Revised: 03/29/26

EAST VALLEY SENIORS TENNIS LEAGUE

BYLAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership shall be vested in those participating clubs identified in the "Constitution" and any memberships approved thereafter.

B. Each participating member club shall be allowed one voting member at all league meetings. "Conditional member clubs" will be allowed one voting member each, but will be "abstained" on certain issues, as provided by the Constitution.

C. Each member club shall be considered a member in perpetuity, unless self-withdrawn or terminated for cause by two thirds vote of a quorum membership.

D. New clubs may be added to the league after they submit a written petition to join, are evaluated by a "Special Committee" appointed by the league president, and then approved by a majority vote of the member clubs with a quorum present and voting.

II. FINANCES

A. The EVSTL is a non-profit organization, staffed and operated by member club volunteers only.

B. Expenditures are limited to league operation expenses only.

C. An annual fee of $20.00 will be levied from each member club to be used for EVSTL operational expenses. The treasurer collects these fees at the October EVSTL meeting of each year. The executive committee will have the authority to request an increase as may be needed, however, final approval of any fee change must have a majority vote of the member club presidents.

D. Player and/or team fees for the league management system are set by the executive committee and paid by respective clubs based on the cumulative player/team data available in March of each year for each member club. Payment is due at the March membership meeting for league play for the following season or within Twenty days of notification of any amounts due, whichever is sooner.

III. MEETINGS

A. Three regular meetings will be held each league season. When possible, the meetings will be held the week prior to league play in the fall, the last week in January and within 2 weeks following the league spring season play.

B. The President may call a “special” meeting upon seven (7) calendar day notice to each member Club.

C. Non-representation of any “member or conditional member club” shall not invalidate that meeting if a quorum membership is in attendance.

D. Fifty percent of the “member clubs” present at any league meeting shall constitute a quorum.

E. Motions shall be considered “passed” when a majority of the quorum vote is in favor of the motion. If there is a tie vote, the league president or presiding league officer will cast the deciding vote.

F. Members of the executive committee may propose motions at regular or special meetings of the membership but have no vote on matters before the membership, except as in paragraph E. above.

G. The President shall send the preliminary Agenda for meetings to member clubs at least 5 days prior to the meetings, when possible, with attachments if available. The members present at the meeting will approve the agenda at the start of the meeting, subject to additions as requested.

H. Roberts’ Rules of Order (Simplified) should be used as a guideline for conducting league meetings.

I. Electronic Meetings. Upon determination by the President, meetings may be held by means of equipment enabling all participants to communicate directly with one another. Any person entitled to attend a meeting who participates by such means is deemed for purposes to be present at the meeting. The Executive Committee may establish procedures regarding the holding of meetjings by such means. Any member participating in a meeting by means of equipment enabling all participants to communicate directly with one another may vote by any means enabling votes to be cast in a way that allows them to be verified afterwards, whether the vote is by a functional equivalent of a show of hands or by ballot.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. The league officers shall be elected annually at the January meeting.

B. The officers shall consist of a president, vice president, a secretary-treasurer and a scheduler. The president and the vice president shall not be from the same member club. Conditional club members shall not hold any league office.

C. Newly elected officers shall assume office April 1 and serve through March 31

D. If there is an officer vacancy during a term, other than the president, the remaining officers shall appoint a replacement. The vice president automatically succeeds as president should that office become vacant during tenure.

E. League officers need not be designated voting members of their respective clubs.

V. DUTIES OF LEAGUE OFFICERS

A. President

1. Structure the agenda and preside at all league meetings.

2. Call special meetings as required.

3. Appoint committees as necessary or as prescribed.

4. Act as business administrator on matters relating to league operations.

5. Enforce the Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Vice-President

1. In the absence of the president, perform the duties of that office.

2. Assure that rating statistics from each Club are submitted to the web site manager at the end of each league season. If a player met the guidelines to move and did not, inquire as to why not.

