



SAN DIEGO TENNIS FEDERATION

MEMBER PACKET

2005

ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO TENNIS FEDERATION

The San Diego Tennis Federation celebrates its 22nd anniversary in 2005, and boasts over 240 members ranging in abilities from "novice" to "Open" player levels. As a member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA), our objective is to provide a friendly environment for tennis enthusiasts to compete and socialize through regularly-scheduled tournaments, practice sessions, social events and meetings. This club is as competitive or as social as you make it!

GLTA

The Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance is the gay tennis "circuit" that the SDTF helped form in 1991. The GLTA includes tennis clubs around the U.S. and the world, with over 35 member clubs, as close as Los Angeles and San Francisco, and as far as London, England and Sydney, Australia. Over 25 clubs also host their own national open tournament, some of which have taken place for over 15 years. For more information, go to www.gлта.org.

USTA

The SDTF is a member of the United States Tennis Association.

THE BOARD

The SDTF is run by a slate of elected yearly officers (in bold below), who plan and organize all of our events:

Brian Wood	President
Armin Afsahi	Vice President / Public Relations
Steve Leff	Treasurer
Jonathan Flood	Secretary
Derek Floyd	Ladder Chair
Rancy Breece	Membership Chair
Kenn Baniqued	Social Chair
Bruce Kerschner	Rules Chair
Todd Nguyen	Webmaster

WORLD WIDE WEB AND INTERNET SITE

The SDTF also has an internet home page at www.sdtf.org. Our website also links to the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance, and several other tennis-related sites, locally, nationally and internationally.

SAN DIEGO OPEN

This annual tournament is one of the successful national tournaments of the GLTA circuit and is our club's pride and joy. The Open takes place over July 4th weekend, which usually includes divisions in Open, A, B, C, D in singles and doubles. A special committee headed by a Tournament Director is responsible for hosting the event, which is also accompanied by a registration party the evening before the tournament begins and a banquet.

BASELINES NEWSLETTER

This monthly newsletter keeps SDTF members abreast of local club events as well as news from the GLTA circuit.

EMAIL NEWS AND NOTICES

To promote better electronic communication, SDTF use an opt-in mailing list. This mailing list allows you to subscribe using the email address at which you want to receive SDTF e-mails. You may also submit a SDTF related e-mail distribution to all members on the mailing list. To subscribe to the mailing list go to <http://lists.sdtf.org/mailman/listinfo/sdtf-news>.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Team Tennis

This annual event begins in February, offering singles and doubles competition between several teams made up of 8 – 10 players. Singles and doubles players compete against members of other teams who are at their own level. Over the last several years, Celebrity Team Tennis has come into vogue; teams have played under names such as WTA, Sex and the City, Lord of the Rings, with individuals taking on “celebrity” to go with the theme. Playoffs and Championships are completed in April; with an awards party shortly thereafter.

Singles Ladder Challenge

This year-round event currently includes members who compete on the Open, "A", "B" and "C" and "D" ladders. In addition, a "Grand Prix" system is in place whereby challenge wins and losses are assigned "grand prix" points. Individuals with the most points at the end of three separate quarters and at the end of the year receive trophies and cash. All these awards are given at the year-end awards banquet. Additionally, individuals playing on the ladder can compete for spots on the Federation's Cal Cup and Pac Cup teams.

Singles and Doubles Championships

These two separate tournaments are the traditional club tournaments played in October and November. The members compete at all levels. Division champions are honored at the annual Holiday Banquet in December.

Friday Night Doubles

The Friday night activity is held at the Balboa Park Tennis Club (also known as Morley Field). This fun-filled event is open to Club and prospective members. It's a great place to meet the members of the club. Play begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. Check-in begins at 6:00 p.m. The sign-up is based on a first-come, first-served basis, so the sooner you get there, the better.

Jerry's Clinic

The activity is held most Saturday's at either San Diego High School or City College tennis courts. The clinic begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 10:30 p.m. This is open to Club and prospective members. It's a great place to learn some new tennis skills (and refresh some old ones) from the top players in the club. Although the clinic is held most Saturdays, it may be canceled due to the unavailability of the instructors.

