

**FOX VALLEY WOMEN'S TENNIS LEAGUE**  
**BY-LAWS**  
Revised April, 2007

**NAME:** The name of this association is the Fox Valley Women's Tennis League.

**PREAMBLE:** The Fox Valley Women's Tennis League is committed to competitive tennis in an enjoyable and social atmosphere.

**I. STRUCTURE**

A. Membership of the Fox Valley Women's Tennis League presently consists of the following clubs:

Barrington Hills Country Club  
Dunham Woods Riding Club  
MidTown/Forest Grove Athletic Club  
Farmington Bath and Tennis  
Hawthorn Woods Country Club  
Hillcrest Country Club  
Ivanhoe Country Club  
Lincolnshire Tennis & Fitness Club  
Royal Melbourne Country Club  
South Barrington Club  
Wynstone Country Club

B. Any new club admitted to the League must be a private club with outdoor courts and clubhouse facilities. Any club that became a part district facility before 1990 may retain its League status.

C. There shall be four Divisions within the League:

4.0 & above  
3.5 – 3.9  
3.0 – 3.4  
2.9 & below

D. Any new club seeking admission to this association shall submit a request in writing to the Executive Committee.

**II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, all serving two-year terms. Each may serve additional terms if reelected.

B. The Nominating Committee for the Executive Officers shall consist of four persons appointed by the President. No two Nominating Committee members shall be from the same club.

C. The election of nominated officers shall be voted upon at the annual PlayDay meeting by the entire membership.

D. The duties of the Executive Committee are to govern, interpret, and arbitrate the activities of the Fox Valley Women's Tennis League in accordance with its By-Laws.

E. A PlayDay Club shall be appointed annually by the President.

F. If an elected officer of the Executive Committee vacates her office prior to the end of her term, a suitable replacement shall be appointed by the remaining officers of the Executive Committee. The replacement shall serve in this position for the remainder of the two-year term.

G. Any League expenditure which falls outside of normal operating expenses (i.e., postage, copying, stationery, plaque engraving, etc.) must be unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

### **III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **A. Members-at-Large**

1. Members-at-Large shall be elected from their respective clubs.
2. Members-at-Large shall serve two-year terms, or longer if reappointed by their club.
3. Each Member-at-Large shall get one vote to represent the position of her club. If there is representation by more than one member from a single club, there shall be only one vote for that club.

#### **B. Voting Members of the Executive Committee**

1. The Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall each have one vote.
2. The President shall vote only in the case of a tie.
3. Executive Committee members do not vote as representatives of their respective clubs; rather, their votes should represent what they consider to be in the best interest of the League.

#### **C. The PlayDay Chairman shall have no vote.**

#### **D. The President Ex-officio shall have no vote.**

### **IV. MEETINGS**

#### **A. A Spring Board Meeting shall be held at least four weeks before the playing season commences to determine the following:**

1. Commitment to the number of teams fielded per Division per club.
2. Collection of dues from clubs.
3. Discussion of current matters.

#### **B. A Fall Board Meeting shall be held following both the regularly scheduled season and PlayDay to discuss business relating to the past season and items for consideration relating to the next year's season.**

#### **C. The President shall call special meetings as deemed necessary.**

### **V. TEAM AND MATCH PLAY**

#### **A. Eight scheduled matches shall constitute the season.**

#### **B. Match play shall begin the last week of May or the first week in June depending on the timing of the fourth of July holiday.**

#### **C. The Scheduling Committee shall attempt to create a schedule that allows each team to play every other club in its Division/Flight.**

#### **D. The Scheduling Committee shall attempt to create a schedule that allows teams to play home and away matches in equal numbers. However, due to clubs not fielding teams in equal numbers in all Divisions, and due to the inability of some clubs to host more than one team per day, scheduling inequities are inevitable and must be understood by the membership.**

#### **E. A firm commitment to the number of teams to be fielded by each club and the Division in which they will play shall be submitted to the Board at the Spring Meeting; dues are to be paid at this time.**

#### **F. The A and C Divisions shall play scheduled matches on Wednesdays.**

- G. The B and D Divisions shall play scheduled matches on Thursdays.
- H. Each team in each Division shall be comprised of three doubles teams: Court 1, Court 2, and Court 3.
- I. The Members-at-Large shall submit rosters of team members, plus their addresses and telephone numbers to the Secretary by the date specified at the Spring Meeting.
- J. Any player who plays on a winter team in positions 1 or 2 out of 6 possible positions, cannot play down an entire Division in the summer (i.e., an A1 or A2 winter player cannot play on the summer B team). The Members-at-Large shall receive a copy of the full League roster.
- K. Team Captains shall consult the Fox Valley Tennis website for Captains' Responsibilities.
- L. Dress shall be 75% white; warm-up suits are not subject to the "white" rule. If a violation occurs, the matter will be addressed by the Fox Valley Board.
- M. The host captain shall contact the visiting captain at least two days before the scheduled match to make luncheon arrangements. Members of this League are expected to stay for lunch. If there are extenuating circumstances that impact a player's ability to stay for lunch, the host team must be informed at least 48 hours in advance. The players will be responsible for paying for lunch, whether they stay or not. Less than 48 hours' notice, the player may request a "to go" lunch.
- N. The host team's responsibilities include:
1. Greeting the Visiting Team as they arrive.
  2. The provision of balls, towels, and a courtside beverage.
  3. The attempt to provide three courts of the same surface, although this is not always possible.
  4. Hosting the post-match luncheon.
- O. Written line-ups must be exchanged by team captains PRIOR to match play.
- P. For any given match, the Court 1 team should be able to beat the Court 2 team; the Court 2 team should be able to beat the Court 3 team.
- Q. Match Play
1. Matches shall start precisely at 10:00 a.m.
  2. The warm-up shall be no longer than fifteen (15) minutes and is considered to be part of the match. Practice serves must be taken ONLY during the warm-up. If the toss has been decided, practice serves may be taken from the end of the court from which each player shall be serving. However, a player may only take practice serves from one end of the court.
  3. Matches shall be three sets/two hours, whichever is first.
  4. The Twelve Point Wimbledon Tie-Break shall be used in any set reaching 6-6.
  5. Time Limit Scoring:
    - a. If a set is tied, the point is split. If a team is ahead by one game, the point is split. If the set hasn't started, the point is split. If a team is ahead by two games, that team wins the point. Any game point progress at the time limit must be played ("in Progress" is defined as "an attempt" at service). If the game is not completed, it does not count.
    - b. Fox Valley will provide timers to each club, to be used during every match.
  6. Current USTA rules, including "The Code," shall govern all match play.

