

GULPH MILLS TENNIS CLUB
DEL-TRI WOMEN'S LEAGUE
CHALLENGE RULES 2009

Gulph Mills Tennis Club is proud to field eight teams across all six Del-Tri League divisions. To all of the current members of our Friday league teams, thank you for representing Gulph Mills so well in competition. We realize it is a long season and we appreciate your commitment. Special thanks go to our team captains, many of whom have given their dedicated service for several years. We hope that we provide a fun, fair venue in which both returning and prospective teams may compete.

Gulph Mills welcomes players of all levels to try out for a team. Be aware, however, that current league rules may restrict your choice of team ladders on which to challenge. You may refer to the league website, www.tenniscoures.com, to determine what division is most appropriate for you, or you may speak to one of our club pros.

Please help us maintain the integrity of our ladders by completing what you start. If you begin challenges, you must play the full challenge schedule. Also, if you earn a spot on a Gulph Mills team, you may not try out for a different club. According to league rules, you may challenge at only one club at a time; Once you have earned a spot at one club, you may not take a roster spot at another club. League rules also stipulate that team players be full paying members of the club. Membership dues for Gulph Mills are \$70 for the season.

We have spent considerable time and effort revising Gulph Mills' challenge rules over the years. Our objective for the challenge system is to provide fair opportunities of obtaining roster playing spots for our returning players as well as for new teams, in order that our club might field the best possible teams. We hope we have responded in a meaningful way to many of the issues that our team players have brought to our attention over the years.

All current and new players entering the challenge schedule must return a player registration form by Wednesday, March 25th. A form is enclosed with this mailing and copies are also available at the front desk. We are dividing the challenges into three parts: a two week open challenge period for existing teams followed by a one week open challenge period for new teams, and finally our customary series of three scheduled challenge rounds.

Open Challenges

Starting Saturday, March 28th, there will be a period of open challenges for existing teams. This period will stretch until Friday, April 17 to allow plenty of time around the Easter holidays. Existing teams may issue one free challenge during the open period and they must accept no more than one challenge from an existing team during this open period. If, as an existing Gulph Mills team, you believe that you have been playing considerably low this season, this gives you a chance to advance quickly. On the other hand, if you currently hold a low position on a ladder, you may want to issue a challenge to a team on a lower division ladder to give you and your partner a better chance of securing a roster position for next season.

Between April 18th and April 24th, teams that do not currently hold a position on one of our Del-Tri teams may issue one free challenge. If they win, they will take over that position on the team ladder for scheduled challenges and all teams below them on that ladder will move down one spot. If the new team loses, they will move to the bottom of the ladder onto which they challenged.

There will be a hierarchy as to the order in which teams will be placed at the bottom of a ladder. Existing teams will have priority and will be placed above new teams. Existing teams will be placed in order of their current playing positions. For instance, a court 2 team currently playing in division 4 that challenges and loses on the division 2 ladder will be placed on that division 2 ladder above a court 4 team currently playing in division 5. For new teams that lose free challenges, they will be placed at the bottom of the ladder in the order of the position at which they challenge, but below any returning teams who were also unsuccessful in their bids.

If you are currently a member of a Gulph Mills team and you lose your partner for any reason before challenge matches begin, you may choose another partner and maintain your original position to start challenges. Should both partners decide to play challenges, each with a new partner, then they must first play against each other before scheduled matches begin. The winner maintains the ladder position, and the loser begins challenges as a new team. If you intend to play as a pair next season but one of you is injured or otherwise physically unable to play challenges, a sub of similar ability with the same rating may play. Subs must first be approved by the Gulph Mills challenge committee. Should you need to play challenges with a sub, you must play all challenges with that same sub. We understand that this is an unpopular rule with many of our players since it may not provide an accurate order of strength ranking. However, it is the only mechanism we currently have to allow injured players a chance at retaining a roster playing position for next season.