California Cup

This annual event is a California-wide gay team tennis event that occurs in early October. "Cal Cup" rotates each year between San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The team is determined by singles ladder play and standings. The top 24 players from each city go head-to-head in singles and doubles. Cal Cup began in 1986.

Pacific Cup

This annual event is a west-coast-wide gay team tennis event. The inaugural Pac Cup takes place in early fall. The Cup rotates each year between San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Seattle and Vancouver. 12 players (with a B rating and below) from each city go head-to-head in singles and doubles. The team is determined by singles and doubles ladder play and standings.

Special Events

From time-to-time, the Federation sponsors fun, social tennis events around certain themes. Events have included the Sweetheart's Tournament in which members and their spouses paired up in round robin doubles. Veterans and Virgins round robin pairs long-time members with newer team members.

Bowl-a-thon

This annual fundraiser must not be missed. A great event and a great time for everyone to meet off the tennis court. All the proceeds of this event raise funds for the San Diego Open, and in turn which raises funds for various gay community-wide charities.

Annual Holiday Party | Awards Banquet

This annual event is one of the most popular events of the club. It speaks for itself. A merry time to be had by all. This party also serves as the annual SDTF banquet and awards presentation, and is the official turnover of the new Board members.

LADDER RULES

PURPOSE OF THE LADDERS

1. To promote competition and improvement amongst the members of the SDTF.
2. To assist in the formation of the Cal Cup and Pac Cup teams.
3. To assist in ranking players participating in Celebrity Team Tennis play.
4. To assist in ranking members participating in the Club Singles and Doubles Championships.

STRUCTURE OF THE LADDERS

Singles:

1. The ladder will run from February 1, through November 30.
2. There will be 3 periods to the ladder. (Feb. 1 - May 16), (May 17 - Aug. 15), (Aug. 16 - Nov. 30)

For details on singles ladder structure, see the Federation's web page – www.sdtf.org

CHALLENGE PROCEDURE

New players joining the Ladder after January 28:

1. A player wishing to join the ladder after it has begun can challenge as high as position 30 on the ladder.
2. If the challenger wins, he/she takes that position and the loser moves down 1 spot, as would any other affected player(s) below them.
3. If the challenger loses, he/she goes to the bottom of the ladder.

Players already on the Ladder:

1. A player can challenge up to 6 spots above.
2. If the challenger wins, he/she takes that position and the loser moves down 1 spot, as would any other affected player(s) below them.
3. If the challenger loses, he/she stays in his/her spot.

Issuing Challenges:

1. A challenger can issue a challenge by contacting the challengee via phone, email, or in person.
2. A player can only issue one challenge match at a time.
3. A player cannot issue or accept a challenge match against the same person in succession, without 7 days having passed.
4. The challenger must give the challengee 48 hours to respond to the challenge.
5. A player cannot issue or accept more than one challenge at the same time. An issued or accepted challenge must be played before other challenges can be issued or accepted.
6. Both the challenger and the challengee will, in good faith and sportsmanship, work to schedule challenge matches.
7. The challenger will provide a new can of tennis balls for the match.

Accepting Challenges:

1. A challenger must respond to a challenge within 48 hours.
2. It is the challengee's responsibility to notify the challenger if the two are no longer within 6 spots of each other when a challenge is issued. The Ladder Chair will not accept challenge scores for matches if the two players weren't within 6 spots of each other at the time of the match.

Exceptions to Issuing and Accepting Challenges:

1. The players in positions 1 - 6 on the ladder may challenge 6 spots below their spot to give them an equal opportunity to gain Grand Prix points.
2. If the challenger wins, there is no change in the line up.
3. If the challenger loses, he/she takes the position right below the winner.

CHALLENGE FORMAT

1. Challenges are best 2 out of 3 sets, regular Ad-scoring, 12 point tie-breakers. If the match is played using other formats, the Ladder Chair will not accept the challenge score.

SCHEDULELING MATCHES

1. If a match has to be suspended due to court or weather conditions, players will note the score and resume from that score at the earliest opportunity.
2. Once a challenge is accepted, both players have 7 days to play the match at a mutually agreed upon site.
3. Once a match time is scheduled, the USTA 15 minute default rule is in effect.

