

**GFS&T WOMEN'S COMPETITIVE TEAM TENNIS**  
***OPERATING PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES***  
***Updated February 2020***

Background – In recent years, we have seen an increased interest in women's competitive team tennis at the Club, as well as a growing interest in the development of a strong and well-integrated women's competitive tennis program. To facilitate the principled, fair, efficient, and transparent operations of our teams, the team captains have, since 2016, drafted and updated these operating principles and procedures for GFS&T Women's Team Tennis.

We hope that players find this document helpful and will continue to provide their feedback to their captains and to our Tennis Pros regarding the women's competitive team tennis program, so that we can continue to improve player experiences.

Club Goals and Objectives - The overall goals and objectives of the GFS&T women's team program are:

- 1) To provide an opportunity for members to play competitive team tennis at the appropriate level of play;
- 2) To field winning teams;
- 3) To provide opportunities for the continuous development and improvement of players;
- 4) To be as objective as possible in running our teams, and to be driven by the overall interests of the team when making decisions relating to team rosters and match line-ups; and
- 5) To provide an enjoyable, competitive experience for our playing members.

Captains' Elections and Captains' Meeting

For new teams, an election for a team captain will occur in the first year. For existing teams, captain elections will occur every two years, and existing captains may run for re-election. To be eligible to serve as captain, a player must have played on the team (same league and level, or its predecessor team, if the team moved up or down a level) during the previous year, unless it is a new team or no returning player volunteers to serve as captain, in which case any team member may serve as captain. Where only one person volunteers to be captain, no election will be held. Each captain may select a co-captain to serve with her, but is not required to do so.

Captain Election Years:  
2020, 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030

Prior year captains will participate in a captains' meeting in or around February of the year following the season in which they served, to help make decisions regarding teams and team rosters for the coming year. Captain elections will take place after teams have been formed but prior to the start of the playing season.

## Team Information, Operating Principles, and Procedures

- 1) Any female Club member age 18 or over wishing to play women's competitive team tennis may request to roster on a team. Branden Beets, the Director of Tennis, is available to answer any questions about team tennis.
- 2) The Club currently sponsors multiple teams through two leagues -- the Greater Washington Tennis Association (GWTA) and the Northern Virginia Tennis League (NVTL). Following are the current league teams (as of February 2020):
  - GWTA – A2, B3, and C1 (Spring and Fall seasons)(a C2 team was requested in 2020 and we are currently on waitlist)
  - NVTL – A2, B1 (or B2 – TBD), and B3, NVTL B1 (Night), NVTL C (Night) (Spring season only)

Due to limited court availability, the opportunity to play in more than one league cannot be guaranteed for all players.

- 3) Teams are formed in the spring. Team captains will work cooperatively to develop individual team rosters, taking into account our overall Club goals and objectives, individual team goals and objectives, and available players and their level of play. Captains generally consider the ideal roster size to be around 18 players, but actual roster sizes may differ depending on circumstances.
- 4) Team captains, with the advice and concurrence of the Director of Tennis, will develop their recommended team rosters. Player placement will be driven by the overarching goal of creating winning teams at every level. This may result in some overlap between the teams in terms of the skills and experience of the players.
- 5) Players may elect to roster on a team other than what is recommended for them, but they should understand that in doing so, their playing opportunities may be limited.
- 6) In order to add depth to team rosters and facilitate player development, team captains may actively and strategically call upon players from the lower level team to sub up, as needed to strengthen their line-ups. Rostering on a particular team will not necessarily give players priority to play ahead of stronger players on the lower level team.
- 7) Additions can be made to the roster throughout the Spring and Fall season, but overall placement generally will remain the same for rostered players during the year unless additional players are needed on the higher-level team. If a player not on a roster at the time rosters are initially established wishes to join a team as a regular player or sub thereafter, the decision regarding the placement of that player will be made in consultation among the team captains on whose teams the

- player may be suited to play and the Director of Tennis.
- 8) Players may designate preferred partners, but the captain may, at her discretion, assign different partners for particular matches based upon team needs. The Director of Tennis is available to provide advice regarding partner pairings.
  - 9) Captains are responsible for creating match line-ups and may exercise their discretion in so doing, bearing in mind the Club goals and objectives, listed above. Captains are encouraged to consult periodically with the Director of Tennis for guidance and/or a second opinion regarding match line-ups and player line placement, to add another layer of objectivity to the process.
  - 10) The goal in creating match line-ups should be primarily to earn a win for the team.
  - 11) Team members will be offered the opportunity to hold a team practice during the season with the Club's Tennis Pros. Attendance is not mandatory, but may improve opportunities to play matches. The tennis staff will inform players of the fee for the practices. The tennis staff will also provide other coaching services, such as attending matches and providing feedback.
  - 12) By joining a team, players accept responsibility for communicating with their team captain in a timely manner regarding their availability to play matches, attend practices, and participate in other team events. Further, players must commit to arriving at matches on time and to giving their captain timely notice if they are unable to play a match as scheduled.

Anyone with questions or suggestions regarding the above, or about any other matter relating to women's competitive day team tennis, is encouraged to contact Branden Beets, the Director of Tennis, or a captain.

Sincerely,

Branden Beets, Director of Tennis

2020 Team Captains: Nancy Guidi, Boni Vinter, Brenda Bosch, Karen Collazo, Audrey Ziedan, Connie Colabatistto, Bic Decaro,