



Section 3.12 PICK UP PLAY

Successful tennis clubs organize a lot of programming to attract their members to the courts and get them meeting, mixing and enjoying tennis. At other times it seems that people generally organize their own games and it can be hard for members to feel that they can just drop into a tennis club and pick up a game. There are clubs however that have successfully put in systems that allow people to “pick up a game” when they want.

At a small club in England they only played pick up mixed doubles tennis. There was a list by the courts and when you arrived you put your name at the bottom of the list. Players went on court for a set of tennis – not a specific time period. The person at the top of the list selected one person of the same sex from the next two names on the list and two of the next three names of the list of the opposite sex. When this group went on court their names were crossed off and the next group organised themselves. As players came off the courts they added their names to the bottom of the list if they wanted to play again. If the number of men or women playing was unbalanced the occasional men’s or ladies doubles would be played to even up the lists.

This system worked well because there was not a huge difference in the skills of the players (and of course the more people played the closer the range of skills became too) however you had to “play yourself in” to the club by demonstrating that you were a reasonably competent player before being allowed to join. Juniors who reached an acceptable standard were also allowed to play with the adults in their pick up tennis.

Davisville Tennis Club also has a pick up tennis system referred to as “tagging up”. All players are rated to help this system work smoothly. This is how it works.

Every member has a tag at the club that is used to reserve court time. It displays their name and rating level.

Members are expected to be present 5 minutes prior to their reserved court time. If they are more than 10 minutes late their court time may be forfeited

Court Stewards are responsible for the smooth operation of the Tagging Board. They will place a doubles only sign to allow maximum court usage when the tagging board shows two time slots completely filled.

1. The first member to place his or her tag on the upper hook sets the level of play during that court time.
 - a) Members with the same rating are free to tag up with the first member.
 - b) Members with a rating higher or lower than the first member must ask and receive permission from the first member before tagging up.
2. One member may only tag up a maximum of three other players on the same court. The first member must place his or her tag on the upper hook.



3. A member may tag u for one court at a time – double booking is forbidden. While a member is on court playing or involved in a club activity his or her tag may not be removed in order to reserve a subsequent match or court time. No other member’s tag may be used to falsely reserve court time.
4. No player may tag up for court time 40 minutes prior to a club program for which they have signed up such as ladder play, lessons, house league, team practices or matches or a tournament.
5. With a choice of courts available at the same time please allow doubles play to override singles play to permit maximum court time for members.
6. No telephone reservations for court times are permitted.