

**2023 / 2024**  
**Jack Barry Indoor Tennis League**

**League Rules (9/21/2023)**

**1) JBITL General Information**

**1.1)** The Jack Barry Indoor Tennis League (JBITL) is a group of Chicago area tennis clubs, united to provide a more enhanced tennis match experience for its club members.

**1.2)** The JBITL League Director administers the functions of the league.

**1.3)** Additional JBITL information and forms can be found on the following web site: <http://jbitl.com/jbitl/index.php>

**2) Membership & Club Entry**

**2.1)** Any Chicago area indoor tennis club may apply for JBITL membership, subject to JBITL member approval, as decided by JBITL member vote.

**2.2)** Newly built tennis clubs applying for JBITL league membership must wait two years before the league votes their membership application. Existing tennis clubs (or simple name changes) that apply for league membership, will be voted on by the league before the beginning of the following season after application.

**2.3)** Each JBITL member club has one vote. League matters are decided by majority vote. All League monetary issues are to be decided by each Club's Owner, principal Manager or Club Coordinator in attendance at the Annual JBITL Meeting or by email for any issue not voted on or decided at the Annual Meeting. Unrepresented clubs would lose their vote if not in attendance; **JBITL Attachment #1 Membership List** contains the list of current member clubs, current club's owner / principal manager and current club coordinator.

**2.4)** Each JBITL member club is responsible for maintaining their **JBITL Member Information Form**. The Member Information Form will designate their JBITL member Club Coordinator.

**2.5)** It is the responsibility of each club and each club coordinator to be knowledgeable of all JBITL Rules.

**3) League Communication**

**3.1)** All League matters must be communicated through the Club Coordinators to the JBITL office. All communication received from other club representatives, captains and players will be referred back to their respective Club Coordinator.

**3.2)** The League Director's primary form of communication is via e-mail or text. It is now required that all Club Coordinators have an e-mail address and cell phone

text to facilitate League communication. It is the responsibility of all Club Coordinators to monitor their e-mail and cell phone text for JBITL communication.

**3.3)** Updated weekly standings will be maintained on the JBITL website.

**3.4)** Clubs are encouraged to keep all copies of emails and cell phone texts to facilitate resolution of any disputes.

**3.5)** The JBITL annual meeting will be at an agreed upon location, date and time. All Club Coordinators are now required to attend the League's Annual Meeting or to send a Club Representative. Failure to attend the League Meeting will result in loss of voting rights on issues decided at the Annual League Meeting.

**3.6)** All JBITL forms and documents will be added as addendums to these rules and updated on a yearly basis to administer JBITL activities. Again, all JBITL information and forms can be found on the following web site:

<http://jbitl.com/jbitl/index.php>

#### **4) Calendar – Important Dates**

The league will add as an addendum to these rules a yearly updated listing of all **JBITL Important Dates** to administer JBITL activities. In addition, **JBITL Attachment #2 League Calendar** lists all dates of play, including playoffs and finals, for both Women and Men Divisions.

#### **5) League Fees**

**5.1)** All JBITL fees are set by the JBITL members.

**5.2)** All clubs must maintain a surety deposit balance of \$225.00 during the entire season. The League will disburse payments to cover no-show claims and other fines from the surety deposit. However, all such disbursements from the surety deposits must be replenished within 30 days of such notice; otherwise, the club will be promptly suspended from play. All claims and fines must be rectified first (i.e., surety deposit replenished to a level of \$225.00) before the suspension can be lifted. The league will carry over each year each clubs required \$225 surety deposit unless the club is dropping out of the league.

**5.3)** The League Director will issue statement invoices and each club will pay their invoice within 30 days of receipt. **Please make all JBITL checks payable to Patrick Nevins.** Clubs will be fined \$25 for late payment of statement balances. Clubs will be fined an additional \$25 for every 10-day period beyond the due date while the balance remains unpaid.

#### **6) Team Entry**

**6.1)** The **JBITL Attachment #3 Team Entry Form** is used to enter teams each year. The Entry Form should be completed with the utmost due diligence. There is a great inconvenience caused to every other JBITL club, when any club must drop a team after the due date of the Entry Form, as indicated on the JBITL Important Dates document.

Any club that submits a change to their entry form after the due date will be charged a \$320 fee for scheduling inconvenience to the other JBITL member clubs.