Initial ladders for all eight league teams will be posted at Gulph Mills on Friday, March 27. Free challenges for existing teams may be issued no earlier than Saturday, March 28 at 10am. All initial free challenges must be completed by Sunday, April 5th at 6pm. Ladders for subsequent free challenges will be posted by Monday, April 6th at 10am. All free challenges from existing teams must be completed by Friday, April 17th at 6pm. As of Saturday, April 18th at 10am, new teams may issue one free challenge to an existing team. Existing teams must accept only one free challenge from a new team.

During the free challenge period timing is crucial; therefore challengers must notify the club by email that they are issuing a challenge. Date and time stamps will be used to determine which challenges get precedence. All teams issuing free challenges must first email the club at tennis@jkcp.com as to who they have selected to challenge (you may indicate up to two possible options for opponents you wish to challenge at this time). Gulph Mills will then notify the challenged teams as to who they must play. Please report your scores promptly in order that any necessary ladder changes may be posted in a timely manner.

For any challenge issued, the challenged team must offer the challengers at least three playing times on three different days, two of which must be weekdays between 9am and 3pm. Please note that these guidelines for offering times to play challenges are just that. Try to arrive at mutually acceptable times to play so that the challenges get played rather than anyone defaulting due to scheduling reasons.

Scheduled Challenge Rounds

After the free challenge period, scheduled rounds, just as they have been in previous years, will commence. Current teams may maintain spots on as many as two ladders for scheduled challenges, while new teams may compete on only one ladder. Round 1 of scheduled challenges must be completed by April 27, round 2 by May 4, and round 3 by May 11. All regular challenges will conclude as of May 11, except for teams that are undefeated on a ladder. Teams that have not lost a challenge match on a particular ladder may continue to challenge on that ladder until they lose. To be considered undefeated, a team may have earned no more than one win by default.

With each ladder operating separately, it is possible that some roster spots will be vacant at the end of challenges. It will be up to the discretion of the staff at Gulph Mills to fill these vacancies. Existing teams will be given every consideration to fill these open spots first.

Most strong teams remain that way through regular challenges. It is important for the vitality of your team that you play all the scheduled matches. We appeal to your sense of sportsmanship and team loyalty to make every effort to complete the challenge schedule on time. The club pros and desk staff are available to help you through difficulties, but their involvement should be as a last resort. It is up to you to get matches played and earn your proper spot on a team.

So as Betty says every Friday, have a good match.

Important dates:

March 25, 2008	Last day for team registrations
March 27	Initial ladders posted for all eight teams
March 28	First date for existing teams to issue open challenges
April 18	Open challenge period for new teams begins
April 24	Open challenges for new teams conclude
April 25	Scheduled rounds commence
May 17	Regular challenges conclude

Spring 2008 Scheduled Challenges

Round 1—to be played by May 3, 2009

- Team 1 vs. team 2
- Team 3 vs. team 4
- Team 5 vs. team 6, etc.

Round 2—to be played by May 10, 2009

- Team 1 bye
- Team 2 vs. team 3
- Team 4 vs. team 5
- Team 6 vs. team 7, etc.

Round 3—to be played by May 17, 2009
Same schedule as round 1 above

Procedure for matches:

1. Email the club at tennis@jkcp.com to notify us that a challenge has been issued, call and reserve a court
2. The cost of challenge matches played at Gulph Mills is \$7 per person. Challenges may, however, be played at any mutually agreed on site.
3. Challengers supply a new can of balls
4. The winning team must report the score to the Gulph Mills office
5. Del-Tri interclub rules of play apply regarding scoring, warm-ups, lateness, injury, etc. Del-Tri rules are available at the league website.

Challenge rules committee: Tim Farrell, Arvind Aravindhan, Carl Richard, Sandy Meinfelder, Punch Maleka, Mukundan Nandakumar, Michelle Savage, Jharna Nansi

Again, thanks to all of our team captains for their valuable contributions toward improving our Del-Tri challenge system.