

TENNIS RULES

A. COURT RESERVATION AND SIGN-UP

1. Members may sign-up no earlier than 7:00 am two days in advance.
2. Each member is allowed only one advance reservation per day.
3. Members may sign-up only for themselves and family members.
4. Reservations are limited to 2 hours per day.
5. Members must pay guest fees *before* taking the court.
6. Late arrivals lose their reservation after 15 minutes. The time slot then becomes open to any member who wishes to sign up for play.
7. The club may pre-reserve courts for instructions, leagues and tournaments and will have priority over individual reservations.
8. Adults are requested to refrain from signing up next to a court reserved for teaching unless no other court is available.
9. Children under 10 years of age are not permitted on the tennis courts without direct adult supervision.
10. If you go on a court that has not been reserved, make sure that you sign up or you may get bumped.

B. SAFETY

1. Non-players must stay outside the court enclosure. This includes those waiting to play and small children.
2. For the protection of all players, please remove errant tennis balls that pose a safety hazard from the playing area immediately. Do not invade an adjacent court to retrieve a ball. The other players will get the ball for you after their point is completed. Interrupt play by voice communications when necessary to eliminate an unsafe condition.
3. Check your court before starting to play. Remove debris and excessive dirt, sand, leaves, and pine needles that may cause loss of footing.

C. CARE OF TENNIS FACILITIES

1. Proper tennis attire is required. All players are required to wear regulation tennis shoes. Jogging or running shoes, shoes with heels, and bare feet are prohibited.
2. Glass containers are NOT permitted in the court enclosure.
3. The use of all skateboards, bicycles and any other equipment not necessary for playing tennis is strictly forbidden on the tennis courts.
4. Improper treatment of the tennis facilities will not be tolerated.
 - a. Do not hit fence, net, or surface with racquet.
 - b. Do not throw the brooms or roll dries.
 - c. Hang the roll dries on the fence so the rollers do not flatten.
 - d. Do not litter the court area. Put all trash in a trash receptacle.
 - e. The net shall be adjusted by the center strap ONLY.
 - f. Lock gates turn off lights and lock switch box upon leaving a set of unoccupied courts.
 - g. Smoking is NOT permitted inside the court enclosure.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The intent of the 2 hour per day of advance reservation is that those members playing together SHALL NOT sign up separately for consecutive time, and thus reserve more than the allotted 2 hours. If additional time is desired after the 2 hours of play, and a court is open, then additional playing time can be secured by signing onto any open court in increments of 30 minutes for as long as an open court is available.
2. Do not sign up to reserve a court unless you are reasonably sure that you will be able to play. If you find you must cancel a reservation, do so as soon as possible. Minimizing the need for cancellation and elimination of no-shows will provide more opportunity for all members to reserve court time.
3. When signing up to reserve a court, try not to leave any time gap between you and a person already signed up. This will maximize use of court time.
4. When reserving clay courts in the morning, please book at 9 a.m. or 11.a.m. to maximize the number of playing slots.
5. Practicing solo:
 - a. When hitting practice balls, hit balls from side of court that will allow balls to go into fence corner and not onto adjacent court.
 - b. Do not use the fences for a backboard.
 - c. Do not use a court during prime time for solo practice. Use a 30-minute time slot as available at that time for practice.
 - d. While we try to accommodate members on playing times, court maintenance takes precedence over play. In general, you should not play after 11:00 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m.

E. GUEST POLICY

1. It is required that there be a one-to-one member-to-guest ratio. Please avoid inviting the same guests repeatedly.
2. Fill out the guest fee envelope and pay guest fee (\$10) before taking the court.
3. Guest Fees are waived for those living more than 40 miles from MSRC.

F. USTA LEAGUE PLAY

1. General Guidelines
 - a. Before the beginning of each season, the Club's Tennis Committee Chairperson or appointed representative will send a club-wide communication advising all members of the upcoming tennis season.
 - b. Members planning to form a team for the season (Captains) should inform the Tennis Committee Chairperson prior to registering on the USTA site to ensure that their team would have court availability for the season and to assist other members seeking league play.
 - c. While the Tennis Committee cannot guarantee placement on a team, every effort will be made to place club members on a team. Additionally, the Tennis Committee's expectation is that members can enjoy reasonable playing time during the season, in accordance with their team's goals communicated to them by their Captain.
 - d. Murraywood teams should be made up of at least 75% members.