3. In March, the vice president will coordinate with the League Management System Network Administrator to compile a census for the league. A copy will be promptly posted on the website.

4. Perform other league duties as requested by the president. Serve as ex-officio chairperson of the advisory committee when called upon by the president and provide assistance to the nominating committee to assure that its work is completed by the first week in January.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

1. Keep minutes of all league meetings. Upon approval of the minutes by the President, have them posted to the website. Maintain an electronic and hard copy of all documents for the league.

2. Act as treasurer in league financial matters.

3. Assist in other league administration as requested by the President.

D. Scheduler

1. Prepare league team play schedules for posting on the League Management System.

2. Create all league teams play matches in the league management system.

3. Ensure that the Member Club Information" (TCR) from each Club has been updated on the EVSTL website prior to April 15th.

4. Ensure that current team rosters from each Club are updated on the EVSTL and league management web site by August 1.

VI. COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Executive Committee

1. The executive committee will consist of the president, immediate past president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and the scheduler.

2. The president will schedule regular meetings of the executive committee and may call special meetings as needed.

3. The executive committee will enforce the EVSTL Bylaws and Constitution.

B. Advisory Committee

1. The committee will consist of five club presidents and the EVSTL vice president. The vice president will serve as chairperson (ex-officio).

2. The advisory committee members are selected by the president on a rotating basis in alphabetical order of club names.

3. The members will serve from April 1 to March 31 of each year.

4. Duties: The advisory committee will review specific issues, discuss possible solutions and present recommendations as requested by the president. The president will present those recommendations to the executive committee.

C. Nominating Committee

1. The president will appoint three club presidents to serve on the nominating committee. on or before December 15th of each year. The Vice President will assist the committee as needed and function as an unofficial member of the committee.

2. A chairperson will be established by the three members.

3. The committee will present the nominees for each office at the January meeting when elections will be held.

4. Floor nominations will be allowed.

D. Web Site Manager

1. The President will appoint a web site manager.

2. Duties: To manage the EVSTL website, update club information, bylaw revisions, and all other aspects pertaining to EVSTL business.

E. EVSTL Beginner's Coordinator

1. The EVSTL president will appoint a Beginner's Coordinator at the beginning of each season.

2. The duties of the Beginner's Coordinator are:

a. Communicate with the Beginners' team captains to ensure each club has a good Beginner's program in existence, including instruction and practice sessions for the players.

b. Hold Beginner Captains' meetings as necessary to strengthen the programs and/or discuss any other pertinent information that may be useful to the captains and/or the players.

c. Submit progress reports to the president prior to each general membership meeting and as requested by the President.

F. League Management System Advisory Committee

1. The president will appoint a League Management System Advisory Committee at the end of each season. The composition of the LMSAC should reflect members who have extensive experience in the league, good knowledge of the Bylaws, and a complete understanding of the system. Further, the committee should include at least 3 different levels of play and include at least one current or past club president, if possible.

2. The president will appoint a League Management System Network Administrator at the conclusion of each season who will be a member of and work with the committee.

3. The administrator will communicate with and coordinate with the club League Management System coordinators to ensure the training and use of the system work well in the league.

G. 75+ Administrator

1. The President will appoint a 75+ Match Administrator at the conclusion of each season.

2. The 75+ MA will communicate with and coordinate with the 75+ players and/or the Club to ensure that the 75+ system operates well in the league.

H.4.5+ Administrators

1. The President will appoint a 4.5+ Match Administrator at the conclusion of each season.

2. The 4.5+ MA will communicate with and coordinate with the 4.5+ players and/or the Club to ensure that the 4.5+ system operates well in the league.

VII. TEAM MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

A. To form a traditional team, a club must roster, at a minimum, the following number of players:

Levels 2.0- 4.0: A minimum of 6 committed players of each gender playing on a team. It is recommended that a team have 8 to 10 players.

