

Bellevue Cup Rules

Rules Committee

The rules committee will be comprised of a captain and/or co-captain (or a stand-in) from each Bellevue Cup team, the Bellevue Cup Ladder Coordinator, and the Bellevue Cup Representative to the Wilmington Cup Tennis Association (WCTA). The current pro may be on hand at meetings as a moderator. Each team will have one vote, as will the Ladder Coordinator and the Cup Representative, unless these jobs are being done by one person in which case that person would get one vote. A proposed amendment or addition to the rules will be passed by a majority vote of the rules committee.

The rules committee may discuss and vote on an issue/proposal via email if it is inconvenient to hold a meeting. If a rules committee member is directly involved in the issue/proposal being discussed, then that player must recuse herself and may designate a representative to vote in her place. If it is determined that someone is manipulating the rules to benefit her situation, then this will be dealt with by the rules committee.

Any extenuating circumstances not covered by these rules will be taken to the rules committee for reconciliation.

Club Representative Responsibilities

The responsibilities of Bellevue Cup's WCTA representative include:

- Acting as the liaison between WCTA and the Bellevue Tennis Center management.
- Acting as the liaison between the Bellevue Cup members and the Bellevue Tennis Center management.
- Submitting team rosters to the WCTA roster coordinator.
- Presenting copies of the Spring and Fall schedules to the Bellevue Tennis Center office so courts can be booked.
- Attending the annual WCTA meeting in January of each year.

Ladder Coordinator Responsibilities

The responsibilities of Bellevue Cup's Ladder Coordinator include:

- Recording partnership and team match results (including use of subs) each week and at the end of each season and making them available to all.
- Coordinating internal and external challenges, recording the results, and making them available to all.
- Keeping the Bellevue Cup Ladder up to date and distributing it to all.

Note: the duties of the Club Representative and Ladder Coordinator can be shared or interchanged as necessary by the players holding these positions, or combined into one position, if there is only one person available to do both jobs. These positions will be filled by nomination and majority vote of the current Bellevue Cup team captains.

Captain responsibilities

A team captain's responsibilities include:

- Submitting rosters, including subs that have been contacted and agreed to play for Bellevue Cup, by the WCTA deadline for the spring and fall seasons.
- Setting up clinics with a designated pro before each season if the team desires.
- Preparing and distributing snack schedules for each home match prior to the start of the season.
- Being the liaison with the Club Representative and Ladder Coordinator.
- Thoroughly familiarizing themselves with these rules and the WCTA rules, especially the parts pertaining to the rain contingencies.
- Making arrangements with the opponents' captain when inclement weather is predicted.
- Reporting scores as directed by the WCTA and verifying that they have been recorded properly.

Bellevue Cup Membership and Fees

- As full time rostered WCTA players, all Bellevue Cup players must be members of Bellevue Tennis Center.
- Bellevue Cup players must pay Bellevue Tennis Center membership fees **before** the first match of the spring season (or fall season if a player joins

Bellevue Cup for the fall season), no matter whether it is a home or away match.

- Bellevue Cup subs need not be members of Bellevue Tennis Center but must pay the same guest fee that the general public pays when they play at Bellevue.

General Challenge Philosophy

The Rules Committee believes that challenge matches are the fairest and most accurate way to determine the order of partnerships on the ladder.

External Challenge Period

The External Challenge Period for new partnerships wishing to challenge onto a team is from January 1 to March 1. The challenge must be issued between January 1 and January 15 and must be completed by March 1. When the challenge is issued, a mutually acceptable date is to be determined. If the match is played on courts requiring a fee, the cost of the court is paid by the challenging partnership. The challenging partnership also provides the balls.

No existing partnership may be challenged more than **once**. A new partnership may challenge only **once**. An external challenging partnership cannot win a match by default except when filling a vacancy on the bottom **of the Bellevue Cup ladder**. If a new partnership successfully challenges onto the ladder, they take the position of the partnership they beat and they participate in the next Internal Challenge System. All other partnerships below are bumped down one position as a result of the new partnership.

Each challenging new partnership must identify themselves to the captain of the cup team and the Ladder Coordinator prior to challenging a partnership and must report the results to the captain, Ladder Coordinator, and Cup Representative immediately after the challenge has taken place.

