

RATING COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE

PREPARATION

The following documents were referred to in the preparation of these Rules of Procedure:

- EVSTL Rules of Fair Play
- Guidelines for Rating Committees for EVSTL Member Parks
- Guidelines for EVSTL Captains

PURPOSE OF THE RATING PROGRAM

The East Valley Seniors Tennis League (EVSTL) has prepared a “RULES OF FAIR PLAY” guideline with the following objectives:

To ensure that all member parks are rating their league players consistent with the EVSTL by-laws.

To ensure that all league players have a fun, competitive match (the primary objective of the EVSTL).

The Silverridge Tennis Executive Committee, East Valley Representative and the Team Captains shall ensure that the rating guidelines and procedures are followed for the overall benefit of the club and the players.

CLAUSE 1: THE RATING COMMITTEE

- a. The Silverridge Tennis Club will have a Rating Committee composed of six members appointed by the Club President.
- b. Members will serve two year terms which will be staggered so at least two committee members will be retained each year.
- c. The chairperson will be elected by the committee.
- d. The minimum number for a rating meeting or an on-court rating session is three members. The Club President may appoint substitutes, if necessary.
- e. The Committee will be responsible for the following:
 1. On-court observations for the purpose of certifications.
 2. On-court evaluations to determine qualification levels.

CLAUSE 2: RATING COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS

The Rating Committee should be composed of members who are experienced players with knowledge of EVSTL play. Rotations should be attempted to have two people at each of 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5-4 levels.

CLAUSE 3: MOVING TO A HIGHER RATING LEVEL

Moving to the next higher playing level can be accomplished by either of two ways:

a. (EVSTL Requirement) Any player who has played in the number one position a minimum of six matches, at least 3 of which must be after January 1, and has achieved a minimum of 75% match wins and 60% game wins must move to the next higher level.

ADDITIONAL SILVERIDGE REQUIREMENT: The player must have played with more than one partner to meet this criteria. Once this criterion has been attained, it will be considered “frozen” (by Silveridge only), thereby allowing further “court one” play without jeopardizing the “move up” requirements.

b. (Silveridge requirement) Players may request and receive a rating upgrade from the Rating Committee per Clauses 4, 5, and 6.

CLAUSE 4: RATING COMMITTEE OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION DUTIES

The Rating Committee will receive all requests for 2.5 thru 3.5 level ratings, via the EVSTL Representative, from

- a. New members to Silveridge,
- b. Members who did not play during the previous season,
- c. Returning short time guests,
- d. Members who request to be moved to the next playing level based on their EVSTL court one and two match and game win record as defined in Clause 5 c and d.

Note: Final player assignments from the 1.5 level to the 2.0 level will be the responsibility of the applicable captain/s and the EVSTL representative with final approval by the Executive Committee.

After committee review, a rating level will be determined by “certification” (Clause 5) or by the use of an “on-court evaluation” (Clause 6).

CLAUSE 5: CERTIFICATION BY OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION

Certification is accomplished by reviewing and taking under consideration all available data and/or information received from the Team Captain and/or EVSTL Representative. Certification, in lieu of an on-court evaluation, may be used to assign players to a playing level in the following situations, within the noted guidelines, only if a minimum of three Rating Committee members are in agreement.

- a. New members coming from parks within the EVSTL may be certified to the same playing level which they were playing at their previous park by submitting adequate proof that they would be playing at the same level the current season. All others must have an on-court evaluation. (Clause 6)
- b. Members who are returning after missing the previous season, or part thereof, due to circumstances (i.e. injury, illness, personal or family matters) that have not affected their ability may return to their previous playing level.
- c. Players may apply to be certified to the next higher level if they have attained a FULL SEASON RECORD of 120% or more (game winning % plus match winning %) at positions one and two. A season record must include all matches played at positions one and two (minimum of six). At least 50% of the matches must be played at position one and must involve playing with more than one partner.
- d. Any player meeting the above criteria and desiring to be certified must submit a Request for Certification Form (see Appendix A) to the Team Captain. The form will then go to the East Valley Representative and to the Rating Committee Chairperson for Committee review.
- e. Players who have attained the EVSTL court one requirement of 75% match wins, but whose game win percentage is 55%-59% may ask to be considered "frozen," thereby allowing further court one play without jeopardizing the "move up" requirement.
- f. A player wishing to have an on-court evaluation may request a meeting with the EVSTL Representative and the Rating Committee if that player has met all of the following conditions:
 1. The Player has been at the current level for at least 2 consecutive years.
 2. The Player who desires to move up but has been unable to attain the EVSTL requirement (refer to Clause 3a) or the Silveridge consideration of 120%.
 3. The Player must obtain an Appendix C "Special Consideration for Move-up" form from either their Team Captain, the EVSTL Representative, or any member of the Rating Committee.
 4. The Player must complete and submit the Appendix C form to the EVSTL representative no earlier than February 15 nor later than March 10.

The purpose of the meeting would be to give the Player an opportunity to present their case for receiving an on-court evaluation. The Rating Committee and the EVSTL Rep., in a closed meeting, will determine if an on-court evaluation is needed.

