

**THE RACQUET CLUB OF HATTIESBURG**  
**TENNIS RULES**  
**Revised February 2024**

The following tennis rules were presented to and developed by the Board of Directors on February 6, 2019, as a compilation of all previous rules (with additions, deletions, and amendments). This set of rules is intended to serve as the single and only set of rules and will supersede all previous sets of rules and amendments. These rules were amended and are effective February 6, 2024

- I. Tennis facilities may be used only by Racquet Club members and their immediate families and qualified guests.
  - A. Immediate families are classified as households living in the same dwelling, including all children (natural, step-children or half-children) under the age of 21. Unmarried children who are full-time college or professional school students under the age of 26 are also considered part of the member household. Special needs children may be considered as part of the household at any age.
  - B. Guest Rule for Tennis Court Use: Members may bring a guest for a \$20 charge. There is a limit of one (1) in-town guest per court at all times. Out of town guests (a person whose main place of residence is more than 60 miles from the club) are exempt from the guest charge.
  - C. Out-of-town family members are permitted to play with their family members when visiting in the Hattiesburg area.
  - D. For membership recruiting purposes, players who are new to town or unfamiliar with the Racquet Club of Hattiesburg may play four times with no guest fee assessed. These players must be signed in by a member with a notation made that it is a free recruiting tennis play session.
  - E. Guests must play with a member and must be signed in at the clubhouse or utilizing the online form prior to play. Failure to register a guest will result in a \$50 fine for the court for the first offense, and \$200 for additional offenses. Fines will be assessed to the member who made the court reservation.
  - F. Employees (who have worked for RCH for at least two months) may be allowed to play or practice on the tennis courts when the courts are not otherwise being used. An employee may not at any time play tennis while working.
  - G. Nonmembers/guests are permitted to play on Racquet Club courts when taking lessons given by club professionals. There is a \$5 charge per lesson assessed at the time of the lesson and payable to the club general account.
  - H. Nonmembers/guests may play on Racquet Club courts when participating in Racquet Club board-approved events.
  - I. Nonmembers may play on Racquet Club courts when the courts are made available by the board to other facilities for tournament use.
  - J. Local area tennis pros and local league coordinators are allowed to play without fee when playing with Racquet Club members.

## II. Reservations and Court Times

- A. Reservations for play may be made online through the ReserveMyCourt online court reservation system. All players should be listed when making the reservation. Only one court may be reserved per member.
- B. Courts may be reserved up to 48 hours in advance of the desired reservation.
- C. Courts may be reserved in 1½ hour intervals with start times being available every 30 minutes
- D. Tennis play after 11:00 pm is prohibited except during club-authorized tournaments or events.
- E. Play must begin on reserved courts within 15 minutes of start time. If play does not begin within those 15 minutes, the reservation is forfeited as a no-show cancellation, leaving the court open for use.
  - 1. After a first “No-Show” Cancellation, the member making the reservation will be warned. After a second no-show cancellation, the member will be fined \$30.
  - 2. Scheduled team matches and practices which are no-show cancellations will result in a first-time warning and \$50 fine per court for the team captain. After a second no-show cancellation of a practice or match, the team will forfeit all future court reservations for the league season.
  - 3. Members will not be allowed to make further reservations until their no-show fines are paid.
  - 4. If weather conditions prohibit play, no fines will be enforced.
- F. Members who make a court reservation and then find that play will not occur are asked to cancel no later than two hours before the playing time, if at all possible, so that others can play on the vacated court. Scheduled team matches and practices must be canceled by 2PM before the scheduled start time in order to avoid a no-show cancellation penalty.
- G. All reservations and court use will be subject to board approval, including tournament play or other approved club functions.
- H. Court 7 is reserved until 6PM, Court 8 is reserved until 8PM, and Court 11 is reserved from 6PM-8PM Monday-Friday for the club pro for teaching lessons. These courts may only be reserved when not needed by the pro.
- I. During time when courts are in demand, player groups may not reserve courts for consecutive time slots. In other words, a foursome or two singles players may not reserve courts for longer than 1 ½ hours when others are waiting to play.
- J. No person, without prior approval from the board, can use Racquet Club courts to engage in organized tennis play. Organized play includes school-sponsored matches, play or practice, or tournament play sponsored by any organization other than the Racquet Club. Any granting of such court use by the board will at all times be subject to revision or withdrawal by the board.
- K. Junior players have equal court reservation privileges as long as they are in accordance with the above rules.

