rotating after each serve), until one team scores the 4<sup>th</sup> point.

4. **Forfeits:** All around bad news. This is a big no-no and all will be subject to a caning. A forfeit will be declared after 20 minutes if there are less than two registered players from an individual team. Penalties are as follows:

- \* 1 Set lost off overall average of three games 11 minutes into the hour
- \* 2 Sets lost off overall average of three games 16 minutes into the hour
- \* Game lost 21 minutes into the hour

If your team has 2 or more registered players but less than a full 6 person complement, a legal game may be played with or without substitutes. Play as many formats as you can and those not completed will be scored

0-6.

**A match forfeit will automatically be scored 0-6 games.**

**5. Substitution Policy: THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR TEAM!**

Substitutes from other Sports Monster same league teams are allowed and preferred.

Opposing team may not challenge a same league Sports Monster substitutes.

Substitutes from outside that league are allowed as follows:

*Substitute must register with Sports Monster rep prior to game and sign team waiver.*

Opposing team may challenge suspected ineligible substitute to Sports Monster rep, but this must be done before the game or at half time.

**ONLY 1 INTRA-LEAGUE SUBSTITUTION IS ALLOWED IN THE PLAYOFFS!**

Playoff intra-league substitute will only be allowed if team would play short otherwise. Teams must play with their registered/rostered players in the playoffs.

Registered/rostered players are those that have signed that team's waiver by the 7<sup>th</sup> week.

There are only two exceptions:

If you know that you will be unable to complete the season, notify Sports Monster at least two weeks prior to playoffs. Upon approval, your substitute may take your place and be eligible throughout.

A last minute injury that prevents a player to participate will allow a substitute.

Notification to Sports Monster is required regarding injury status.

Any substitutes, male or female, will void permission to pick up an extra player.

**Independent Teams Only:** Sports Monster must approve all outside substitute players for independent rostered teams for play. Phone notification is required.

**6. Good Sportsmanship: Please observe standards of good sportsmanship during your time with us.**

**We understand that competition can generate strong emotions, however your emotions and actions must not negatively affect the enjoyment/comfort/safety of any of our other participants!**

Foul language is not acceptable. Learn new words.

Taunting opponents is not acceptable.

Tantrums (throwing objects and/or yelling) are not acceptable.

Opposing team may address the referee for consideration if it is felt that bad sportsmanship is being displayed by one or more on the opposing team.

At the discretion of the referee, any displays of bad sportsmanship will result in the following penalties:

a) For individual: 1 = verbal warning    2 = final warning    3 = expulsion from game

b) For team:    1 = verbal warning    2 = final warning    3 = match forfeiture

**7. Playoffs: Every team makes the playoffs.**

- 8. Referees:** All Sports Monster tennis matches are self-refereed. There is a SMC representative that usually participates in the league and he/she is the person to inquire with and/or express concerns regarding rules, operations or sportsmanship displayed by opposing players. You may also contact the SMC office at any time regarding league operations questions or comments.
- 9. Alcohol:** It is strictly forbidden to bring alcoholic beverages onto/into any Sports Monster league site. But we understand that in the bowling league alcohol is sold at the facilities we play at. In this case, we will allow you to drink as long as it is done in a controlled manner without any problems. It will be up to the supervisor's discretion whether or not to take action due to the amount of consumption of alcohol. These actions will fall under the unsportsmanship rule stated in # 7. We are not your mothers, so common sense and personal responsibility is helpful.
- 10. Challenges:** SMC will not consider challenges if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy or judgment on the part of a referee pertaining to called plays. SMC does offer a two level challenge format available following a match regarding strong disagreement regarding a referee's ruling resulting in specific sanction(s) or player eligibility:

a) Contact your local SMC office's manager for tennis to address your challenge. In some cases, this person may be the local market manager. Any verbal challenge must be accompanied with a written challenge outlining the team/player's position and circumstances to be formally considered. This written challenge may be sent via e-mail for expediency. Please allow for 2-3 business days for information from all parties to be processed and a ruling to be determined.

b) If you are not satisfied with the challenged ruling, you may contact that office's general manager and re-submit your challenge. You will again need to allow 2-3 business days for information from all parties to be processed and a ruling to be determined.

As it is possible that a sanction may be reduced, it is also possible that a sanction may be increased upon review of the challenged situation. Upon issuing any challenge, it is understood that the challenging party will abide by the final league ruling.