7. All cellular phones and pagers MUST have ringers turned OFF for the entire match. NO EXCEPTIONS! If a team member needs to leave an Emergency Contact Number, she should leave the telephone of the appropriate Pro Shop.
- R. Host Captains shall enter scores into Fox Valley Tennis website within 48 hours of the match. A copy of the Score Sheet shall be retained by both captains. Only Official Score Sheets shall be accepted.
- S. Once the season begins, a rostered player may not move down a Division if she has played a match. If a player subs for a higher Division for a total of three matches, she then becomes a member of that Division and may not, thereafter, play for the lower Division.
- T. Teams will be penalized for an illegal line-up; the points for each infraction shall be awarded to the opposing team.
  1. The suspicion of an unfair line-up should be reported the same day by the Team Captain to her club's Member-at-Large.
  2. The Member-at-Large shall telephone the complaint to the President that day, to be immediately followed up with a written complaint.
  3. The complaint shall be investigated by an appointed committee who shall determine how the points shall be awarded for the affected match.

#### U. Default Rules

1. Fifteen minutes late – no warm-up; 16 through 30 minutes late – loss of first set; over 30 minutes late – loss of match. All matches start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Player must be on court not to be considered late.
2. If courts/matches must be defaulted, the host club's captain should be contacted as quickly as possible so she can notify her team.
3. If courts/matches must be defaulted in advance, the lowest court must be defaulted and all remaining teams must move up
4. When a match is defaulted, the defaulting team will be responsible for the entire match fee (\$15.00 per person).
5. When a match is defaulted, a \$30.00 default fine (per court) may be imposed by the League, payable at the end of the season.

#### V. Rain Policy

1. In case of rain on match days, the host Captain shall try to arrange ahead of time for indoor play. If this is not possible, the host Captain should contact the other team by 8:30 a.m. on the morning of play, to present options for rescheduling.
  - a. In the event of anticipated rain, the following steps should be taken:
    - 1) Play at the host team location, if there are indoor courts available.
    - 2) If there are no indoor courts available at the host team location, play at the visiting team location if they have available indoor courts.
    - 3) If either team has indoor courts, it is preferable to try to use those courts even if it means scheduling the matches at a different time.

4) If indoor courts are not available, the match will be played by entire team on the host team's raindate at a site to be determined, preferably within a week.

5) No points will be exchanged if the match cannot be played.

b. If rain interrupts play, and play cannot be resumed indoors, the following shall apply:

1) Any set played—points stand.

2) If play is stopped—score as time limit scoring.

## VI. ELIGIBILITY

A. Players must be adult members (21 or over) of their respective clubs, or spouses thereof.

B. No player may play for more than one club in the FVWTL.

C. Player must be rostered BEFORE the match.

## VII. TROPHIES

A. First place teams in each Division shall be determined by the points won/points lost ratio, regardless of Flight. In case of a tie, winner will be determined by sets won, games won.

B. Trophies shall be awarded at the annual PlayDay Meeting.

## VIII. PLAYDAY

A. Each season shall culminate with the annual PlayDay, to be hosted by Member Clubs in the following rotation:

1. Barrington Hills Country Club	2002
2. MidTown/Forest Grove	2003
3. Royal Melbourne Country Club	2004
4. Lincolnshire	2005
5. Dunham Woods Riding Club	1999
6. Biltmore Country Club	2000
7. Wynstone Country Club	2007
8. Hillcrest Country Club	2006
9. South Barrington Club	2001
10. Farmington Bath and Tennis	2008
11. Ivanhoe Country Club	2009
12. Hawthorn Woods Country Club	2010

B. In the event of rain canceling play at the various sites, the luncheon and meeting shall be held at the host site.

## IX. AMENDING PROCEDURES

A. Amendments to the FVWTL By-Laws may be proposed at meetings of the Board of Directors. A quorum for said meetings is two-thirds of the voting members of the Board (see Article III, Section B).

B. Any proposed amendments must be sent to all voting members of the Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting when the vote is to take place.

C. Any proposed amendment to the By-Laws must be passed by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the voting members present.

1. Once a proposed amendment had been approved by a three-fifths majority of voting members present, the approved proposed amendment must be provided, in writing, to the playing membership prior to any season
2. The approved proposed amendment shall stand for one season on a trial basis.
3. Near the end of the season, the approved proposed amendment shall be voted upon by the Executive Committee and Members-at-Large of the FVWTL.
4. The proposed amendment must be passed by two-thirds of the ballots cast in order to be permanently incorporated into the FVWTL By-Laws.