B. To form a second, third and fourth team, a club must roster, at a minimum, the following number of players:

Second team: Level 2.0– 4.0: 16 men, 16 women

Third team: Level 2.0– 4.0: 24 men, 24 women

Fourth team: Level 2.0– 4.0: 32 men, 32 women

C. Due to gender imbalance, a team can be formed from players of just one gender. To form this team, a club must roster, at a minimum, the following number of players:

Levels 2.0- 4.0: 6 men or 6 women (It is recommended that a team have 8-10 players).

D. To play a league match, a club shall make every effort to field at least 3 matches at each gender being played including the use of the extra player board and play ups.

E. Roster players shall be players who are present in the resort and are ready and able to play except for week-to-week injuries. Rosters should be updated throughout the year.

F. Season-long borrowing arrangements may be used to supplement existing teams to achieve the minimum numbers.

G. Individual players who are assigned to another club for an entire season count on the receiving club's roster.

H. In the event of a club achieving the required number of men, but not women (or vice versa), an appeal can be made to the league president or designate who, in consultation with the executive committee, may grant an exception to the bylaw numbers for the current season. Member Clubs must make every effort to fulfill their Membership Requirements in each Division, utilizing all options available to them prior to waivers being granted by the EVSTL.

I. Clubs should maintain accurate rosters on both the club's website and the team roster page(s).

J. Clubs shall establish a Beginner program for new players who do not have significant prior tennis experience or skills. The program shall adhere to the rules set forth in the EVSTL Procedures.

K. Any player that is on a team roster for any club must be a current resident of that community or be an approved affiliate player as outlined below or as otherwise provided by the by-laws.

1.Affiliate Player Definition:

a. Affiliate player- any individual player who does not reside in an EVSTL member park and has been approved as an affiliate player to play in EVSTL league play.

b. Host club: Any EVSTL member club who accepts affiliate players on their roster.

2. An affiliate player must meet all criteria for 0member players as otherwise outlined in the Constitution and by-laws except the 12-mile circle provision of the Constitution does not apply.

3. Affiliate players appear on the rosters of the host club.

4. Affiliate players do not have a vote at league meetings and cannot hold an EVSTL office.

5. Affiliate players would be eligible for league play only upon the recommendation of a host EVSTL member club and approved by the EVSTL Executive Committee.

6. At no time shall individual players other than from full member clubs or affiliate players play in an EVSTL match.

7. An affiliate player must agree to play with the host EVSTL tennis club for an entire season, and such players would abide by all the rules of the EVSTL.

L. Player Shortages:

1. Play up. Players may play up to the next rating level due to shortages of players on the higher level team. The opposing team must be notified if this occurs.

2. Due to player shortage:

a. If a member club cannot form even one team at any given level but has players for that level, those players may play for another EVSTL member club on a "permanent" basis. Those players must commit to playing for the one team for the season and must be placed on that team's roster. (Note: All players must be a resident of an EVSTL member park). Alternatively, the member club short a few players to form a team may borrow players on a "permanent" basis from another club to fill out a team. Again, those players must commit to playing for that one team for the season and must be placed on that team's roster. Both clubs must approve player transfers.

b. If a member club has a shortage of players at a given level but has players for that level, the club may arrange with another club to borrow players for that level on a continuing basis throughout the season to meet minimum team membership and match requirements. Individual borrowed players are not required to play each week with the borrowing club but may be rotated with other borrowed players. A written agreement between the two clubs regarding the borrowing arrangement is recommended.

3. A player must be a member of only one team, unless otherwise provided in these procedures.

4. Club teams are allowed to borrow players from their sister team(s) to meet matchup requirements. “Sister teams” are defined as two or more teams from a club at the same level/gender.

VIII. CONDUCT OF LEAGUE TENNIS MATCHES

A. All matches shall be conducted in compliance with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Rules and the guidance of the USTA Code of Conduct.