**6.2)** Each Division must have at least four teams entered to be a valid Division. The following three division levels will be on the Entry Form for both Women and Men: 4.0 and 3.5.

**6.3)** The League Director will send out a summary of Divisions, Teams and Home match days and times. Club Coordinators must confirm via e-mail or fax the accuracy of this summary within seven days.

**6.4)** Clubs must give at least seven days notice for dropping team(s) out of the League prior to their next scheduled match or be subject to no-show claims.

**6.5)** No club may drop a team after February 1 of each year.

**6.6)** All matches that are played with a team that drops out of the League during the season are counted as played. Matches that are scheduled and have not yet been played with a dropped team are ignored if a seven-day notice has been given to the League Director.

## **7) Team Rosters**

**7.1)** Each Club is responsible for maintaining their team's rosters via the JBITL website on a continuous basis during the entire JBITL season. Each club will submit their applicable roster(s) by applicable due dates, as indicated on the JBITL Important Dates document.

**7.2)** All Clubs will be assessed a \$50.00 fine for late or missing rosters.

**7.3)** Each club will maintain their team rosters on the JBITL website.

## **8) Players**

**8.1)** To be eligible for travel League play, each player must meet the following requirements:

- A) Each player must be a "full dues" paying member of the club (owners and staff personnel, who do not pay "full dues", are eligible for play if they meet all other requirements).
- B) Current college players are ineligible. "Current" means any player who participated on a college Varsity team in any way and still is enrolled at school in the same academic year in question.
- C) Players must be at least 21 years of age.

**8.2)** All players must play in the division that corresponds to their preseason rating. All players must be rated one of the following two ratings: 4.0 or 3.5 and below.

**8.3)** Higher rated players can no longer play in lower rated divisions.

**8.4)** A player may play up in a higher class four times without losing his/her status level of play, whereas the fifth time he/she must play in that higher level for the remainder of the season.

**8.5)** No players are permitted to play in a lower division than their original preseason rating.

**8.6)** Maximum of two (2) tennis pros (financially compensated for teaching tennis) are allowed to play in any one match. The tennis pro must play in the Division of their rating.

**8.7)** A player cannot transfer and play for any other club during a season in which he/she has previously played for another JBITL club (at the same or a different level) unless that club has dropped its participation from the JBITL. Once a player plays at least one point of a match for a club, he/she is committed to play for that club all season. This rule also applies for multiple same division teams within the same club; players cannot jump back and forth from one team to another at the same division level.

**8.8)** Players can be added or deleted anytime on the JBITL website. All players must be entered on the JBITL website at their applicable rating before playing any match or be deemed ineligible and illegal. Players can be placed on only one team roster at a time and only one club at a time, as well.

**8.9)** Any player playing illegally for a club/team will subject that club to a \$50.00 fine for each occurrence during the regular season and a \$50.00 fine for each occurrence during the play-offs. In addition, the match will be forfeited. You can avoid the fine by notifying the opposing team and the League Office about the potentially illegal player beforehand.

**8.10)** A player may move up only one division if he/she is called to substitute. No player is permitted to play up two divisions. Violators of this rule will be assessed at \$25.00 per occurrence.

**8.11)** Rule deleted

**8.12)** Any player whose rating is protested by three or more club Coordinators must automatically move up to a higher level of play. The League Director will notify and warn the club of the player in question when one protest is received and will also notify all other clubs in the applicable JBITL Division.

## **9) Schedules**

**9.1)** All clubs are responsible for knowing their team's schedules. All Coordinators are responsible for checking out the schedules when e-mailed or faxed to them in September. Any problems, mistakes, conflicts and errors are to be reported to the League Director by October 7. Otherwise, the Club Coordinator will be responsible for dealing with any resulting conflicts.

**9.2)** The goals to achieve in scheduling are twofold: 1) to provide equal home court advantage whenever possible. 2) to provide equal revenue for each club whenever possible. The following guidelines will be followed: When teams play each other once during the regular season, home court will be decided by luck of the draw. Teams playing each other twice during the regular season will play at each club once. When teams play each other three times, the location of the third match will be decided by luck of the draw. Adjustments will be made to accomplish these goals.

**9.3)** Please utilize the **JBITL Attachment #3 Team Entry Form** to specify dates that your club cannot host any matches. The League Director will attempt to accommodate each request.