## III. Court Conduct and Etiquette

- A. All persons must wear proper tennis attire. Athletic shoes with non-marking soles are the only type of footwear permitted. Any other type of shoe is prohibited, including playing barefoot.
- B. Play in street clothes or swimwear is prohibited. Shirts must be worn at all times.
- C. Players must place litter in trash cans. Players must remove personal belongings from the courts. Perpetual abusers of this rule will be brought to the attention of the board for disciplinary action.
- D. Clay courts must be groomed after use. Posted rules on clay courts must be followed.
- E. Each person using Racquet Club courts is expected to display sportsmanship, avoiding acts which may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis including obscene language, racquet throwing, displays of temper and loud talking during play.
- F. If play must be interrupted to answer questions or resolve disagreements, this should be done at the net, avoiding disturbance of nearby courts.
- G. Players should avoid entering an adjoining court for any reason when play is in progress.
- H. No bicycles, skateboards or similar such items which may result in damage to the court surface are allowed.
- I. Members should turn off lights when play is completed.
- J. Courts cannot be used for tennis lessons by outside pros unless approved by the board of directors.
- K. No smoking is allowed on the courts.

IV. Special Rules Governing USTA Adult League Tennis (including spring, mixed, combo, tri-level and singles)

- A. Court Priority: Racquet Club sponsored tournaments and board-approved events always have priority for court assignments.
- B. During USTA League Tennis seasons, scheduled matches have priority over individual court reservations. The Club Manager will pre-reserve the necessary courts for each team practice and league match.
- C. During all league seasons, matches may be scheduled on weeknights at 6PM or 7:30PM. and on weekends at the club manager's discretion. No more than one match will take place during a 1 ½ hour time period.
- D. Any open courts may be used for warm-ups during the 30 minutes prior to a match.
- E. Team Captains are asked to enforce on-time match starts with a 10-minute warm-up. USTA matches may continue until completion even when they exceed the 1 ½ hour time period reserved. Players are asked to proceed at USTA regulation pace in order to free the courts as quickly as possible.
- F. The fourth and fifth courts in a match may begin on any vacant courts ONLY if there are empty courts available. Courts which are reserved but not occupied may be used for a team match after waiting 15 minutes for the member who made the reservation to arrive. Captains must reserve these courts. Team matches that take place on these extra courts must leave the court if their court has been reserved for the following time slot, even if it is reserved only for social play.
- G. No member may ever be bumped from a court so that a captain may use an extra fourth or fifth court for a team tennis match.

- H. Each team will be guaranteed one court weekly for team practice. A court will be available at the 5:00PM, 6:30PM, and 7:30PM time slot on weekdays, and on weekends, one court per time slot will be available at manager discretion. No team practices may be booked before noon on Saturdays, or after noon on Sundays. During the weekday 5:00PM and 6:30PM practice time slots, only one nonmember is allowed on the designated practice court.
  - I. Practice times will be determined at the beginning of each season by random drawing.
  - J. Teams advancing past local league play will continue to have a practice court available weekly.
  - K. Rules regarding non-Racquet Club members on team rosters:
    - 1. Team captains must be members of the Racquet Club
    - 2. More than 55% of a team's roster must be members of the Racquet Club. The first violation of this will result in a fine of \$150 to the captain's account. A second violation will result in all Racquet Club matches and practices being cancelled, a \$150 fine to the captain's account, and that person will not be allowed to captain a Racquet Club based team for the following calendar year.
    - 3. Local non-members (those living within a 60-mile radius) must pay a non-member fee of \$100 per Racquet Club team. This fee may be applied to the stock purchase for joining the Racquet Club for that nonmember within the calendar year. Those non-members living outside a 60-mile radius of the Racquet Club may join a Racquet Club team for a \$25 fee.
    - 4. Non-member fees must be paid prior to the start of team practice. The fee will be billed to the captain's membership. Should the captain refuse payment of team fees, the team will not be able to use Racquet Club facilities for team practices or matches. Non-member fees are required for any non-member listed on the USTA team roster.
    - 5. Teams who have no local league play and who do not require a practice court must have at least 50% of their team's roster be members of the Racquet Club and no non-member fees shall apply.
    - 6. Teams that fall outside these parameters can petition the Board for inclusion.
    - 7. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors.
- V. Enforcement of rules
- A. All members are asked to report rules infractions to the club manager.
  - B. The club manager will ensure that rules are followed and enforced.
  - C. The club manager will report repeat problems regarding rules abuse to the board of directors.