B. League match play season begins the first full week of November and ends in March of the following year, to run for a 16-week playing period or as otherwise approved by the Board at the March meeting preceding the Fall season.

C. Each participating club may field two teams at each rating level with four courts and up to four teams per rating level with six available courts.

D. Play days are Monday 3.5, Tuesday 2.0, Wednesday 3.0, Thursday 4.0 and 1.5 play, Friday 2.5, Saturday 75+. 4.5+ Women will play on Tuesday, men will play on Friday, subject to change based on club availability to host the teams or team’s request.

E. All Clubs must start their EVSTL matches at 9:00 A.M. Exceptions will be allowed at those Clubs where scheduling conflicts require an earlier or later time. Captains should always verify start time when scheduling games with opposing captains.

F. Each match will consist of two regular sets, but at a 6-6 tie in any set a 12-point tiebreaker game will be played to

determine the winner. If each team has won one set then a Coman tie-breaker game will comprise the third and deciding set. An 18-point match Coman tie-breaker will be used at all levels.

G. If a match is canceled due to weather, and a minimum of one set has been completed, the set scores and all games completed at the time of cancellation will be recorded.

H. Matches will not be scheduled during the Christmas and New Year holidays unless otherwise approved by the membership.

I. Injured Player Policy (Retirement): If a match is stopped due to a retirement, a minimum of one set must have been played to record the scores and then all games played, to the point of retirement, will be recorded. The captain recording the scores must select the team who did not retire as the winner of the match.

J. The Player Board procedure sets out the method that Captains and players may play matches.

K. EVSTL has adopted both a 4.5 and a 75+ Division, these divisions shall adhere to the rules set forth in the EVSTL Procedures.

IX. PLAYER RATING PROCEDURES

A. Each club shall use league play experienced rating verifiers from their own club or other qualified evaluators from other member clubs or outside expertise to evaluate their players using the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) guidelines, and guidelines recommended by the EVSTL. To ensure new players are placed at the appropriate level, the member club's rating committee shall give them an on-court evaluation.

B. Players who transfer between clubs within the EVSTL maintain their level of play.

C. Returning Players: If a returning player does not play in the previous twelve months or more the member club's rating committee shall give the player an on-court evaluation. Based on the evaluation, the club shall determine the level of play.

D. Serious Health Conditions. A club may move a player down to a lower level of play due to serious, long-term health issues or significant disabilities due to the aging process. Players who have a very serious medical condition may apply through the club president for a change of level which the EVSTL league administrator will process with the league management system.

The club shall notify the league management administrator of the effective date that a player moves to a lower level due to long-term health issues.

E. When two teams at the same level from the same Club are scheduled for league play against each other, prior to the start of play, the captains shall determine whether to record the match statistics in the league management system. If the captains cannot agree then the matches will not be recorded.

F. When players who have been borrowed by an opposing team are scheduled to play against their club team, prior to start of play, the captains shall determine whether to record the match statistics in the league management system. If the captains cannot agree then the matches will not be recorded.

G. A clubs Executive Committee or an individual player at any level may request an evaluation if the club leadership determines the player may be successful at another level either up or down. This is limited to no more than one re-evaluation per tennis season. The club determines the criteria for re-evaluation in accordance !'with these bylaws. If the re-evaluation determines the player's skills are indicative of success at another level, the player should be placed on th)at roster.

X. TEAM CAPTAINS (TC)

A. A team captain shall be designated for each team roster.

B. Captains must be familiar with the USTA Rules, Code of Conduct Guide, EVSTL Bylaws, and Constitution. A copy of the USTA Rules shall be available at each match

C. Captains' Procedures for Use of the League Management System are in the EVSTL Procedures. Team captains are to observe the Captains' Procedures in arranging matches to achieve fair and competitive play.