**9.4)** Clubs that share their match times with their other teams and / or request non-hosting match dates will likely have more away matches than home matches for individual teams. The league will try to minimize any scheduling imbalance.

**9.5)** At the beginning of the season, if teams drop out of the league, the League Director will send out adjustments to the schedule during the first two rounds of play so that byes are minimized.

**9.6)** All matches are to be played on either Saturday or Sunday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The League Director must approve any deviations from this rule.

**9.7)** It is possible that the final schedules will require a club to change the playing time for a team on weeks where scheduling conflicts are involved. It is Club Coordinators' responsibility to work it out between the two clubs involved. Please send any changes to the League Director seven days prior to the match being played.

**9.8)** All make-up matches must be completed before the end of the regular season. The regular season ends on the last Sunday of regular season matches.

**9.9)** There will be no play on Mother's Day Sunday. Play will be permitted on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

## **10) Pre-Match**

**10.1)** The visiting club must call the home club to confirm the date and time for the match. If the visiting team fails to call and there is a dispute regarding the schedule, the visiting team will forfeit the matches. However, if the home club needs to change the date or time, the home Club Coordinator must get the consent from the other Club Coordinator at least seven days before the match and notify the League Director, in writing. It is strongly suggested that all match date and time communication be reduced to writing via copies of texts and / or emails to avoid the usual multiple miscommunications that occur over the season. Screen pictures of texts and / or emails will help resolve any conflicts.

**10.2)** The court fees will be standard at each club: **\$22.00** for two hours of play per player. Before play begins, the visiting team captain is responsible for collecting the court fees from his/her team. These fees then should be turned in to the front desk of the host club.

**10.3)** All matches must be proctored by a Club Coordinator who is present the entire match duration. If the Club Coordinator is playing the match, she/he must find a designated qualified representative (NOT just front desk personnel) to be available for proctoring the match. The Club Coordinator / designated representative must let the players know his/her whereabouts (e.g., I'm teaching on Court 3) and must be accessible to the players immediately when his/her presence is requested. The club coordinator should not appear on the court unless specifically requested by any player on the court. All decisions rendered by the Coordinator / designated representative must be adhered to (subject to review by the League Director if protest is filed). If the club coordinator / designated representative is absent from the premises and a protest is filed, the host club automatically loses the dispute and is assessed a \$50.00 fine.

**10.4)** All players should be ready to show their ID when asked to by the host club coordinator or match proctor.

**10.5) All Players should arrive on time to begin play promptly at the scheduled match time, with both Captains having their lineups completed and ready to simultaneously exchange. This includes line ups for all split time matches that may not start for two hours later after the first split time matches are played.** The home team's Club Coordinator or match proctor will go over the rules at the scheduled match time with all Players present at that time, present balls and assign courts. If all Players have arrived on time, the opposing Players must warm-up together on the same assigned court. If all players have not arrived on time, then either team may warm up however they desire, on any of the assigned courts, until their match begins. **Home team is responsible for court conditions, including whether court separator curtains are open or closed.**

**10.6)** A 15-minute default time rule will be strictly enforced. A Player must be present and ready to play no later than 15 minutes after the starting time. Being in the locker room or running from the club's parking lot with your tennis bag does not qualify. Any Player not on the assigned court at 15 minutes after the scheduled start will be defaulted and Players may be reassigned according to the below default sequence.

**10.7)** In the event that a player or players must be defaulted due to a "no-show" or late arrival, matches must be defaulted in the order below; If both teams default a match, the match will not be counted in the standings. There is no minimum number of players required to play a team match.

Default Rules - All Divisions		
Players Short / Available on either team:		
Players Short	Players Available	Default Order
0	7	No Defaults
1	6	Default Singles
2	5	Default #3 Dbls
3	4	Default Singles & #3 Dbls
4	3	Default #2 & #3 Dbls
5	2	Default Singles & #2 & #3 Dbls
6	1	Default all 3 Dbls
7	0	Total team default

**10.8)** No changes to team line-ups are permitted past 15 minutes after. Violation of this rule will result in default and the violating team shall be susceptible to no-show claims. The captains will complete their final lineups due to absent Players at 15 minutes after the scheduled match time. The club coordinator will assign players to their assigned courts no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled starting times, with match play to begin immediately. A 15-minute warm-up is strictly enforced with all practice serves being taken before play commences.

**10.9)** The host club coordinator or match proctor must announce to all players prior to the start of the matches the match clock / timing device that will be used for all matches.

