

VTC Challenge Ladder Instruction

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Please send comments to: [Chair @ .com]

Ladder Formation and Entry

Rule (1) The Ventura Tennis Club (VTC) periodically forms or resets challenge ladders with scheduled events. After these events, the corresponding ladder is wiped clean and results determine the new ladder. All ladder members must be VTC members in good standing.

Rule (2) A new challenger not on an existing ladder may initially challenge anyone on a ladder besides those ranked or seeded [#1 - #3]. If the new challenger wins, they are inserted directly above the defeated player. For example, if new challenger defeats #5, they become #5 and defeated #5 becomes #6, and so on. If the new challenger loses, they go to the ladder bottom.

Routine Challenges

Rule (3) The challenged player is obligated to accept most challenges. If the challenger wins, they are inserted directly above the defeated player. For example, if challenger #8 defeats #5, then #8 become #5 and defeated #5 becomes #6, and so on. If the challenger loses, both players remain in their previous positions. A winning player does not have to immediately replay a losing player until the losing player plays at least two other challenges.

Rule (4) The challenger shall ask, call, text, or email to challenge players [up to five positions above them]. Upon receipt of a challenge, the challengee must respond via similar options within 72 hours. If two players can't quickly agree on a match time, both shall offer at least three possible match times within a two week period. At least one possible time shall be a weekend, and another on a weekday. If after sincere attempts players can't match reasonable schedules, either may call a "Push" with no result or default.

Rule (5) If a player is sick, injured, on extended travel, or otherwise incapacitated, they should contact the Ladder Chairperson and request "Protected Status". Protected Status is limited and awarded at the Chairperson's discretion; a player must generally be under Protected Status before declining challenges.

Rule (6) A challenge match is two-out-of-three traditional tie-break sets. A first-to-ten point tiebreaker may replace the third set if both players agree before match start. Default courts are Camino Real Park.

Match Rules and Etiquette

Rule (7) The challenger provides three new sealed match balls.

Rule (8) USTA Rules and The Code of Tennis apply to all matches and scoring. Common sense and good sportsmanship apply. In general, doubt or disputed calls go to the offensive player.

Rule (9) The winner reports match results to the Ladder Chairperson within 48 hours, even if the player position doesn't change.

Disputes and Defaults

Rule (10) Players must accept challenges and play according to this instruction, or they are subject to Ladder Chairperson determination up to default. It is the player's responsibility to report unresolved disputes and possible defaults to the Ladder Chairperson. VTC encourages both players to be flexible and try their best for resolution before claiming default.

Rule (11) Defaults may be claimed if the opposing player fails to appear within [20] minutes after agreed upon match time without reasonable advance notice. If a player withdraws during any part of a match because of injury, they lose by injury default.

Rule (12) The Ladder Chairperson has authority for rule and dispute resolution, up to default and ladder removal. If a player does not agree with the Chair's decision, they may contact the VTC Board, or attend a regularly scheduled VTC meeting for discussion or possible majority vote appeal.

Doubles Ladders

Rule (13) Either player on either team acts as "challenger", "challengee", or "player" as written in this instruction and speaks for both players on their team. Protected status, defaults, and conflict resolution with any one player has a similar effect on both team players.

Postings and Awards

Rule (14) The Ladder Chairperson is responsible for posting ladder challenges, changes, and news on the VTC web page and newsletter.

Rule (15) The Ladder Chairperson and VTC Board may award prizes in various categories, including most number of challenges and most number of wins over time.

** End **