D. Captains should co-arbitrate "on-court" disputes during matches in accordance with USTA rules.

E. Team captains shall also:

1. Provide new balls that can be used for no more than two matches that day.

2. Provide coffee and refreshments as appropriate.

3. Provide on court scorekeepers for each match (optional for add-on or extra matches) for all 3.0 players and below matches. Scorekeepers for 3.5 and 4.0 matches are at the discretion of the team captains. Scorekeepers shall call out the score after each point. Scorekeepers will not make any line calls, referee rulings, provide coaching or otherwise influence the players.

XI. USE OF THE LEAGUE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A. The selected league management system is the only system to be used by all member clubs. All member clubs shall use the league management system to arrange matches and provide for player move-ups and move-downs.

B. The league president will name members to a League Management System Advisory Committee that will oversee the implementation and coordination of the League Management Software system. It is required that each member club name a League Management System Coordinator to facilitate communication and coordination between the EVSTL committee and the club's leaders and members.

C. Member clubs will enroll all their EVSTL league players into the League Management system. Only players registered with the system are eligible for league play.

D. Member clubs shall provide pre-season training to team captains regarding the proper use of the system. The focus

of this training should be on accessing and utilizing the system, arranging fair and competitive match play, and recording accurate scores.

E. The League Management System Advisory Committee may make interpretations and issue directives to member clubs regarding the use of the system, as approved by the executive committee, as needed throughout a season to maintain or enhance fair play. Such directives will not require revisions in these Bylaws prior to implementation by the member clubs, although revisions to the Bylaws regarding rules and guidelines may be updated at the March meeting of the membership each year, if necessary.

F. Captains' Procedures for Using the League Management System are in "Procedures" on the website. Team captains are to observe the Captains' Procedures in arranging matches to achieve fair and competitive play. Captains' Procedures may be modified or adjusted throughout a season to achieve fair and competitive play.

XII. COMPLIANCE AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

A. All clubs shall follow the requirements in these Bylaws. Violations will be referred to the EVSTL president through a club president for review and action. The president will conduct a review of the possible violation and will consult with the executive committee when appropriate. Possible action may include discussions with the club leadership to resolve a problem, reducing the number of club teams, modifying the league schedule, or other actions to maintain fair and consistent competitiveness and play.

Appeal procedure: An appeal of the decision of the president because of XII. A may be made by presenting such an appeal to a meeting of the executive committee. The decision of the executive committee is final.

B. A problem which is a continuing or serious violation of league rules, Bylaws or Constitution, and which cannot be resolved among the concerned clubs, shall be referred to the president in writing from or through a club president.

The president shall conduct or cause an investigation of the problem and shall consult with the executive committee prior to issuing a decision. The president shall then render a decision regarding the problem, which shall be binding on the league clubs.

Appeal Procedure: An appeal of the decision of the president must be made in writing to the president, who shall present the appeal at a special meeting of the league members. The final decision will be made by a vote of the member clubs. A two-thirds majority of the clubs present and voting is required to overturn the president's decision.

C. In the event there is a conflict between EVSTL bylaws and other procedures, guidelines, and/or policies, EVSTL bylaws will prevail.

D. All matters not expressly covered in the EVSTL bylaws shall come under the jurisdiction of the individual EVSTL member clubs.

XIII. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING BYLAWS

A. Only club presidents (or their designees) and EVSTL executive committee members may submit proposals for amending the bylaws.

B. All bylaw proposals must go through the league president so that they can appear on the EVSTL meeting agenda.

C. Proposed changes are discussed and modified, if necessary, at a regularly scheduled meeting.

D. After discussion and modification, the club presidents must vote on whether to forward them for final approval at the next EVSTL meeting. A proposed bylaw change at the EVSTL March meeting is not required to be forwarded for #final approval if 75% of the club presidents vote to implement.

E. All approved amendments take effect the following EVSTL season unless at least 75% of the club presidents (or their designees) vote to implement them at a different time.

