



WOMEN'S LEAGUE VANCOUVER LOWER MAINLAND

2026 Rules, Regulations, Responsibilities

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WOMEN'S LEAGUE VANCOUVER LOWER MAINLAND

TENNIS BC

ORGANIZATION

Women's League Vancouver Lower Mainland (WLVLML) is governed by the Directors Committee (the Directors), an organizing and voting body which operates to ensure competition and fair play to all league teams and members. The Directors are responsible for the day-to-day management of the league. All Directors are volunteers.

There are 11 divisions of competition including Open, Night and Day, which operate in order of strength with the Open Division being the strongest, followed by divisions one through five. Each division is supervised by a Division Director. Directors are members of participating clubs. Membership on the Directors committee is at the discretion of the current committee members. A Director may serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms; may be re-elected to the committee after taking at least a one-year break. The Directors elect the League Coordinator(s) who is responsible for the general management of league including chairing Director's meetings. It is recommended that a new Coordinator have 3 years prior experience as a Division Director and that they spend a year as Co-Coordinator before taking on the lead position. The Coordinator position can also be a shared position.

Tennis BC sponsors League but it is not involved in the day-to-day management of league. Any incidents arising during league play which are not covered under the 2024 Tennis Canada Guidelines for Unofficial Matches, and the Code of Conduct outlined in Tennis Canada's "Rules of the Court", or these Women's League Vancouver Lower Mainland Rules, or any other unresolved differences, will be referred to the Directors for discussion and resolution. If a ruling is required, this will be attained by vote. Once an incident is brought to the attention of the committee, a decision will be determined within 21 days and the decision will be **FINAL**.

KEY DATES FOR 2026:

March 1	Preliminary roster entered online
March 16	Season begins and final team roster submitted to Division Director
May 1	Deadline for any roster revision request
May 3	Matches between the same club to be completed
May 31	Two Court 1 Players must have played twice on court 1 Two Court 4 Players must have played twice on court 4
June 15	All league games must be scheduled
June 30	Late rescheduled games must be completed
July 15	Division final results
Oct. 15	New Team applications due

RULES

The following refers to the rules of Women's League Vancouver Lower Mainland (WLVLM) as it pertains to protocols for player participation and team participation in league. Infringement of these rules) will be subject to review and may result in penalty point deductions. **All reference to 'Captain' applies equally to the designated Captain, should the Team Captain not be present.**

Rules of Competition

1. Competition will be governed by the 2024 Tennis Canada Guidelines for Unofficial Matches, and these Women's League Vancouver Lower Mainland Rules and Regulations and Code of Conduct.
2. All matches are to be played on hard courts lined for tennis competition only.
3. All clubs must provide two hours of uninterrupted court time on four regulation hard courts.
4. Hosting teams shall supply Pro Penn balls for all matches. If there is a supply issue, the individual Division Directors can authorize the use of Penn regular balls.
5. All participating clubs and all league players must be members of Tennis BC.
6. All teams/players must be members in good standing with a home club/facility.
7. Matches should be played between **March 16 and June 15, 2026.**
8. Competition consists of four doubles matches, each of which will be the best of three tie-break sets.
9. At one set all, a 10-point match tie-break will be played to decide the match.
10. Teams who win in two straight sets will be awarded 3 points. If sets are split, one point will be awarded for each set won, and one point will be awarded to the winner of the 10-point tie break. If a team retires from a match and has won one set, that point will stand.
11. **Scheduled matches cannot be changed** after the commencement of league without Division Director's approval (only club conflicts will be considered).
12. Day league matches are played Monday – Friday starting between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm.
13. Night league matches are played (preferably) Monday-Friday starting between 6 and 8:00 pm. If a weekend match is scheduled, it should start no later than 3pm.
14. Match start time exceptions could be made if mutually agreed upon by both captains and with **the approval of the Division Director.**
15. Matches between teams from the same club must be completed by **May 3, 2026.**
16. A minimum of two court 1 and two court 4 rostered players must be listed twice for matches on their assigned court by May 31, 2026. If there are only two designated players listed on these courts, they must each play twice.
17. If the courts are wet upon arrival, teams should allow 30 minutes before rescheduling the match. The Division Director must be informed immediately if a decision is taken to reschedule.

Rules of Team Rosters

1. Ineligible players are defined as players who:
 - a) Are not members in good standing of the club they represent.
 - b) Have played more than two matches without a valid Tennis BC number.
 - c) Are listed on more than one roster.
 - d) Have played up (or played laterally in Div. 5 only) outside their own team more than twice.
 - e) Are under suspension from the league
 - f) Play on a court outside of their designation or if a match is played with different players from the match sheet, the court is automatically defaulted (a 3-point deduction for every court in error). **The Captain should not sign the match sheet if this is in dispute.**

Teams using ineligible player(s) will forfeit all points earned on the affected courts to the opposing team. A penalty point may also be issued.

