

Ladies Doubles will have a few changes this year to encourage less experienced players to join us and to make court management easier. The biggest change is that we will now ask players to RSVP before Tuesday night using Top Dog Tennis. After getting the names of those planning to play, each court will be assigned a group of four similarly rated players (A, B, or C-see below for details) instead of a random match at the court. Rather than rotate to different courts, this foursome will stay on the same court for the entire evening, rotating partners after each set. We will play three sets to six games still on a No-Ad basis to try to fit within our 1 1/2 hour time frame. As a foursome, you are welcome to agree in advance to change that to AD scoring since you will not be switching courts.

For our league, we ask for ratings on the registration form. An "A" player would have a USTA rating of 3.5 or above, be an experienced, well rounded player that makes few unforced errors. If you played college tennis, you would probably be an A rated player.

A "B" player would have a USTA rating of 3.0 to 3.5. Most of our current players fit into this category.

A "C" player would be a relatively new player who knows the basics of the game and can manage slower paced rallies. Their USTA rating would be a 2.5 or below.

This is a new program that we think will work to make the Tuesday night start easier, the play faster, and the ease of transitioning into the league smoother. We envision that we will know by Monday how many players we have coming and will be able to assign courts in advance. Each confirmed player will receive an email with their assigned court and court partners. Courts will be ready for play with balls already on the courts for players to begin warm up and start when ready. Without the need to wait for other courts to finish, we should have reduced downtime between sets.

By combining like-rated skill sets on courts, we aim to encourage more "C" level players to join us since they know they won't have to face an "A" player. Over time, these players will improve their skills and hopefully want to mix in with the "B" players.

We will also know before Tuesday how many players will be attending. If it will be an odd number, we can send out another email asking for more players to round out the courts.

All you need to do for now is to create a free Top Dog Tennis account at <http://www.topdogtennis.com/pages/useraccount.asp>. The rest we will explain once we get closer to the start. We recognize this is a new program that we will need to tweak and adjust. We welcome your suggestions as we go through the season to make our Tuesday night Ladies Doubles league even better!