F. To temporarily suspend all or part of any bylaw requires “9the approval of the president.

XIV: TENNISCORES

A. The official system to use for managing the EVSTL tennis play is Tenniscores. The transition to tenniscores for league play was made for the 2023-24 league season.

B. The method to move up/down in level is through tracking the performance of Wins/Losses as provided by item H of this Section. Men and Women will be on the same team, whenever possible. All moves up/down are on an individual

basis. Scheduled League play will be at the levels of 2.0 through 4.5.

C. A pool (conglomerate) of players at the 1.5 level is the new opportunity to manage play.
Specifically designed to improve participation and make fun, fair matches for 1.5 players.
Details are to be determined.

D. Players at the 4.5 level and the 7.5+ level will continue in the current play format.

E. A commissioner (system owner) will be appointed by the President to implement and oversee Tenniscores for EVSTL.

F. Move Laterally
Players may be moved laterally from season to season unless otherwise provided by Sections IX.G and XIV.H. of the bylaws

G. Captain Duties:

1. Captains will own the complete process to match player pairs; first making equal player pairs between the scheduled clubs and then filling unequal lines from other clubs.
2. Captains may use the message and mail system within Tenniscores for communication with players.
3. Captains may delegate duties to a co-captain; data entry and management is a separate role if desired.

H. EVSTL League Play

1. Mandatory Move Up/Move Down Criteria

a. A player winning less than 40% of their games when playing line 3 or lower will move down at the end of the season
b. A player that has won 75% of their matches and 55% of their games while playing at line 1 or line 2 must move up at the end of the season. This does not apply to 4.5+ players.
c. Playing Up games/matches do not count toward the criteria of 1 and 2 above.
d. This Section does not supersede Section IX.G regarding player re-evaluation.
e. Only matches played at line 1 and line 2 are considered for mandatory move up. If a player plays fewer than 8 matches on line 1 or 2, but meets the criteria to move up, the player's club will determine whether sufficient matches have been played to demonstrate whether the player is ready for the next level.
f. Only matches played at lines 3 or lower are considered for a mandatory move down. If a player plays less than 8 matches at line 3 or lower and has not won at least 40% of their games, the player's club will determine whether sufficient matches have been played to demonstrate that the player should be moved down.
g. Move down criteria does not apply to 2.0 players.

2. Substitutions
    a. At the request of the captains, a player may play up, but not down.

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3. Recommendations for Play
    a. Captains are encouraged to have players play with a variety of team members throughout the season.
    b. Consider Win/Loss percentages in making player pairs to have more competitive matches.
    c. After all available players at a level have procured a match, then encourage play up at the club to increase matches and court utilization.

I. Minimum Team Size by Level: See Section VII.A and B. Men and women are on the same team, whenever possible.9

J. Schedule:

TCR DUE: April 15th
Final chance to edit TCR: June 1st
Rosters input Tenniscores: August 1st
Schedule in Tenniscores: September 1st

There could be a new TCR and schedule created for subsequent weeks, according to the Scheduler's timing, and frequency, with the lead time the Scheduler requires. All subsequent schedule(s) will be entered into Tenniscores, by the Scheduler, in agreement with the Commissioner, a week prior to the 1st match in the next period.

K. 75+ Play Level

1. The 75+ Level, an integral part of EVSTL, will operate as it is, with procedures that facilitate the type of structure in which the members want to play.

L. 4.5+Play Level

1. The 4.5+ Level, an integral part of EVSTL, will operate, as they currently do, in a unique division that accommodates their method of play. Its structure will now reside in Tenniscores. If a player wins 20% or less of their matches, the player will move down a level, once per year, at the end of the season. It is 7required that the player must have played a minimum of 8 matches.

M. 1.5 Play Level

1. The 1.5 Level, an integral part of EVSTL, will operate as a pool (conglomerate). A unique location will be created in Tenniscores to accommodate 1.5 play.
2. The 1.5 Coordinator will be responsible for organizing matches on a weekly basis.