REPORTING SCORES

1. The winner must report the score within 24 hours of the completion of the match, via email to the Ladder Chair, ladder@sdtf.org . (A phone message may be left at (619) 220-0219 if emailing isn't an option.)

POINTS AND PRIZE MONEY

1. Players earn Grand Prix points for participating on the ladder. Points will be awarded as follows:
Issue a challenge and win: +10 points
Issue a challenge and lose: +5 points
Accept a challenge and win: +5 points
Accept a challenge and lose: +2 points
Win by default: +5 points (taken from the defaulter)
Lose by default: -5 points
2. The top 3 players in terms of Grand Prix points for each period will win prize money. Amounts will be announced on January 30.
3. The player with the most total Grand Prix points at the end of the ladder season will receive a prize yet to be determined. The prize will be awarded at the year-end Holiday Party.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Players must be current with their SDTF membership dues to participate on the Grand Prix Singles Ladder.

2. If a player's membership lapses, he/she will be removed from the ladder. If this happens, he/she may rejoin the ladder by doing the following:
3. Bringing his/her membership dues current.
4. If a player in position 1-30 is dropped for not maintaining a current membership, they may issue a challenge no higher than position 30 on the ladder. (If the challenger loses, he/she goes to the bottom of the ladder.)
5. If a player in position 31-or lower is dropped for not maintaining a current membership, they may issue a challenge no higher than the position they held on the ladder when they were dropped. (If the challenger loses, he/she goes to the bottom of the ladder.)

FREQUENCY OF PLAY

1. Players must play at least one match (issued or accepted) per period.
2. The Ladder Chair will drop, from the ladder, any player who does not play at least one challenge match during each period. If this happens, he/she may rejoin the ladder by doing the following:
3. If a player in position 1-30 is dropped for not playing at least one match during the period, they may issue a challenge no higher than position 30 on the ladder. (If the challenger loses he/she goes to the bottom of the ladder.)
4. If a player in position 31-or lower is dropped for not playing at least one match during the period, they may issue a challenge no higher than the position they held on the ladder when they were dropped. (If the challenger loses he/she goes to the bottom of the ladder.)

INJURIES AND WORK-RELATED TRAVEL

1. No exemptions will be given for injuries. If a player is unable to play a challenge due to injury, he/she must default the match.
2. No exemptions will be given for work related travel. If a player is unable to play a challenge because he/she has to go out of town for work, he/she must default the match.

ENFORCEMENT AND GRIEVANCES

1. The Ladder Chair is responsible for enforcing the challenge ladder rules as interpreted by the Rules Chair committee.
2. Questions and grievances regarding the Grand Prix Ladder rules should first be addressed to the Ladder Chair.
3. In the event that a satisfactory resolution is not reached with the Ladder Chair, matters of rules disputes should be brought before the Rules Chair committee for a decision...

CURRENT STANDINGS

Current standings are published weekly on the Federation's website, www.sdtf.org.

CHARTER OF THE SDTF

I. PURPOSE

The San Diego Tennis Federation, herein called "the Federation", is a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting tennis and related social activities among the gay and lesbian community of San Diego. The Federation will sponsor regular tennis competition among its members, as well as assemble players to compete with other teams from outside San Diego county. Through its contributions or conduct, the Federation may also support worthy causes within the gay and lesbian, or tennis communities when approved by a majority of its members of record. Finally, all Federation-supported activities shall be open to and publicized within the community.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Any person who endorses the Federation's basic purposes, is eligible to be a member. No one will be discriminated against on the basis of race, religious belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Members of record shall be those people who are current on dues and actively participate in team affairs. Only members of record will be able to vote at Federation meetings and play in challenge tournament matches against other clubs or leagues.

III MEETINGS

General membership meetings shall be held annually unless otherwise scheduled by the Executive Board. These meetings may serve as a forum to discuss and vote upon Federation business, or as a social function.

Notice of meetings will be given either in the SDTF Newsletter, by phone, or by posting at Sunday morning team play.