2. **Eligible players** must be listed in one team roster and in order of strength.
3. A minimum of two players must be listed on each of the four courts.
4. Players are permitted to move up or down one court from their listed roster position, except locked in players.
5. Additions to the roster can be requested to the Division Director, up to and including May 1, 2026. **Requests are subject to approval.**
6. In exceptional circumstances, a court position change requested after the start of the season will be subject to the approval of the Division Director.
7. **Prior to the start of the season or at any time during the season**, players may be locked on any court, based on league stats, at the discretion of the Division Director. If there are any disputes, league rules will supersede any club system of placement.
8. **Players in Divisions 1 to 5 must be born in 2008 or earlier.**
9. **Open Division: Ranked Juniors may only play in the Open Division. No more than 4 juniors (born 2010 or 2009) may be listed on an Open team roster. No more than 2 of these players may play in the same match (no exceptions). All players who fall into this “junior” description must be designated court 1 (which means they can play court 1/2 only).**
10. Players who are ranked in the NTRP Women’s Open Singles and Doubles categories up to and including the 26th ranking position as of August 31, 2025, must play in the highest division offered by their club. They will be locked on Court 1 if playing in any division other than Open.

Call-Up Players

1. May not be used from a lateral team within the same club except for Day/Night Division 5. Night 5 players could spare laterally for a Day 5 team only. Day 5 players could spare laterally for a Night 5 team only.
2. Must follow the rules under Team Rosters when moving from a lateral team (Div. 5 only).
3. Must be played on courts 3 or 4 only, when called up from a lower division of the same club.

4. May only be called up to play within the club they represent and only a maximum of two times during a season.

Cancelled, Unfinished & Rescheduled Matches

1. Every effort should be made to complete matches on the day they commenced.
2. Information regarding any rescheduling is to be communicated **immediately** to the Division Director.
3. Cancellations due to weather must be made at least two hours before scheduled play. **If all weather apps indicate rain, clubs who offer only outdoor courts and early matches may cancel the night before.**
4. Cancelled or unfinished matches must be rescheduled and played **within 21 days**. **Any matches rescheduled beyond this time period must have the approval of the Division Director.**
5. Promptly (within three days) the home team must offer two dates for any rescheduled or unfinished matches (not a holiday or a date the visiting team is already scheduled to play) and copy the Division Director on all correspondence. If neither date can be agreed upon, the hosting captain will offer up a third and final date. **For multiple courts affected, it is allowed to schedule separate dates for individual courts to ensure timely completion of the match. If indoor courts are required, the Hosting Team will bear all costs.**
Visiting captains must respond within three days with their choice. **Rescheduled matches must adhere to the Monday-Friday, 9:30-12:30 pm start time for Day League; 6-8 pm start time for Night League; no later than 3 pm start time for weekend, unless agreed upon by both Team Captains and approved by the Division Director.**
6. Captains must have indoor courts as back up for any matches rescheduled between June 15 and June 30.
7. It is mandatory that indoor courts be booked after a second rain-out.
8. Unfinished matches must resume with the same players in the position (including side) and at the exact score as the match was when it stopped.
 - a) Players must record the status of the game at the time of interruption, including all relevant information for resumption of the match such as score, side, server, ad or deuce court position of players etc.
 - b) Captains should then take a photo of this and send it to the Division Director when they communicate the need for rescheduling.
9. All matches must be completed by June 30.

Defaults

1. Defaults must be communicated to the Division Director as soon as possible prior to the match.
2. If a court must be defaulted, the lowest court (starting with court 4) will be the default. If a second court needs to be defaulted, it must be court 3.
3. The names and the reason for defaulting any court must be reported on the match sheet and signed by both captains.
4. A court **could** win by default if their opponents are more than 30 minutes late. The visiting captain or player must make every effort to contact the hosting captain to advise of a delay and its circumstances.

5. A decision regarding a default will involve the two team captains and their Division Director.
6. Three points will be awarded to the opposing team for each defaulted court. Certain circumstances are taken into consideration when awarding points.