Placement of Cup Teams on the Ladder

If two cup teams are on the same level, the team with the best overall record at the conclusion of the season will be placed above the other team on the ladder. If a tie exists between the two teams after the season, the team that has won the most sets will earn the higher spot. If the tie is still not broken, the team that has lost the least amount of games will earn the higher spot. In the event of another tie, the tie breaker will be determined by the current WCTA rules.

If a team moves down to a level where there is an existing team, the team moving down will be placed above the existing team on the ladder until the end of the next season at which time the previous rule will commence. If a team moves up a level where there is an existing team, the existing team at that level will be placed above the team moving up until the completion of the next season at which time the previous rule will commence.

Internal Challenge System

An Internal Challenge System will be initiated at the end of the last completed Bellevue Cup match in the spring and again in the fall, and will be completed during the two weeks following each season. The challenge system will start with the official ladder, based on the current season's Cup Roster at the end of the season. (Note: if teams re-arrange their court line-ups, this will be reflected in the official ladder. If a partnership decides to drop off the ladder, this is also reflected in the ladder, as outlined below.) The Ladder Coordinator will compile the records of all the partnerships and teams on a weekly basis and within 24 hours of the last Bellevue Cup match will determine the placement of each partnership on the end of the season ladder and make it available to all.

At the end of a season, partnerships that have already decided they are dropping off Bellevue Cup or splitting up must **signify this via email** to their captain, the Ladder Coordinator, and the Cup Representative by the last day of the Bellevue Cup season. Partnerships that are splitting up may participate together in the Internal Challenge Period to defend a challenge to their spot on the ladder, but they may not challenge up even if they have a winning season. (See the Partnership Breaks section later in this document for more information concerning partnerships splitting up.) When a partnership drops off the ladder, all other partnerships below are bumped up one position as a result of the vacated spot. If this occurs before the start of the Internal Challenge Period, then the ladder resets and internal challenges are based on the new ladder.

A partnership with a winning record is permitted **one** challenge up to two positions above themselves on the ladder (partnerships being challenged can have either a winning or losing season.) **In order to have a winning record a partnership must play together at least four times and win at least four matches, with a least three wins occurring with their partner. Thus, only one win with a sub can contribute to a winning record.** (A win by default during the season counts as a win.) If the challenging partnership wins, then they take the ladder position that was held by the challenged partnership at the beginning of the challenge period. (For example, if partnership "A" successfully challenged and

moved up the ladder and then partnership “B” won their challenge against “A”, partnership “B” could not take the new position that “A” had earned; they could only take the old position that “A” held at the end of the current season when challenges were issued.) All other partnerships below are bumped down one position as a result of the challenge. If they lose, they maintain their original position on the ladder.

Each partnership need only accept one challenge from a partnership with a winning season. During each Internal Challenge Period, each partnership would only have to play a maximum of 2 challenges, one issued by them and one issued to them, unless a playoff match is necessary due to a partnership falling more than two spots on the ladder.

All partnerships with winning seasons must submit their intentions for challenging (whether intending to challenge or not) via email to the Ladder Coordinator no later than 24 hours after the end of season ladder has been emailed to everyone:

1. The first choice of position/partnership (1 or 2) above them that they would like to challenge.
2. A second choice of position/partnership (1 or 2) above them that they would like to challenge if their first choice has already accepted a challenge. Or if they are only willing to challenge one position/partnership, then this must be stated.
3. Also, if they do not wish to issue a challenge at all, then this must be stated.

These intentions can be issued (and the challenge match played) as soon as the partnership has four wins and has played without subs for four matches.

However, since the ladder may reset at the end of the season due to a partnership dropping off or splitting up, it may be prudent to wait until the end of season ladder is determined before issuing a challenge. The highest ranking partnership on the ladder with a winning season will get their first choice of who they challenge. Then the second highest partnership with a winning season is given their first choice if that partnership has not already accepted a challenge, otherwise they will be given their second choice and so on down the ladder until all challenges are determined.

The ladder challenge matches will be determined within three days of the last Bellevue Cup match of the season and will be sent out by email. Once the challenges are determined, they can be played in any order. The ladder challenge matches must be completed no later than two weeks from the date that

the end of season ladder is established and emailed to everyone. Time and place of the challenges will be worked out by the affected players and submitted to the Ladder Coordinator before the match is played. Results must be sent via email to the Ladder Coordinator **no later than two weeks from the date that the end of season ladder is established and emailed to everyone.** The Ladder Coordinator will then send out an email with the challenge outcomes and the resulting ladder to all cup players.