In order for votes to be taken at Federation meetings, a quorum of X of the members of record must be present at the beginning of such meetings. Voting may occur through written proxy, but only if dated and signed by the member casting the proxy ballot.

IV TEAM OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

The officers of the Federation shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Ladder Chair, Social Chair, Rules Committee Chair, and Webmaster. All officers shall be elected to one-year terms and may be elected as many times as the membership so votes.

The Executive Board shall consist of the above nine officers and will meet periodically at the request of the President or Vice President. This Board will conduct the essential business of the SDTF and be the directing force behind all Federation activities. Team members may request that the President or Vice President call a special meeting of the Executive Board if a matter is so serious as to require immediate attention.

V. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

A Federation officer may be removed from office through a two-step process. First, the Executive Board, by majority vote, must find the officer to have acted negligently or improperly in his or her duties. Second, the Rules Committee, by majority vote, must approve the Executive Board's decision to remove

VI AMENDMENTS

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The Charter of the San Diego Tennis Federation can be amended, but only by a 2/3 vote of the members of record. Notice must be given as to the exact wording of the amendment, as well as the reasons for the proposal to change.

BY-LAWS OF THE SDTF

A. OFFICER DUTIES

The Federation officers will be responsible for the following duties:

1. President

The President shall be Chief Officer of the Federation. He or she will preside at general membership and Executive Board meetings, call for Executive Board meetings, preserve order, form committees, appoint members, and see that the officers and committees perform their respective duties. Officers shall report to the President through the Executive Board.

2. Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of his or her duties and shall exercise the powers of the President in his or her absence or in the case of the President's death, removal, or resignation. The Vice President shall lead the fundraising committee and other working committees as designated by President and Executive Board.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall record all minutes at general membership and Executive Board meetings and will ensure procedures are followed. The Secretary will prepare the newsletter or provide the Newsletter Editor with pertinent information from club meetings.

4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall oversee, monitor, and report on the financial records and condition of the Federation. He or she will bill members for dues and issue a statement on the financial status of the team on a quarterly basis.

5. Membership Chairperson

The Membership Chairperson will be responsible for maintaining an accurate membership roster. He or she will also develop programs to maintain and/or expand membership levels as requested by the Executive Board. Finally, the Membership Chair will be responsible for welcoming new members to the Federation.

6. Social Chairperson

The Social Chairperson shall be in charge of initiating, planning, and carrying out all social functions.

7. Ladder Chairperson

The Ladder Chair shall record the rankings and challenge match results of all players and frequently distribute copies of rankings to team members. The ladder Chair shall also be responsible for enforcing the ladder rules as interpreted by the Rules Committee.

8. Rules Committee Chairperson

The Rules Committee Chairperson shall preside over the Rules Committee, a group of three individuals independent of the Executive Board, who will be responsible for resolving differences concerning the Charter and By-Laws among team members and/or the Executive Board. The Rules Committee Chairperson will also sit as a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

9. Webmaster

The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining the SDTF website as an information source for the club. The Webmaster shall work with the respective chairs to ensure that the contents of the website is accurate and current. The Webmaster shall work with the Treasurer to ensure payment for the site. .

B. REQUIREMENTS TO BE AN OFFICER

Persons running for elected officer positions must have been a member of record of the Federation for at least 60 days prior to their nomination and be current on their dues.

C. ELECTIONS

Officer elections shall take place under the supervision of the Secretary and Membership Chairperson in as fair a manner as possible. Nominations will be submitted at a general meeting prior to elections and be closed prior to that meeting. Each nominee shall accept or decline his or her nomination at that time. Any member of record may nominate himself or herself to run for office.

All officers shall serve one year terms and elections will be held every December. Voting will be by secret ballot of the membership. Finally, newly elected officers will assume their positions immediately and outgoing officers shall cooperate with the transition.

In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the remaining Executive Board shall appoint a replacement officer to serve until the next election.

D. MEMBERSHIP DUES

Federation members are required to pay dues to become members of record and thus be entitled to vote at meetings and play in challenge tournaments. These dues, as well as any initiation fees, are to be set by the Executive Board and approved by a majority of the team. Dues are to be paid on an annual basis, payable on the first day of the month during which the member joined the Federation.

