

All 2022-2023 rule changes are highlighted in yellow.

UT Club Tennis 2022-2023 Challenge Ladder Rules

The club tennis challenge ladder functions to ensure fairness and objectivity in the creation of teams for tournaments. It will be referenced in order to create optimal teams for tournaments.

- The [club tennis ladder](#) reflects player standings based on challenge matches throughout the fall and spring seasons.
- Each team will consist of up to five guys and five girls and at least two guys and two girls. Depending on the number of people who sign up for each tournament, the number of players on each team will vary.
- Challenge matches are set up by contacting the opponent or opponents whom you wish to challenge. Our club directory can be found [here](#). If you don't have contact info for your desired opponent and cannot find it in the directory, email the officers (uttennisclub@gmail.com).

Challenging Rules by Date

Before and on October 16th

- All players may challenge **up to 4 spots** above their current spot.

Starting October 17th

- **TOP 5 PLAYERS** on each ladder will start the [strike system](#) (pg 4). Players may only challenge **ONE spot** above their current spot.
- **PLAYERS BELOW TOP 5 SPOTS** on each ladder may challenge **up to 2 spots** above their current spot.
 - Note: Any player challenging into the top 5 spots, must challenge spot 5 first.

Before November 1st, ALL PLAYERS must commit to **ONE ladder for the remainder of the season**. A Google Form will be sent out to all players on two ladders prior to this date. More details about this are under Players on Two Ladders.

Beginning November 1st, ALL PLAYERS will feed into a strike system. Players may only challenge **ONE spot** above their current spot.

The last day to **CHALLENGE** is **February 2nd** at midnight.

The last day to **SUBMIT** challenge results is **February 9th** at midnight.

Refer below for general rules, an explanation of the strike system, and guidelines for specific cases.

General Rules and Guidelines

- The challengee has **24hrs** to respond to the message from the challenger.
 - If within **24hrs** no response has been received, the challenger must notify UT Tennis Club. At this point, the challengee is considered to have forfeited the match.
- The challenger and challengee have **5 days** after they have established contact with each other to play the match. If the challengee cannot play the match within **5 days** of responding, they will forfeit the match.
- If the challengee has an ongoing challenge match that prevents them from accepting the challenge match against the challenger, they must notify the challenger and notify a club tennis officer, or the match is considered to be forfeited.
- You have to win a challenge match in order to be on any ladder, unless you challenge the last spot on a ladder and lose.
- A maximum of three challenge matches may be played per week (7 day period) per ladder; a challenger cannot challenge the same person twice for a period of **5 days**; “challenge-back” matches cannot take place sooner **5 days** from the initial match.
- If either player runs into a time conflict, they must notify their opponents 24 hours before the scheduled match time, or the match will be forfeited by the player with the conflict.
- Teams are created 9 days before a tournament, so they may not always represent the most up-to-date ladder results. This is because we must send our team rosters 8 days in advance of the tournament date.

Format

- The format will be a club set*, unless both parties involved in the challenge match decide on a different format (ex. regular set, 2/3 sets, pro-set)
 - *Club set: a set to 6, no-ad scoring, switch ends every 4 games, tiebreaker to FIVE at 5 games-all, with a sudden death point at 4 points-all. Serving in the tiebreaker starts with whoever would have served the next game, they serve two points, then their opponent two, then they serve two, and their opponent serves the last 3 points

Singles Ladder Rules

- If you challenge one spot above you, and you defeat your opponent, both players switch spots.
- If you challenge two or more spots above you and you win, you move to your opponent's position and your opponent drops below you. YOU DO NOT SWITCH SPOTS.

Doubles Ladder Rules

- Doubles challengers and challengees must challenge as a team
- If you challenge a team one spot above you and win, the two teams switch spots.
- If you challenge two or more spots above you and win, you move to your opponents' position and your opponents drops below you. YOU DO NOT SWITCH SPOTS.
- If one doubles partner cannot play a match in the allotted time frame, then the entire doubles team will forfeit the match and the challengers will take their position.
- It is up to each player to find a doubles partner.

Switching/Joining Ladders

- If you would like to switch or join a ladder, you still have the opportunity to at any time.
- Players will not be required to challenge in from the bottom of the ladder if they are switching or joining a new ladder.

- Officers can decide who on the ladder you can challenge based on knowledge of skill level or using our scouting system*.
 - **Scouting System:** An officer will “scout” you at one of our scheduled practices and assign you a challenge match. If you lose this assigned match, you will need to challenge the player/team two spots below the assigned match. With that being said, if you are challenged by a player through this system and you refuse to play, the match will be considered forfeited to the challenger. We will not assign matches to each player on the ladder more than once.
 - In order to request an assigned match, please email uttennisclub@gmail.com with (1) your skill level/tennis experience (i.e. NTRP, UTR, past performance) and (2) a practice that you will attend.
- You have to win a challenge match in order to be on any ladder, unless you challenge the last spot on a ladder and lose.