CLAUSE 6: ON-COURT OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION

a. The Rating Committee will set up on-court rating sessions as needed per Clause 5. Those players must submit a “Request for Certification” (Appendix A), or a “Request for On-Court Evaluation” (Appendix B), or a “Request for Special Consideration for Move-Up” (Appendix C).

b. No League player will be rated until completion of the EVSTL season.

c. Before the evaluation begins, the candidate shall meet with the Rating Committee Chairperson to review the rating procedures.

d. The evaluation will include the application of those skills during round robin play with players from the rating level desired by the candidate. The comparison players should, if possible, be “line 3” players at the candidate’s desire level. It should be made clear to these players that the objective is to play a competitive round robin of at least 9 games in order to test the candidate’s skills. The Chair of the Rating Committee may appoint a substitute from another park for a comparison player in the on-court evaluation.

e. After the evaluation is complete, the Rating Committee will meet to review their notes and promptly inform the candidate of the results of the evaluation. The Rating Committee is encouraged to include a constructive critique of the candidate’s play and any recommendations for improvement.

f. The Rating Committee Chairperson will inform the EVSTL Representative of the rating results and the Representative in conjunction with the Team Captains will assign the player to the applicable team.

g. The rating Committee will use the following recommendations when evaluating players on-court.

2.5 Level:

Ground strokes, forehand and backhands: Able to sustain a rally of moderately paced shots on forehands and backhands, even when receiving high, short or wide balls. Able to move the opponent around the court and hit easy balls harder. Can hit approach shots with good consistency.

Service Returns: Can control the direction of the ball when receiving a serve of moderate pace. Can return some fast or well-placed serves with defensive actions. Approaches the net frequently.

Net Play: Volleys and overheads: Becoming confident at net play. Can direct forehand volleys. Controls backhand volleys but with little offense. Difficulty with putting volleys away. Can handle volleys and overheads that require moderate movement.

Service: Can vary the speed or direction of first serves, 2nd serves are much slower.

3.0 Level:

Ground strokes, forehand and backhands: Able to develop points with some consistency by using a reliable combination of shots including some spins. Erratic when attempting a quality shot when receiving fast or wide balls, and when attempting passing shots.

Service returns: Some difficulty in returning spin or very fast serves. On moderately paced serves, can construct a point by hitting a good shot or by exploiting an opponent's weakness.

Net play: Volleys and overheads: Comfortable in following an approach shot to the net. Comfortable in receiving a variety of balls and converting to offensive positioning. Poaches on moderately paced returns and able to put away most overheads.

Service: Can vary the speed and direction of first serves. Uses spin on some 1st serves. Can direct the 2nd serve to the opponent's weakness, seldom double faults.

3.5 Level:

Ground strokes, forehand and backhands: Can use a variety of spins. Beginning to develop a dominant shot or good steadiness. Erratic when attempting a quality shot in the following situations: receiving fast balls, wide balls, and in passing shot situations.

Service returns: Off first serves, can defend consistently, but inconsistent when attempting an aggressive return or returning at the feet of the incoming server.

Net play: Volleys and overheads: When coming to the net after serving, consistently able to put the first volley in play with some pace or depth; however, inconsistent when trying to volley powerful or angle returns. Closes to the net, can finish a point using various options including drop volley, angle volley, or punch volley.

Service: Aggressive first serve with power and spin. On 2nd serve frequently hits with good depth and placement without double faults. Can serve and volley off 1st serves but experiences some inconsistency.

CLAUSE 7: MOVING TO A LOWER RATING LEVEL

- a. Any player, playing at other than number one and two positions, who has been unable to achieve a game winning percentage of 35% for the season must move down to the next level for the following season.
- b. Because of extenuating circumstances a player may take a voluntary reclassification to the next lower level by requesting such a move with his/her captain. The captain is to notify the EVSTL Representative for team placement.

CLAUSE 8: SHORT TERM GUEST PROGRAM

A short term guest person is one who is in the Park for 6 weeks or less. If the guest desires to play in East Valley, they must contact the EVSTL Representative, declare what level they want to play and pay the Club dues. The EVSTL Representative will contact the applicable Team Captain/s and determine which team the guest will be assigned to as a substitute player. Substitute players can only play if no regular team member is available at that level. (See also Clause 4c for returning short term guests.)

CLAUSE 9: EFFECTIVE DATE FOR RATING CHANGES

- a. Rating changes based on statistics or after Rating Committee evaluations (Clause 4d) will take effect at the beginning of the following season. Exception: the move can be made immediately if both Team Captains involved, the EVSTL Representative, and the Silveridge Tennis Club Executive Committee agree that such a move would be for the good of the club.
- b. Voluntary moves to a lower level may take effect anytime with the approval of both Team Captains and the EVSTL Representative.
- c. Rating of all other players covered by Clause 4 will take effect immediately.

CLAUSE 10 APPEALING A RATING DECISION

Since league performance and/or established Rating Committee testing procedures are being used as criteria for rating adjustments, there should be very few cases where there would be a need to appeal a rating decision. Should an appeal be necessary, it should be directed to the EVSTL Representative and the Silveridge Tennis Club Executive Committee for resolution.

Signed by

Laverne Johnson
President
April 1, 2015

Lee Crawford
Rating Committee Chairperson
April 1, 2015