Players wishing to be put on the "inactive" status for a time should notify the Membership Chairperson so as not to be charged with dues during this period. Players in extreme financial hardship should inform the Treasurer of the circumstances so the Executive Board may consider waiving or deferring amounts owed.

E. WORKING COMMITTEES

The President or Executive Board shall from time to time appoint temporary committees to effectuate the specific goals and objectives of the Federation. The Vice President will be the Chairperson of all working committees and will report committee progress to the Board.

F. STANDING COMMITTEES

The President or Executive Board may also appoint committees that have a permanent and continuous character, such as the Rules Committee and the Tournament Committee. The formation of the standing committees should be approved by a majority of the members of record. These committees will have greater autonomy from the Executive Board than the working committees, but must have the approval of the Executive Board prior to any commitment of Federation resources.

G. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consider Federation matters and present issues to the club membership for votes, as necessary. Quorums for the Executive Board meetings shall be a simple majority. Absent Board members may be present for quorum and voting purposes if they express their view on an issue to other Board members by phone or in writing to another Board member. Board decisions will be made by a majority vote of the officers in attendance.

H. THE RULES COMMITTEE

The Rules Committee will consist of three members, a Chairperson elected by the membership and two additional members appointed by the Executive Board. All three members will serve six-month terms.

The purpose of this committee is to adjudicate disputes brought to it by interested club members, the President, or the Executive Board. In coming to a decision, the Rules Committee will interpret the Charter and Bylaws of the Federation as well as utilize general principles of fairness. In each case brought to it, the Committee shall issue a short written opinion setting forth the reasons for its holding. Copies of opinions will be transmitted to the Secretary.

The Rules Committee shall also periodically bring to the Executive Board or club membership its recommendations for changing the Charter and Bylaws in order that the Federation continues operating justly and efficiently. However, these recommendations shall not become binding until accepted by the club membership.

I. NEWSLETTER

The editor of the Federation newsletter shall be a volunteer, unless more than one person desires the position, in which case the position shall be elected for a one-year term, along with other officers.

Although the Newsletter will be independent from the Executive Board, it shall provide Board officers with a reasonable amount of unedited space upon request.

Minutes from the most recent general membership and Board meetings can be requested at any time from the Secretary.

J. PUBLIC RELATIONS

The President shall appoint a member of record to manage the public relations of the Federation.

K. VOTING ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

If at a team meeting in which a quorum exists, an issue arises that is so controversial that it might conflict with a basic purpose for which the Federation exists, this issue may be tabled by a majority vote of the members of record. Notice of the issue shall be given before the matter is considered again at the next meeting.

L. NO LIMITATIONS ON NUMBER OF TERMS

None of the elected or appointed officers of the Federation shall be limited to a set number of terms.

M. REQUESTS FOR SECRET BALLOTS

Before a vote is taken at any club meeting, a member of record may move that a secret ballot be employed. If this motion carries the general acclaim, the Secretary shall distribute ballots so as to insure the confidentiality of the voting process.

N. BUDGETING FUNDS

The Executive Board will develop a budget for the general allotment of funds and shall approve all disbursements. Receipts shall be presented for disbursements.

O. AUTHORITY TO DISBURSE FUNDS

The Federation Treasurer shall have sole responsibility to issue checks pursuant to Federation business. Only the Executive Board may direct the Treasurer to issue checks, which must be countersigned by the Treasurer and either the President, Vice President or Secretary.

P. ACCOUNTABILITY

Federation financial records will be available for officers or members of record to view upon request.

Q. REQUIREMENTS TO PLAY IN CHALLENGE TOURNAMENTS

In order to play in challenge tournaments against teams from outside San Diego, Federation players must have been a member of record for at least 30 days prior to the date of the tournament.

R. CHALLENGE LADDER RULES

The Federation shall approve and publish equitable challenge ladder rules to encourage participation among team members.

S. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These bylaws may be changed or added to by majority vote of the members of record at any club meeting.