**10.10)** USTA rules apply unless otherwise specified by League rules.

## **11) Match**

**11.1) Each team match in all divisions will have one match of singles and three matches of doubles.** All matches will be best 2 out of 3 sets with a 9-point tiebreaker at 6-6 (12-point tiebreakers are not played due to time constraints). **Players may only play in one of the four matches per team match.**

**11.2)** Play is to be continuous with no breaks for going to the washroom, water fountain, etc., unless it is an emergency situation. However, during the last 30 minutes of play, absolutely no breaks are allowed. The USTA 90-second changeover break does apply for all matches except during the last 30 minutes of play.

**11.3)** In the event that the set/match is not completed, the following format is used:

Any second set game not completed at 10 minutes of the hour must be finished using the 40-40 no-ad System. If this results in a tie set, then a 9-point

tiebreaker must follow to determine the set winner. If this results in split sets, then another 9-point tiebreaker is played to determine the Match winner. Any third set game not completed at 5 minutes of the hour must be finished using the 40-40 no-ad System. If this results in a tie set, then a 9-point tiebreaker must follow to determine the set and match winner.

For timing purposes, a new game is deemed to be started immediately after the completion of any previous game. This concept is for the purposes of not permitting intentional changeover delays to circumvent the match completion timing rules.

Remember that all tiebreakers must be played in full. Please do not delay, for there are likely to be other players waiting for the court.

**11.4)** All matches must be completed within the 2-hour limit. There is no option to continue after the two-hour limit. In the event an individual match cannot be completed due to time, not following the match time format, court availability or any other reason, the visiting team will be awarded the match win. It is the home team players responsibility to complete all matches using the timing rules.

**The EXCEPTION to this rule applies to playoff matches - playoff matches must be played in full using the 9-point tiebreaker with no time limits. This exception does not affect the rule requiring all matches to begin play 15 minutes after the scheduled match time.**

### **11.5) The 9 – Point Tiebreaker**

**Singles:** With player A having served the first game of the set, player A serves points 1 and 2, deuce court and ad court. Player B serves points 3 and 4, deuce court and ad court. Players change ends after the fourth point. Player A serves points 5 and 6, deuce court and ad court and player B serves points 7 and 8, deuce court and ad court. Player B serves point 9 from either the deuce court or ad court at the election of player A. The first player to win 5 points wins the game and the set. The players stay for one game to start the next set and player B serves the first game.

**Doubles:** The same format in singles applies, with each player serving from the same end of the court in the tiebreaker game that they served from during the set. Note: This means that the team that serves points 3 and 4 and points 7, 8, and 9 alter their sequence of serving that they had during the set (so that they serve from the same end of the court in the tiebreaker game that they served from during the set).

## **12)Post-Match**

**12.1)** Players that have completed their match should not disrupt any other matches still in progress.

**12.2)** The host club is required to provide beverages to all match players.

**12.3)** The home Club coordinator is responsible for entering their team results on the JBITL website immediately at the completion of the match and in any event no later than 12:00 noon Monday following the matches. A copy should be given to the visiting team after the completion of all individual team matches. Any matches postponed must be reported, as well. Failure to enter the results will result in a \$10.00 fine.

**12.4)** No-show fees are \$44 per no-show player or \$44 for singles and \$88 for doubles matches. No-show claims must be filed within seven days to the League Director via **JBITL Attachment #7 No Show Claim Sheet**. The League Director will respond to the claim within seven days. Thereafter, the club who has a claim against itself has seven days to respond with a rebuttal via the **JBITL Attachment #8 Rebuttal – Notice of Fine or No Show Claim**. If the League office receives no rebuttal within this time period, the claim is deemed to be sustained as per face value irrevocably. A claim statement will be sent to the clubs in January and prior to the Annual Meeting.

- a. The match schedules and times on the JBITL web site will be the agreed upon match time so the visiting team no longer must call the home team to confirm the match time
- b. Home Clubs that must change their home schedule must do so seven days in advance and notify the visiting team of any changes and copy the JBITL Director as well
- c. Any additional resold court time should be credited back to the visiting team's no-show claim.