Players on Two Ladders:

- Around the time of the last Fall tournament, a google form will be sent out to all players on two ladders to select ONE ladder for the remainder of the season. Be sure to begin communicating with your partners NOW about your intentions for what you will be choosing, so that displaced partners can have a plan for what they will compete in.
 - You may choose a new event to compete in if you are displaced by your doubles partner. You can either find another displaced player to play doubles/mixed with, or you may play singles.
 - Players will not be required to challenge in from the bottom of the ladder in their new event. Communicate with the officers and refer to the “Switching Ladders” section for guidance.
 - Remember, top teams for spring traveling will be made from all line 1 players, meaning mixed becomes crucial.

Strike System

- **Summary and Purpose** of implementing a strike system:
 - **Purpose:** to have a stable ladder to create Spring Sectionals teams from.
 - **Summary:** in order to take someone's spot, you must overcome any losses you have had to them in the challenging period by one more win than losses. Players may only challenge 1 spot above them.

- More detailed explanation:
 - In order to take a player/team's spot, you have to be in the "positive" (+1 or +2) with that player/team

 - Every player/team will start off as "neutral" or "0" with every other player/team

 - If a player/team challenges another player/team and wins, they will be "+1" with that player/team and the players/teams will switch spots
 - If the same player/team play again and the same player/team win, they will be "+2"
 - The maximum limit will be "+2" between any player/team

 - If a player/team challenges another player/team and loses, they will be "-1" with that player/team
 - If the same player/team play again and the same player/team lose, they will be "-2"
 - The maximum limit will be "-2" between any player/team

 - Players will also have the opportunity to "challenge down" by challenging the player/team below them
 - If a player/team challenges the player/team below them and wins, they will be "+1" and **vice versa**

- Strike system example scenarios:
 - Scenario 1
 - **Player/Team A** has challenged **Player/Team B** twice and lost both times. **Player/Team A** is "-2" with **Player/Team B**. Now in order for **Player/Team A** to take **Player/Team B**'s spot, **Player/Team A** will have to beat **Player/Team B** three times, achieving a "+1" with **Player/Team B**.

- We understand that this system may seem complicated, and as always, please

reach out to the officers or email us at uttennisclub@gmail.com with questions or concerns!

Other important points

- LADDER SELECTION IN NO WAY MEANS YOU ARE LOCKED INTO PLAYING THIS EVENT AT TOURNAMENTS. THIS LABEL REFERS TO ONLY THE EVENT IN WHICH YOU CAN BE CHALLENGED.
 - For example, singles players may only be challenged in singles, and doubles players may only be challenged in doubles.
- In order to be eligible for a traveling team in the spring (nationals/invitationals team) players must participate in **at least two** tournaments (**1 in the Fall* and Sectionals**), have paid their dues, filled out a membership packet, and completed 8 volunteer hours.
 - *Exception: A player may still be eligible to be on a traveling team if they have an extenuating circumstance (ex: injured, foreign exchange student, studying abroad, any circumstance that does not allow the player to play in the Fall).
 - The Intraclub tournament in the fall does not count
- If a player does not meet the club's minimum tournament requirements, they will not be able to play on a traveling team. Read more about traveling teams [here](#).
- At a certain point, early on in the Spring semester, challenges will end, and the ladder will be fixed.
- The challenge ladder will be accessible on the club website (www.texasclubtennis.com) under the "Ladder" tabs.
- If you are unhappy with the team you are on, use our challenge system. Please read the rules carefully. If you are not on the team you thought you would be on, please realize that it is IMPOSSIBLE to assign everyone to the team they are supposed to be on with the limited time that we have seen everyone play. Also, realize that we have A LOT of very good players. Keep challenging!!! If you are on the wrong team, you will eventually find your way to the right team if you keep coming to practices and tournaments!!
- UT Club Tennis reserves the right to move any ex-varsity player to another team

for tournaments due to the "one ex-varsity player per team" rule for USTA Tennis on Campus events.

- UT Club Tennis Officers have the right to make exceptions and changes to any of these rules.

MOST IMPORTANTLY REMEMBER THIS IS ALL FUN!!! WE AREN'T PLAYING FOR THE DAVIS CUP OR ANYTHING. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL AND REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER WHAT TEAM YOU END UP ON IT IS GOING TO BE A BLAST.

Contact Info:

uttennisclub@gmail.com