Because many rulings and sanctions are time sensitive, it is important that any challenges involving a ruling or suspension be officially recorded in writing within 48 hours of the initial on-site ruling. Failure to do so can impact the ability of a final ruling being issued before the sanction occurs. Once a time sensitive sanction has already been enforced (example: one week suspension ruling and next week's game has already occurred with player sitting out), there may be no recourse for overturning the original ruling except for general clarification.

In cases where a general ruling is challenged solely for clarification, there is no deadline for submission.

- 11. Equipment:** SMC will provide court time for match play. Tennis balls are provided for the first week of play only, and during playoffs. Players are required to provide balls for the remainder of the season.
- 12. Attire:** Shoes, shirts & shorts (or sweats) required. Tennis only athletic footwear is recommended. No street shoes are allowed. Please coordinate a team color to be worn each week: nice, but not mandatory.
- 13. Prizes:** There will be prizes for the winning team. Future registration coupons, sponsored bar tabs, championship t-shirts, or trophies.

14. **Questions:** The rules that you are playing under are the result of input from Sports Monsters just like you. Your suggestions are always welcome and will be considered for implementation. Please forward all questions and suggestions to your local Sports Monster office or visit our website: <http://www.sportsmonster.net/>
15. **Have Fun:** This is your leisure time, enjoy it! You're not playing for money, only the pride and prestige a Sports Monster championship brings and the adoration of thousands of residents wishing they were you, a Sports Monster.

### SAMPLE OF GAME RULES TO LIVE BY

- Format:** A match consists of 6 individual sets played in the following formats: Women's Singles (1), Women's Doubles (1), Men's Singles (1), Men's Doubles (1) Coed Doubles (2)—all six formats are to be played, time permitting.  
Do not spend more than five minutes to warm up when you play your first set.  
  
Any formats not completed will be recorded with the scores up until that time, unless a team cannot field a format in which case the opposing team will win that format 6-0.
- Duration:** Match is to be completed within 1½ hours with two courts in play at all times. Some leagues may utilize three courts with match play to be completed in 1 hour.
- Lines:** All lines are considered in play.
- Net:** Player's racquet, body or article of clothing allows no contact with the net. Any contact will result in loss of a point by that player/team.
- Method of Scoring:** Games are scored 1 - 6 = Game  
Sets are scored to six to win. You may win 6-5.  
Matches are scored by adding all games scored for and against in the match.  
Team with highest overall games won will be declared the winner.  
Score sheets are to be turned into the SMC rep following the match.
- Gender Ratio:** All Sports Monster SMTT teams are designed to have 3 men and 3 women.  
Teams may utilize women to play men's formats.  
Teams may not utilize men to play women's formats unless agreed to by the opponent.  
Playoffs must be played by the correct format gender.  
Teams may play with men only but will have to forfeit the women's formats.
- Attendance:** Sports Monster has reserved courts at the scheduled times for you to play in a league format. This means that you are expected to attend at the times listed. If you are unable to attend, be sure to contact your captain so that substitutes can be arranged if necessary.
- Full Court Coverage:** If a team does not have enough players to complete doubles formats, that team may opt to play with one person. In this case, that player will still have to cover the entire doubles court & will automatically lose a service when their (ghost) partner would have served. It's a lot of running but it allows play and an opportunity to avoid a 0-6 score.

9. **Time-Outs:** One allowed per format per team – also for injury.
10. **Foul Language:** Not allowed—learn new words
11. **Substitutions:** Substitution is allowed following completion of a game or called time-out.
12. **Weather:** We play in almost all weather conditions aside from driving rain or temps below 40 degrees.  
We do not play in electrical storms or if the court is ice covered. If you do have questions as to whether the game is to be played, call SMC's weather hotline.
13. **Rain Dates:** Should there be inclement weather or the courts are too wet for play, matches will be rescheduled for make-up as listed on the schedule.
14. **Other Rules:** SMC generally follows the rules outlined by USSA Tennis for all other calls that are not listed in this information guide.

These rules have been updated as of 04/24/19 and shall remain in effect until such time as another update is required.

Thank you for choosing Sports Monster! We appreciate your business very much. Please let us know what we are doing well that you like and what we can do to improve for next season because as a fellow Sports Monster, this is your league and we want to see a lot more of you in the future. Please call or e-mail us with any questions, comments or suggestions. Enjoy your season with us! E-mail us at [info@sportsmonster.net](mailto:info@sportsmonster.net) – be sure to include your name and league location with any feedback.