**Rule 12.5 E: New for 2022 / 2023 Season and Beyond:**

- Anytime Tuesday notice or earlier that visiting club(s) notify Hosting clubs that they will be missing from all seven players to one player and there would be no no-show player claim allowed to be filed. This will, however, result in a match loss for each no-show player.
- Anytime Thursday notice that visiting club(s) notify Hosting clubs that they will be missing from all seven players to one player and there would be no-show player claims to be filed for \$22 per no show player. This will, however, result in a match loss for each no-show player.
- Anytime after Thursday notice is not given to hosting club, the No-show player claim would be \$44 and result in a match loss per no-show player.
- JBITL league director to be copied on all no-show player notices via email.
- The rule above is intended for all clubs - hosting or visitors. Of course, there is no financial penalty if a hosting club can't field a whole team, but there will be loss match scores for any no-show player at any time.

### **13) Playoffs**

**13.1)** The playoff format (number of teams making the playoffs) will be final after the seventh week of match play (usually in January).

**13.2)** The number of teams participating in playoffs will be determined as follows:

- A) If the number of total teams at a given level is greater than 4, the top 4 teams make it to playoffs.
- B) If the number of total teams at a given level is 4, the top 2 teams make it to playoffs.

**13.3)** The initial pairings will be the top ranked team vs. the bottom ranked team, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team vs. the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last ranked team, etc. For example, in a four-team playoff, it would be #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3. The higher ranked team receives home court advantage.

**13.4)** The following tie breaking criteria will determine league standings for playoff seeding purposes between two teams or multiple teams:

- A) Head-to-head total matches won
- B) Head-to-head total sets won
- C) Head-to-head total games won
- D) Division set winning percentage
- E) Division game winning percentage
- F) League coin toss

**13.5) Player playoff eligibility:** this rule will be reinstated due to a full season of 13 matches being played for first time since the 2018 / 2019 season. All players must play / participate in three matches to be playoff eligible. One of these matches can be a default match so two of the three required matches must involve on court play. All three matches must be entered on the applicable score sheets.

Before the playoffs begin, the participating club coordinators must send the playoff rosters with the dates each player has played to the League Director and all other division playoff clubs. Using an ineligible player for the playoffs will result in a \$50.00 fine per player and forfeiture of the match.

**13.6) All playoff rosters submitted with club and player names, for Champion award purposes (yet to be determined) must be typed.**

**13.7)** The hosting club for the finals is responsible for making arrangements to obtain the awards from the league office and having them courtside by the time of the finals. There will be an optional \$44 delivery charge to the hosting club if the league office is requested or the hosting club is negligent in making arrangements to pick up their plaques.

**13.8) Playoff Tie-breaker:** The playoff format will be four matches of doubles and one match of singles. This was voted for in August of 2023 to eliminate ties in playoff matches. Instead of a possible 2-2 tie that would use a complicated tie breaker, the five match playoff would eliminate any overall team ties with five matches being contested.

#### **14)Protests & Appeals**

**14.1)** Any JBITL issue may be protested. All protests must be filed in writing within seven days of occurrence by any Club Coordinator (not the players, captains, etc.) to the league office.

**14.2)** The League Director will make an initial ruling or rules application decision on any JBITL issue within seven days of receipt of written protest, responses and rebuttals and will announce written decision to all other Club Coordinators.

The League Director protest decision process will include the following:

- Receipt of protest within seven days of occurrence from protesting club.
- Submittal of protest to protested club(s) requesting an initial response.
- Receipt of initial response from protested clubs sent to protesting club with a final rebuttal opportunity.
- Protesting rebuttal sent to protested club with final opportunity from protested club to offer final rebuttal.

**14.3)** Any coordinator may decide to Appeal the League Director's decision to the Appeals Committee, by filing written appeal within seven days of the League Director's protest decision. The written appeal must be sent to the league office with \$25 appeals processing fee incurred. This \$25 appeal processing fee will not be charged if the appeal reverses the League Director's initial protest decision.

**14.4)** The members of the Appeals Committee will be filled by the first three club coordinators to volunteer to hear the appeal that are not involved in the protest. The Appeals Committee is not a policy making body; its decision only affects the dispute in question.

**14.5)** All protests, and appeals will be reviewed at the annual meeting, as well.

#### **15.1) JBITL Communications:**

- a. All communications regarding specific match issues (changed match times, player cancellations, etc.) must be sent via text and email to applicable team captains, applicable club coordinators and JBITL Director.
- b. A published list of Captains and Club Coordinators will be maintained on the JBITL web site