

GUIDELINES FOR BRSC SCRAMBLE PLAY

Refer to the following definitions of NTRP level:

2.5: This player is learning to judge where the ball is going although court coverage is weak. Can sustain a short rally of slow pace with other players of the same ability.

3.0: This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shorts, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks execution when trying for directional control, depth, or power. Most common doubles formation is one-up, one-back.

3.5: This player has achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but still lacks depth and variety. This player exhibits more aggressive net play, has improved court coverage, and is developing teamwork in doubles.

4.0: This player has dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate shots, plus the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success. This player occasionally forces errors when serving. Rallies may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident.

4.5: This player has begun to master the use of power and spins and is beginning to handle pace, has sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and is beginning to vary game plan according to opponents. This player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. This player tends to over hit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.

It is important to realize: each NTRP level spans a 0.5 point range. A 3.1 player and 3.4 player, for example, are both considered to be 3.5 players. However, the 3.4 player will most often defeat the 3.1 player in match play. There may be a considerable difference in ability at the opposing ends of the spectrum.

THE GOAL OF OUR SCRAMBLE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE A COMPETITIVE PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Q. What does it mean to be “competitive” with another player?

A. As defined by the USTA, “A “competitive” match is one in which the outcome is unpredictable (scores such as 6-4, 6-4 or closer). When one player consistently wins with only the occasional loss of a few games, the match is not “competitive.” Properly rated, players within .2 of each other should be competitive in playing ability.”

Q. What does it mean to be “compatible” with another player?

A. As defined by the USTA, “Players with up to a .5 difference in ratings are generally considered “compatible.” At a .5 difference in ratings, the outcome is predictable, with the higher-rated player winning routinely. “Compatible” players however, can offer each other recreational, social, and practical benefits.”

Entry in the BRSC Scramble program will be defined as follow:

“A” Doubles will consist of players NTRP 4.0 and above.

“B” Doubles will consist of players NTRP 3.5 and above.

“C” Doubles will consist of players NTRP 2.5 and 3.0.

Continued participation in the Scramble program:

Players who do not maintain an average score of 3 games/9 game set may be moved to a lower level.

Players who exceed an average score of 7 games or higher/9-game set may be considered for a higher level.

When no NTRP rating is available:

Not all participants in the Scramble program will participate in USTA league play and as a result will not have a NTRP rating. Players without NTRP ratings will need to work their way up the ladder or may be placed by the professional staff.

Please note: In my duties as a National Verifier for the National Tennis Rating Program I have rated or verified the ratings of thousands of tennis players. I trust you will respect my professional training and opinion.

BRSC SCRAMBLE FORMAT

- 1) The warm-up shall be limited to ten minutes.
- 2) Courts will be assigned by the professional staff; pairings will be determined by the drawing of cards. When possible, players should not pair up with the same partner in subsequent rounds. That is, when a previous pairing returns to the same court, they should take opposing cards rather than relying on a random draw.
- 3) Unless otherwise noted or advised, play will consist of 9-game, NO-AD rounds. At deuce, the receiving team chooses the court of play. In mixed doubles, at deuce, the man serves to man, the women to women.
- 4) Scores will be maintained to establish starting placement and player eligibility.
- 5) When half of the courts have completed nine games the remaining courts shall complete the game in progress. Any unfinished games shall be split. (*Example: When four courts are used, round ends when two courts have finished; when five courts are used, play ends when three courts have finished, etc...*)
- 6) Unless otherwise noted, the rules of the USTA will apply.

SCRAMBLE SCHEDULE

Men's 4.0+, Sundays from 9:00- 11:00am
Ladies 3.5+, Sundays from 11:00am- 1:00pm
Ladies 4.0+, Sundays from 1:00- 3:00pm; Ladies 2.5 to 3.0, Sundays from 1:00- 3:00pm
Men's 3.5+, Sundays from 3:00-5:00pm
3.5+ mixed doubles, Fridays 8:30-10:30pm (club closes at 10:30pm)
4.0+ Mixed Doubles, Fridays 7:00- 8:30pm (beginning in November 2012)

Schedule subject to change based on participation

E-vites will go out on Mondays. The deadline for registration is noon on Friday for Sunday events, noon on Thursday for Friday events. Players are only confirmed in groups of four. Any "extra" players will go on the waiting list. A group e-mail, listing confirmed and "waiting" players will go out after the deadline. Players will be notified individually if they reply for an inappropriate level. Individual responses will not be made unless you have a question.

Members will have priority in registration prior to the deadline. After the deadline, non-members will fill any open spaces. Members requesting play after the deadline will not "bump" non-members.

Cancellations with less than 24 hours notice will be billed unless your space is filled.

Every effort will be made to keep mixed scrambles as "true" mixed teams. If there is an uneven number of male and female participants that will be reflected in pairings.

Any additions or changes in the guidelines will be at the discretion of the tennis staff.