



SECTION 3.04

LEAGUES

Last Updated January 1, 2023



League play is one of the most significant retention programming a club can offer its membership. Whether this type of programming is internal to the club (house league), or organized by an association external to the club, it can provide opportunities for members at all levels of proficiency to play and compete on a regular basis. Leagues also provide players looking to improve with regular varied competitive situations to build their experience and understanding of the game.

Leagues are particularly well suited to current social trends because:

- League play takes place at a scheduled time and place on a recurrent basis for a predetermined season.
- Leagues are usually organized by level and have some opportunity for readjustment from year to year, so players can generally expect their league matches to be with people who are of similar skill levels.
- The team format provides opportunity for building a social relationship between club members.
- The team format provides a competitive situation that is challenging but not generally as cut-throat as a tournament environment.
- Leagues provides team members with an opportunity to meet new players and widen their playing and/or social circle.
- Leagues can be organized to accommodate many different standards of play and formats.



Healthy interclub leagues exist in many communities across Ontario. Many leagues have been in existence for decades. Some of these leagues are organized by a region of the OTA, while others are organized by independent groups or associations that exist solely for the purpose of running leagues. Most of these leagues are currently organized and run by volunteer committees and a network of volunteer captains organize the teams.

Historically leagues have been run independently by local volunteers. Because league play operates on a reciprocal basis between clubs and on a user pay basis where these apply, many leagues are run with minimal expense and sophistication.

There are various tools for leagues to help modernize the administration and take advantage of internet technology. For example, the TennisScores system is used for the Toronto Ladies Tennis League.





Some of the leagues operating in Ontario are listed below with contact information where it is available.

- 1) Biggest league—Intercounty Tennis Association www.intercountytennis.com. Mixed, Ladies Day, Over 55 daytime and junior leagues operates in the Greater Toronto Area.
- 2) Toronto Ladies Tennis League www.ttl.org—evening and daytime leagues.
- 3) Toronto Mens' Tennis League
- 4) Windoor—ladies indoor league West of the GTA
- 5) Ottawa NCTA league
- 6) NYTA
- 7) STF
- 8) Caledon-Dufferin Inter Club Tennis league
- 9) Durham tennis league
- 10) Winter tennis league
- 11) GTA GA Tennis league
Dofasco in Hamilton
- 12) Hamilton and District league
- 13) Fort Erie, Windsor

A third way to run house leagues is to have players sign up as doubles teams to participate in a season long activity (such as men's, women's or mixed doubles).

Teams can be grouped by play level and multiple time slots can be used on the league night (so all pools play each league night.. but at different times).

Depending on the time block available for play, 1 or 2 matches can be played each league night. The winning team can be the one who wins the most games within the playing time frame.

You can set this up so that every 4 to 6 weeks, there is a regrouping based on the standings in each different pool.

For example, you may determine (and this should be stated in the league rules before the season starts) that after each session, the top team in Pool B advances to the Pool A, the first team in the Pool C to the Pool B, etc.

Conversely, the bottom team in Pool A drops to Pool B, the bottom team in Pool B goes to Pool C, etc.

The teams can be regrouped several times over the outdoor season.

This enables teams to get the most competitive matches possible as often as possible.

There are certainly many different and creative ways to set up a house league. If any club has other ideas on house leagues that work well at your club, please feel free to share with us so we can update our information.

