



CAMPUS RECREATION

Illinois State University

Intramural Tennis RULES OF PLAY

Please consult the [Intramural Sports Participant Handbook](#) for the complete list of Intramural Sports policies.

United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules will in effect except for the following modifications:

Location

- Games will be played at the Gregory Street Fields (GSF) Tennis Courts.
- Please give yourself plenty of time to get to your games ahead of schedule. Remember that all team members must be signed in and ready to play at game time to avoid a forfeit.

Schedule

- Minor Sports will be structured as a two (2) game regular season followed by a double elimination playoff for qualifying teams.
- If your team is unable to make it to your game, be sure to contact the Intramural Sports Office at intramuralsports@ilstu.edu by 2:00pm the day of your game (if your game is scheduled during the weekend, you must contact the Intramural Sports Office by 2:00pm the Friday before your game). This will enable your team to be credited with a default rather than a forfeit.
- Unfortunately, Intramural Sports games can be impacted by the weather. We reserve the right to cancel, postpone, or reschedule games due to inclement weather. When inclement weather arises, Intramural Sports staff will send out cancelations via IMLeagues.
- Regular season games canceled due to inclement weather may not be rescheduled due to the limited amount of time and space to play. When playoff games are postponed due to weather, the Intramural Sports Staff will make every effort to make up all remaining games in the playoff tournament. Playoff brackets will be updated on IMLeagues to reflect the updated dates and times.

Players

- A legal team shall consist of two (2) players for doubles. Coed teams shall consist of one female and one male player.
- A speaking captain must be designated for each team. She/he alone may appeal to the supervisor, and then only on interpretations of the rules. Games are self-officiated. Any discrepancies must be settled by team captains within 1 minute or the match will be declared a forfeit for both teams by the Competitive Sports Supervisor. If a protest occurs, the game is to be stopped immediately and proper documentation must be filled out before play resumes.

Eligibility

- Please reference the [Intramural Sports Participant Handbook](#) for any eligibility clarification.

Playoffs

- In order to make the playoffs, teams must meet the following criteria:
 - The team must maintain at least a 3.0 team sportsmanship rating throughout the season.
 - No team that forfeits any regular season game will be allowed to participate in the playoffs.
- Teams are able to add players to their roster at any point, including playoffs.

Equipment

- **No jewelry is permitted during play**
- Intramural Sports will provide game tennis balls
- Teams are recommended to wear like colored shirts.
- **NOTE:** You must schedule an appointment with a Competitive Sports Administrator prior to playing if you have a special equipment need (i.e. religious or medical). All equipment decisions made on site by the Competitive Sports Staff on duty shall be final.

Game Regulations

- A match consists of an eight (8) game no-ad pro set or a one (1) hour time limit, which ever happens first.
 - A no-ad pro set means that the first player to win eight (8) games wins the match.
 - When a game goes to “deuce”, the player who scores the next point wins the match.
- A game equals four points. The scoring in tennis is 15 for the first point won, 30 for the second, 40 for the third point won, and “game” for the fourth point. A score of zero is referred to as “love”. When each player has a score of 40, the score is “deuce”.
- The serve for the first point of a game always begins to the right of the center mark and is made to the opponent’s right service court. After each point is played, alternate service court. The same individual continues serving until the game is completed.
- The server has two attempts to put the ball into play.
- The serve is a fault if the server:
 - Does not take the proper position before serving.
 - Commits a foot fault. (Foot touches baseline anytime prior to hitting ball.)
 - Fails to hit the ball into the proper service court.
 - Misses the ball in attempting to; strike it. However, the server may toss and catch the ball without penalty.
- If any of these occurs on the first serve, it is a fault.
- If any of these occurs on both serves, it is a double fault, and the point is lost.
- A let is a ball which strikes the net, strap or hand, but lands in the proper court on the serve.
- Coed doubles teams will alternate serves by game just like regular doubles.
- The opposing pairs change sides of court at the end of the first, third, and every subsequent alternate game of each set, and at the end of each set, unless the total number of games in such a set is even, in which case the change is not made until the end of the first game of the next set. The order of service does not change between subsequent sets.
- If an individual has won three or more games and the match was called due to inclement weather, then the individual/team that has won three or more games is the official winner.

