

# Rules and Guidelines for HGTA Team Formation and Membership

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Herons Glen Tennis Association (HGTA) promotes competitive and social tennis among its members. The Association encourages team participation in local leagues and USTA play. The following rules and guidelines address the formation and maintenance of such teams.

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

A team player, regular or substitute must be at least 50 years of age and must be a property owner of Herons Glen or a renter for a minimum of three (3) months during the playing season. These three months need not be consecutive.

Team players are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and to comply with the HGTA and HGRD and their respective league rules. Inappropriate behavior, failure to comply with all rules of the HGTA, and/or rude conduct may result in the player(s) dismissal from the team and cancellation of HGTA membership. The team captain, or any HGTA member, can request an HGTA Board meeting for a review and disposition of an incident of inappropriate behavior, rule violation, and/or rude conduct. The accused player(s) will be given the opportunity to appear on his/her own behalf. Adjudication will follow guidelines set forth in the HGTA By-Laws.

## **TEAM DEFINITION and FORMATION**

A team consists of regular players and substitute players. A regular player agrees to play for a full season of home and away matches and team practices. A substitute player agrees to play in place of a regular player when the regular player is unable to play due to injury or occasional absence due to personal commitments.

Teams will operate within the rules of their respective leagues.

At the end of the season, if there is more than one team in a division, the existing captains for each division will meet and select players for the upcoming season. The team captains in each of the divisions will agree upon the date for this meeting unanimously. That is, all division selections may not occur on the same date. Failure to reach agreement for a date for a division selection meeting will then be determined by the President of the HGTA.

Similarly, registration deadline for each division will be established by the division team captains unanimously. Again if a decision cannot be reached, the President of the HGTA will establish such.

If for any reason, an existing captain does not wish to participate in the selection process, or the existing captain will not be participating as a full-time (i.e. regular) player in the league/division for which he/she would make selections, the President of the HGTA will designate an "interim captain" to make such selections.

If a player has not been chosen for the division for which he or she registered, then that player will be given the choice of participating as a sub in that division, or to be re-registered for selection in a lower division. Maintaining status as a sub, means that the player cannot play in a lower division as either a regular or a sub. This necessitates a sequence dependent selection meeting for some divisions. Currently

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this applies only to the North Fort Myers Men's League. Therefore, the selection meetings must be made by the Red, White and Blue divisions in that order. If a player cannot be contacted to determine a choice between sub versus the lower division, they will be placed in the lower division.

The selection will be done by a process to be unanimously agreed upon by all division captains. This method may change from year-to-year, but whatever method is used must insure a fair and equitable distribution of the various playing abilities across each of the teams, and provide for an equal number of players on each team. If such agreement cannot be reached, any captain may request resolution by the President of the HGTA. One or more teams may have more players than another by mutual consent of all captains.

Each team within a division will consist of a minimum of 6. The maximum number for each team will be decided and agreed upon unanimously by the respective league/division captains at the end of the season, and prior to the selection process. If a decision cannot be reached by the captains, the President will make the necessary determination.

After the initial selection process has been completed:

- Any remaining players will be placed in a division substitute list (i.e. a "sub pool"). Any player joining a division after this selection process must join as a division substitute.
- Due to the possibility of a large influx of new players, or a shifting of players between divisions, there may be enough players to form a team or teams in addition to those existing at the end of the current season. In this case there will have been no prior captain to select new members; therefore, the HGTA president will accept a volunteer or appoint an interim captain to make selections.
- After the selection process has been completed, the team captains may trade players among the various teams without limit; however, the number of players on each team must remain no more or fewer than before trading was begun. Note, where there are more than two teams, not all teams have to participate in the trading process.

After the teams have been chosen as described above, and at the earliest time of convenience, each captain will call a team meeting and the team members will elect a new captain and co-captain for the upcoming season. The existing captains and co-captains may be returned to office. Captains must be willing to run their team properly and fairly, and maintain team records.

### RULES FOR USE of SUBSTITUTES

Substitutes agree to play for any team who requests them without regard to favoritism or friendship. If the sub is available and healthy, he must accept the first request for his play.

Captains agree to and must abide by the following rules for use the division substitutes formed from the above selection process. A substitute may:

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- play an unlimited number of times at his division level.
- Sub "up" (i.e. to a higher ranked division) no more than 3 times.
- Not be used two times in succession by a given team unless there is no other substitute in the division list available.
- For those leagues that use the one set-match format, if a team has fewer than 6 players, or if for health or injury reasons a regular player cannot play two sets, a substitute may be used for one set.

Note, there is no provision for a substitute to become a regular player during the season. If a team falls below the minimum team member count for whatever reason, they must continue to substitute for the duration of the season.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADJUDICATION

In all cases where adjudication of an issue is required from the Board, it is not necessary for all Board members to participate in the decision process. For example, an issue that strictly concerns a men's division may excuse the representatives of the women's leagues (or vice-versa). This decision will be left to the HGTA President.

Any issue submitted for resolution by the Board of Directors, or any part thereof, shall be subject to adjudication by majority.

### PLAYER TRANSFERS

Players may request a transfer from one team to another. Such request must be submitted in writing to the HGTA Board. In evaluating such a request, the Board must consider not only the player's request but also team and player morale and compatibility.