Injury & Player Retirement

1. Medical timeouts are permitted for “treatable” conditions. Total stoppage of play for an injury must not exceed 15 minutes. This timeout begins immediately and includes determining a course of treatment for the injury, providing any necessary supplies such as bandages or ice, actual treatment time of 3 minutes as well as time to put clothing and footwear in order and regain equipment to commence. During this period any player may take a washroom or water break but may not exceed the time for allotted for injury. Players on the affected court are responsible for adhering to the 15-minute time allotment.
2. Treatment must take place on court unless modesty requires otherwise.
3. **It is recommended that all clubs have easy access to a first aid kit, particularly those without easy access to a washroom.**
4. **A player who is bleeding is permitted to leave the court to attend to the bleeding within the allotted medical timeout.** If the player is unable to stop the bleeding within the permitted medical timeout, the match must be retired.
5. Muscle cramping is not considered a medical issue. If cramping, a player may take a 5-minute, one-time only break. Any recurrence of cramping does not warrant another break; the player must continue playing within 25 seconds on change of ends or retire. Injury after cramping must be an “acute injury” (turning ankle, falling on court, sustaining an obvious injury etc.)
6. If a player has a non-treatable or repeat injury and play cannot continue, the player must retire.
7. Scores for retirements will be recorded on the score sheet as, for example, 6-3, 4-1 “retired” and will be entered on the website as 6-3, 4-1, retired.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of Captains:

1. Ensure all players on their team roster fulfill eligibility requirements (see Rules of Team Rosters)
2. Submit and enter preliminary rosters online through the [Tenniscanada.com](https://www.tenniscanada.com/tenniscores) website by March 1.
3. Submit final team rosters to their Division Director **no later than** the first day of league, **March 16, 2026.**
4. Maintain their own records of matches played.
5. Carry a current copy of Women’s League Vancouver Lower Mainland Rules & Regulations and the 2024 Tennis Canada Guidelines for Unofficial Matches to every match.
6. Inform spectators to demonstrate good sportsmanship and support for fair play during the match.
7. Prior to entering club court facilities, exchange simultaneously with the visiting team captain or designate, the written match line-ups. Hard copy is mandatory (electronic format is not acceptable) with a possible point penalty being assessed for failure to comply.

8. Communicate with their team that “the spin” must take place with all players present for a particular court prior to the start of warm-up.
9. Prior to entering the courts, communicate whether any player(s) is unable to play beyond the 2-hour time allotment (in the event that courts are available and the match is unfinished).
10. Make the players fully aware that when a court has finished their match, players **must immediately** move off the courts with as little disruption to other courts as possible.
11. Sign the score sheets
12. **. If a captain is not in agreement with the match results, the score sheet should not be signed and indicate the reason for dispute. Match disputes must be submitted in writing to the Division Director within 48 hours for review. If a grievance form is being submitted, it must be received within 48 hours, or the grievance may not be given consideration.**

Responsibilities of Hosting Captain:

1. Contact the visiting captain at least three days prior to the scheduled match for confirmation and match details (indoor, outdoor, location, start time, parking, dress code, water bottle policy etc.)
2. Ensure the visiting team is greeted upon arrival at their club.
3. Provide 10 minutes of warm -up (which includes serve and catch) to the visiting team regardless of late arrival. Provide refreshments after the match. Visiting captain will advise the hosting captain as least two days prior if any of the team players will not stay for refreshments after the match. Post match refreshments will be provided to match players only (excludes spectators) and should include a social aspect, not grab and go. **It is not expected to provide refreshments to visiting players who choose not to stay after the match.**
4. Together with the visiting captain, complete and sign the score sheet prior to departure.
5. Within 24 hours of match completion, enter all results online, including partial scores, and forward a copy of the match sheet to the Division Director.

Team Responsibilities

1. Home team must absorb all costs for all home matches, including those matches that need to be rescheduled indoors due to second round rainouts. **This includes refreshments.**
2. Visiting teams will accept the facilities and rules of the hosting club, including dress codes for court and dining areas.
3. All players must turn off all cell communication (phone, watches) prior to warm-up/
4. Four courts of two hours of court time must be provided at the same time for match play unless it is a rescheduled match.
5. Both teams should ensure there is no coaching by spectators or coaches and that there is no video recording/photographing of any matches at any time by players or spectators.

FINAL STANDINGS

Divisional standings will be determined as follows:

- First place is determined by total point (wins).
- In the event of a tie, only head-to-head results of the tied teams will be considered.
- If still tied, the winning team will be determined by the number of 'two set wins' won during the season.
- If still tied, then games won/lost and percentage in those sets during te season will determine the winner.
- Final point standings are subject to review up to July 15.
- The winner of a division will advance to the next higher division for the following season.
- In most cases, the losing teams will move down.
- The Directors will attempt to ensure balance in all Day and Night League Divisions using the realignment process.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose

1. (a) To promote cooperation and sportsmanship in competition within an inclusive and friendly environment; and
- (b) To provide clear expectations for behaviour and encourage camaraderie, respect, and fair play among participants.

