



Club Member Eligibility for ICTA League Play

The ICTA League Directors and Division Chairs are currently put in the position of policing Clubs when a complaint is received around whether a player is a “paid member” according to the written rules and intention behind the rules. This document is meant to become an addendum to the League Rules so Clubs, Captains and Players understand how the ICTA interprets the rule around “players being paid members of their Club.” As with other By-laws and Rules, when a Club enters teams into a League, they agree to abide by said By-laws and Rules, and accept that occasionally a League Rule will supersede a Club policy. For example. Many Clubs charge a guest or visitor fee. When Clubs enter Teams into a League, they agree to waive such fees when they are hosting a fixture.

From The ICTA By-laws page 2:

“**Members**” shall be organized tennis Clubs, organized Clubs having tennis sections and any other organization which charges its members an annual fee in payment for the availability of tennis facilities and services relating thereto; they shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at meetings of Members of the Association; and they shall pay annual dues to the Association in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of the Association; Clubs will update, as necessary, Club profiles, Club Representatives, presidents, Teams and Captains’ names, phone numbers and email addresses. After the Spring AGM, Clubs may only add or delete Teams at the discretion of the respective League Director;”

League Rules:

- A. Ladies League: Rule A2: Players must be *current paid members* of their club from the date of their first match.
- B. Mixed League: from 1.1 Definitions. “**Player**” is either an Adult or a Junior and must be a *current paid Club member* from the date of their first match.
- C. +55 Mixed League: from 1.1 Definitions “**Player**” is somebody 54 years of age or older and shall be a current paid Club member from the date of his or her first Match.
- D. Juniors: no player definition in rules

Association Interpretation as of March 2017

By definition, a “current paid Club member from the date of their first match” means a player has purchased a membership at a Club for the league season which runs from May-September.

Players may be ***ineligible*** to participate in an ICTA League even if their Club has certain policies around membership. These include but are not limited to:

1. In a club that sells seasonal memberships, all players are expected to have the seasonal membership. Pay-as-you-play arrangements do not qualify a person to compete on a team while other players have paid for an actual membership.
2. Paying a visitor fee does not qualify a person to compete on a team.
3. Players who have temporarily suspended their Club membership are not eligible to play for that Club. *Some indoor clubs allow players to suspend membership for 2-3 months per year, yet still consider them to be paid members. They are not eligible to compete on a team for that Club.*
4. Players who intend to become a Club member, but have not yet paid to join, are not considered a member of the Club and should not be placed on a team roster. They will be considered ineligible if they play a league match with penalties assessed in accordance with the League rules.
5. No player is to be compensated for competing. ICTA league tennis is an amateur sport and ALL players volunteer their time to play. Compensation includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Direct payment for time spent travelling to and/or competing in a match. This includes compensation by the Club and/or team members. Many players give up wages they could be earning to voluntarily compete on a team.
 - b. Free memberships offered to a player as enticement to play on an ICTA team.
 - c. Compensation received as part of a sponsorship agreement.
6. Juniors must have an individual or family Club membership to play in a league.
 - a. Juniors who participate in an Academy that is run at the Club are not considered Club members unless the Academy fee includes a junior Club membership.

- b. Juniors who receive coaching/attend camps at a Club and do not have a Club membership are not eligible to play for an ICTA team at that Club.
- 7. Players (typically high-performance juniors or college kids returning for the summer) who are given free court access in return for hitting with junior academy players or other accommodations are not considered paid Club members.

The Association recognizes that Clubs provide certain types of membership to staff and long-time volunteers. Other eligible Membership types are:

- 8. Honorary Memberships: If a player has been given a free Club membership due to length of membership, or years of service, they meet the membership eligibility requirement to play on a team.
- 9. Staff memberships:
 - i. Free memberships are often included in the compensation package for Club staff and Teaching Professionals. The Association recognizes that this provision is often abused and reserves the right to request proof of staff membership.