



Section 3.03 HOUSE LEAGUES

Intra club or house leagues a club are a popular way of getting people playing and mixing with other club members in a format that can be adjusted according to the ability and competitiveness of the players in order to make it fun.

Usually house leagues are based on ability level, age and gender. Any combination is possible. Time of day also plays a role in determining the type of leagues offered. An example of a typical intra club league timing schedule during the week might be as follows.

7:00 to 8:00 am – early morning working men’s or women’s league

10:00 am to 12:00 noon, 1:00 to 3:00 pm - ladies leagues or seniors leagues

4:00 to 6:00 pm – junior after school league

7:00 to 10:00 pm – mixed league

Different levels could be organized on different days.

Weekends can also be used. Perhaps a Friday evening singles mixed league would work or a Sunday morning working men’s league. It all depends on the membership.

To run a house league interested players should be assigned to teams...it’s always a good idea to have more players on a team than will play each week and to have some “spares” available. Each team would have a captain who will organize rotations of the team for when people are away and players would be responsible for calling a spare in the event they cannot play for some unscheduled problem.

The numbers of people on a team, the duration of matches, the number of switches in a session, the scoring (equal number or games, a set or even game splayed within a time frame) and the number of weeks in a house league session can all be varied to suit the players. If there are six teams of six people in a house league – you might want to want to play 3 matches of roughly 40 minute duration in an evening – but have only two matches on at any one time so each of the players gets 80 minutes of play. Then to have every team play every other team the sessions would be 5 weeks in duration. Off court time gives people an opportunity to socialise and keeps more people involved if courts are limited.

Keeping sessions relatively short means that you can run several sessions – this allows for greater commitment on the part of players and also allows new players to sign up for a fresh session.

Of course a house league will always be more popular if refreshments are served or there is a tradition of socialising at the end of the session.

If the club provides the balls or refreshments it may be appropriate to make a per session or per evening charge for participation. But if players are expected to provide the balls (in rotation) then this program could be included in membership fees.