Responsibilities

2. Participants are governed by the Tennis Canada Rules of the Court and Safe Sport Code of Conduct, the current Rules and Regulations of Lower Mainland Women's League and this Code of Conduct.

Conduct

Participants in Women's League will:

3. Conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and show respect and courtesy to other league members.
4. Avoid harassment or intimidating conduct. Harassing behaviour is defined as upsetting behaviour or comments that ought reasonably to be known to be offensive or unwelcome, including but not limited to,
 - (a) written or verbal abuse, outbursts or vulgar language directed at the opposition; and
 - (b) bullying or condescending behaviour (words and gestures).
5. Refrain from video recording or photographing during match play.
6. Ensure there is no coaching during match play.

Code Compliance

7. Inappropriate conduct may be deliberate, uninformed, or unintentional. The standard to be applied is whether a reasonable person knows or should know that such behaviour is inappropriate.
8. Those who fail to adhere to the Code may be subject to disciplinary measures.
9. Penalties will range from verbal warning to penalty point, to league suspension and may involve notification to a player's home club.
10. The Women's League Committee will be responsible for the enforcement of all Rules and Regulations including the Code of Conduct.

TIE BREAKS

In league, 2 tie breaks are used:

Set tie break- played at 6 games all in a set.

Match tie break - played instead of a full 3rd set.

1. Set tie break (6-6)

- A tie break is won by the team who first wins 7 points by a margin of 2 points.
- The player whose turn it is to serve starts the tie break with one serve from the deuce court.
- This is followed by the opponent serving twice, first from the ad court and second from the deuce court.
- This rotation continues until the tie-break is completed.
- After every 6 points that are played, the players change ends.

Who serves first after the tie break?

- The player/team who served first in the tie-break receives first in the next set.
- Note: if an error has been made, and the wrong team started the tie-break, the team who was due to receive first in the tiebreak, is the server in the next set.

2. Match tie Break

- Played instead of a full 3rd set
- A match tie break is won by the team who first wins 10 points by a margin of 2 points.
- Team who received first in the last game of the previous set, serves first in the tie break.
- Teams only switch ends before starting a MTB if the result was odd in the previous set (e.g. 7-6, 6-3)
- Teams may change their service order or receiving side (ad/deuce courts) as in any new set.
- There is a 120 second set break permitted between end of 2nd set and beginning of MTB.

CORRECTING ERRORS ON COURT

CORRECTING ERRORS ON COURT		
All points played in good faith stand		
Player serves from wrong half of the court (Regular and Tie-break)	Serving from the wrong half of the court in a regular game or a tie-break should be corrected as soon as possible, and the server should continue serving from the correct half of the court according to the score. In other words, the previous points do not need to be replayed, the score should remain, and play should continue from the correct half of the court. A fault that was served before the error was discovered shall stand.	
Players are at wrong ends of the court (Regular and Tie-break)	Players at the wrong ends of the court should be corrected as soon as possible, and the server should continue serving from the correct end of the court according to the score. The previous points do not need to be replayed, the score should remain, and play should continue from the correct end of the court. A fault that was served before the error was discovered does not stand.	
Player serves out of turn	REGULAR GAME If the order of serving gets switched in a regular game, the player who should have been serving should start serving as soon as the error is discovered. However, if the game is completed before the error is discovered, play should continue with the new order of service. If the partners on the same team switched their order of serving, a fault that was served by the incorrect partner before the error was discovered shall stand.	TIE-BREAK If a player serves out of turn in a tie-break and the error is discovered after an EVEN number of points have been played, the error should be corrected immediately. If the error is discovered after an ODD number of points have been played, play should continue with the new order of service. A fault that was served by the incorrect partner before the error was discovered shall stand.
Player receives out of turn in doubles (Regular and Tie-break)	If the order of receiving gets switched, play should continue with the new order of receiving until the end of the game. For the remaining game in which that doubles team is receiving in that set, the partners should switch back to the original order of receiving.	

HONOUR CALLS

In these situations, the onus is on the player receiving the ball to make the call

IN/OUT

Ball must land

Must see a CLEAR space

Call must be loud, clear & quick

If partner disagrees with out call, ball is good

NOT UP

Double Bounce

Opponent cannot call

If opponent stops play, they lose the point

INVASION

Racquet touches opponent's court

Player touches opponent's court

Opponent cannot call

DOUBLE HITS

Hit the ball twice

Deliberately carried ball

Both partners hit

Opponent cannot call

TOUCHES

Player, racquet or clothing touches net

Ball touches player, racquet or net

Opponent cannot call

OVER THE NET

Hits a ball before it crosses the net.

Opponent cannot call