2. Non-Member Play

- a. If a Captain, after a club-wide solicitation and in collaboration with the Tennis Committee Chair, determines that non-members are needed to reach a minimum* number of players to begin and/or sustain play throughout the season, then the Captain can submit the **Request for Ratio or Fee Waiver** form to the Tennis Committee .

(Here, minimum is defined as either (1) the number of players/partner pairs/positions needed to meet the LATA “legal team” deadline numbers or (2) as the number of players/partner pairs/positions needed to sustain team play throughout the season, as determined by the Captain’s knowledge of the members’ periods of anticipated nonavailability during the season.)*

- b. Prior to adding nonmembers, the Captain should be in receipt of an affirmative response to the request for a fee reduction or for lowering the required 75% member ratio on a team.
- c. Non-members are required to pay \$50.00 per season per team to Murraywood before the first match for each season he/she is on the team roster. The non-member fee is for team play only, and does not include any practices at Murraywood. Non-members who practice with a team must pay the \$10 non-member fee for each practice session.
- d. It is the responsibility of the team captain to collect the \$50 non-member fees prior to scheduling non-member play time. Additionally, it is the responsibility of all team members to collect the \$10 court fee when a non-member practices at Murraywood.
- e. The Captain of each team will:
 - i. Email the Tennis Chair with the team roster, listing each player, their rating, and whether they are a club member.
 - ii. Ensure nonmember league play checks are mailed to MSRC PO Box 334, Irmo, SC 29063 or submitted to the Tennis Committee Chair. The \$10 guest fee for practicing should be placed in the collection box at the kiosk.

3. Court Reservation Guidelines

- a. Courts are blocked out as soon as the schedules are posted on TennisLink.
- b. Captains should check that courts are blocked out for scheduled matches at least 3 days prior to match date.
- c. If courts are NOT blocked out for a scheduled match, please contact the Tennis Chair (Martha Hanks – drhanksm@gmail.com) or designee (Bob Hawsey - rhawsey@bellsouth.net).
- d. Matches that have to be rescheduled due to rain or weather below 32°F can make reservations prior to 48 hours if courts are available.
- e. To have courts rescheduled prior to the 48-hour rule due to weather events, contact the Tennis Committee Chair or designate. To ensure some courts are available for non-league play, a night that has a regularly scheduled league match may NOT be used for a match make-up and the original surface-type courts should be reserved. Courts that are rescheduled due to rainout or cold weather matches will have the

team level, “adult” or “senior” and captain’s name indicated on the reservation grid.

- f. Captains should not request the “bumping of” non-league players who have reserved courts following the Club 48-hour sign-up rule
 - g. Captains wishing to reschedule play to a different date for any reason other than rainout or cold weather must follow the regular 48-hour sign-up procedures.
 - h. Teams can reserve alternate surface-type courts instead of those initially booked if any are available 24 hours prior to the match date; i.e., after 7:00 AM on the morning before the match date. At the time the alternate courts are reserved, the captain or their designee must inform the Tennis Committee Chair or their designee to unblock the originally scheduled courts to allow last minute play by other club members.
4. Court Assignments
 - a. Adult matches are assigned four courts (two soft and two hard): 3, 4, 5 and 6.
 - b. Senior matches (55+) receive two soft courts and one hard court. (4,5,6)
 - c. Super Seniors (65+ and 75+) receive 3 clay courts.

5. Safety

Before each match, the captain should remind their team and the guest team as to Murraywood’s address (2050 Cedarbrook Drive, Columbia, SC 29212) and how to gain access to and the location of the AED.

G. Nontraditional Tennis/Alternative Racquet Sports

1. MSRC facilities were established for recreational and educational use for its members, their families, and guests. (MSRC Bylaws 1.2)
2. As nontraditional court play, like Pickle Ball, continues to emerge onto the sports scene, members may enjoy these nontraditional tennis/alternative racquet sports at MSRC on hard courts if they adhere to sections A-E of the Tennis Rules, with additional rules noted in #3 below.
3. Additional rules for alternative court play, like Pickle Ball:
 - a. Observing the 48-hour reservation rule, members can reserve nontraditional play on hard courts when they are available, but they should not schedule times when USTA league match reservations have been previously posted on an adjacent court.
 - b. Alternative boundary lines may only be marked using removable painters’ tape. The tape must be removed immediately after court play.
 - c. Net heights should not be adjusted.