Grace Period

- If at game time a team is not ready for play, a 10 minute grace period will be automatically enacted.
 - Step 1 - 0 – 9:59 minutes, a team which is not ready to play will be penalized and start the down one (1) game and cannot receive more than a 3 sportsmanship rating.
 - Step 2 – Competitive Sports Supervisor will call forfeit at the 10 minutes if a team is not ready for play (dressed, on the court, signed in) mark and a forfeited team will receive a 0 sportsmanship rating.

| Minutes Late | Penalty | Sportsmanship |
|----------------|--|---------------|
| 0-9:59 minutes | Lose first two games of match (2-0) | Max 3 |
| 10 minutes | Forfeit | Max 0 |

Mercy Rule

- There is no mercy rule in Intramural Tennis.

General Information

- Prior to Game Time:
 - Players must check in at the field they are scheduled to play. Valid IDs must be presented at check-in. Acceptable forms of IDs are:
 - Current Illinois State University student ID.
 - Current faculty/staff ID with photo ID.
 - Drivers License or other valid photo ID (if already on active roster).
- NO ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO is allowed at any Intramural Sports venue. Anyone found consuming alcohol or using tobacco products will be asked to leave the facility and may face additional disciplinary action. Participants who appear to be under the influence will also be asked to leave.

Sportsmanship

Intramural Sports has developed a sportsmanship rating system that is intended to be an objective scale utilized by the Intramural Sports team members to evaluate attitude and behavior throughout each Intramural Sports contest. After each game, the Officials will rate each team on their sportsmanship before, during, and after each Intramural Sports game. To be eligible for the playoffs each team must average a 3.0 or better throughout the regular season.

A sportsmanship rating below 3 is considered to be 'unacceptable'. Any team receiving an unacceptable rating will be notified via email. Any team receiving a sportsmanship rating of 1 will be required to set up a meeting with the Intramural Sports Office prior to their next scheduled contest. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of any subsequent games.

Teams receiving an unacceptable sportsmanship rating in the playoffs will be eliminated regardless of the outcome of the game. An unacceptable rating in the playoffs may subject the offending team to further consequences as determined by the Intramural Sport Office for other Intramural Sports activities or seasons.

Scale

Description

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Excellent Conduct and Sportsmanship - Captain, players, and fans all display an excellent attitude. Conduct is positive and respectful at all times, even if the opponent does not display a high level of sportsmanship. If necessary the captain calmly converses with the Intramural Sports Officials regarding rule interpretations and calls. The team has winning and losing in perspective such that their conduct in all ways provides an example for the league and the program. |
| 4 | Good Conduct and Sportsmanship - The team shows good sportsmanship and cooperates with the opposing team, Officials, and Competitive Sports Supervisor. Opponents are treated with respect and there are no warnings, yellow cards, or unsporting technical fouls. |
| 3 | Average Conduct and Sportsmanship - The team still shows cooperation with officials and opponents but may have some complaints and grumbling. Good attitude is missing on occasion but there are no blatant displays of bad attitude. The captain is in control of the team. |
| 2 | This is an unacceptable rating. Below Average Conduct and Sportsmanship - Team constantly comments to the Officials, Supervisor, and/or opposing team from the field and/or sidelines. Poor sportsmanship may include non-verbal and disrespectful attitude toward the officials or opponents. Team captain exhibits little or no control over teammates or himself/herself. |
| 1 | This is an unacceptable rating. Poor Conduct and Sportsmanship - Captain has no control over teammates and/or himself/herself. Team is completely uncooperative and poorly represents themselves and the Illinois State Intramural Sports Program. Player ejections, malicious intent, and cheating could all be behaviors displayed by a team receiving a 1. |

If a team feels they have been rated unfairly by the Officials during the game, there is a section on the sportsmanship evaluation form that allows Captains to appeal the rating and provide personal input.

*****The Intramural Sports Office reserves the right to put into effect any new ruling regarding Intramural Sports policies, procedures and unsportsmanlike conduct*****