When arranging challenge matches, partnerships should use the **current** WCTA rain rescheduling rules that specify the number of days and times each partnership should offer their opponents when trying to schedule the match.

Note: If the Internal Challenge results show that a partnership will fall more than two spots on the ladder, the rules committee will convene to determine the process by which the order of the partnerships on the Bellevue Cup ladder will be determined. This process may include playoff matches.

Injuries during Internal Challenge System

If a player is injured and cannot take part in the Internal Challenges during the two weeks following the season then they are given a grace period to complete their challenge(s) matches by July 15 after the Spring season or by March 1 after the Fall season. If their injuries are not healed in that time, then they lose their challenge(s) by default.

General Challenge Procedure

Teams playing a challenge match are expected to be aware of the rules regarding the challenge procedures. It is suggested that a set of these rules and the WCTA rules be taken on court in the event that a question arises or a specific rule needs to be clarified.

All challenge matches follow the normal WCTA match format where the best two out of three sets are played unless played indoors where the **current** WCTA rule for indoor matches would apply.

If a game is halted by injury, illness, or emergency after it has started, the games played should be recorded and the match will count as a win for the non-retiring partnership. Matches interrupted by inclement weather or court time limitations must be finished before the deadline date and continued from the exact score at

the time of the interruption. If a match is not completed before the deadline date, then the challenge becomes void and no movement takes place.

If it can be established that one partnership is dodging a challenge, then the dodging partnership must take a default and give their position to the challenging partnership and move down a position on the ladder. Accurate records must be kept of the number of times challenges were issued and the availability to be challenged. The rules committee will be available to mediate any grievances.

If a partnership declines to play in the cup position that they earned during the challenge period, then the partnership is dropped from the ladder. The partnership can challenge onto the ladder during the next External Challenge.

Partnership Breaks

If a partnership is splitting up they **must notify** their captain, the Ladder Coordinator, and the Cup Representative **via email** that they are splitting up and what they each plan to do.

Each individual may:

1. Choose a new partner and challenge their former partner for the court that they vacated by July 15 after the spring season and by December 15 after the fall season.
2. Choose not to challenge their existing partner for the spot, relinquish the spot, and wait for the next External Challenge period to challenge in with a new partner.
3. Choose not to challenge at all and to be put on the bottom of the DTC ladder or be added to one of the sub lists.

If the partners do challenge each other for the spot, the losing partnership may do the following:

1. Issue another challenge to any partnership below the slot on the ladder where they lost that has not already played two challenges during the Internal Challenge System.
 - a. If they win this second challenge, then they take the ladder position of the team they challenged and all partnerships below are bumped down one position. This second challenge must be completed within the same time frame listed above.
 - b. If they lose the challenge, then they can challenge onto the ladder during the next External Challenge Period.

Partnerships that break up and intend to challenge each other for their spot must accept a challenge from below (if issued) during the Internal Challenge Period. If one partner is willing and the other is not willing to accept and play the challenge, then the partner willing to accept is awarded the spot and the other partner may: challenge onto the ladder during the next yearly External Challenge Period, choose to be put on the bottom of the Bellevue Cup ladder, or be added to one of the sub lists.

If a partnership breaks up and only one of the partners wishes to remain on Bellevue Cup and play with a new partner, the new partnership may retain the original spot on the club ladder. If this decision is made and a new partner is chosen prior to the Internal Challenges, then they can play a challenge issued from a team below. If a partner is not chosen in this time period, the partnership issuing the challenge will win by default. A new partnership has not participated in the previous season and therefore does not have a winning season and is not entitled to issue a challenge. Note: If the remaining partner cannot find a new partner and notify the Ladder Coordinator and Club Representative no later than one week before rosters are due, then she must give up her spot on Bellevue Cup and can choose to challenge in with a new partner during the next External Challenge Period, or be put on the bottom of the DTC ladder, or be added to one of the sub lists.

A partnership must play a minimum of four matches together during a season or they will be dropped from the ladder. Extenuating circumstances may be taken to the rules committee.

Bottom of Ladder

When a partnership is bumped off the team at the bottom of the ladder, then they will maintain their position on the ladder and have the first option to fill a vacancy on the bottom of the ladder. If the partnership does not stay intact, then a player that has been on the ladder within the previous year will be given the first option to fill a vacancy if one occurs. If there is more than one partnership (with at least one player previously on the ladder) interested in filling the vacancy, then they will challenge each other for the spot.