



EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Men and Women's Paddle Team Guidelines
2017-2018

ABOUT PLATFORM TENNIS

Platform tennis began at Edgewood country club in the mid-70's and has continued to be a popular sport played by many members, both women and men. The season for league play is from mid-October through Mid-March. It generally attracts players who love to be outdoors, enjoying a crisp cool evening, while participating in exercise and social engagements. There are competitive as well as recreational levels, allowing the experienced or novice player to participate.

Edgewood has three aluminum decks that are surrounded by high fencing that allows players to hit off the deck or the walls of fencing, similar to racquet ball or squash. The decks include a heating system that melts away any snow and ice, allowing play to occur throughout the winter months. Players use special platform tennis paddles as well as special rubber balls.

Edgewood country club participates in the Western Pennsylvania Platform Tennis Association [WPPTA] which was formed in 1967. The purpose of the organization was to promote paddle to other clubs and to sponsor the Western Penn Open. The area's country clubs, racquet clubs, and municipalities such as Mt. Lebanon, North Park, and Upper St. Clair participate in the league. For more information about the WPPTA, go to the website at www.wppta.org

The American Platform Tennis Association [APTA] is a non-profit organization that governs the sport. The APTA oversees the national tournaments, and based on players performance, ranks members nationally. The APTA is responsible for official rules, regulates standards for balls, paddles and courts, manages the website and produces the Platform Tennis Magazine. For more detailed information about the APTA, visit the website at www.platformtennis.org





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THE PLAYER

CRITERIA FOR BEING AN ELIGIBLE ECC PLATFORM TENNIS PLAYER

Child participation policy

Children under the age of 21 are encompassed in the parent's recreation privileges, however would be subject to the items in #2a and #2b (below)

Children living in the home, *from age 21 until their 24th birthday*, may participate as family guests in the racket programs (paddle and tennis), for a fee of \$45.00 per season (paddle: October through March, tennis: April through September)

If they participate in any organized racket sport that has associated fees, the parent (member) will be billed accordingly.

If they are to be rostered on a team for match play (paddle tennis), the parent (member) will be billed any seasonal club fees, league dues and applicable participation fees (food, beverage, clinics, etc.).

Upon reaching the age of 24, the child must join the club under their own intermediate membership to continue participation

Guest policy – Paddle

Non-members can be listed as a substitute for team rosters. Non-members are played only on the basis that a member was not available to play.

Seasonal club fees and applicable association dues for listed non-member substitutes will be distributed equally amongst

Members may substitute a non-member for organized league play at the applicable guest rate of \$20, which will be billed equally amongst the applicable team unless otherwise specified

Any applicable participation fees for the guest (food, beverage, clinic, etc.) will also be billed equally amongst the applicable team unless otherwise specified

Members may not have the same guest more than 4 times per season, (paddle: October through March, tennis: April through September), which includes organized league play or organized scheduled court time; social events are excluded

This guest policy would include both home and away matches for league play

ADDING NEW PLAYERS

New players with or without paddle tennis experience can request to join a paddle team at any time

The placement of a new player on a team will be decided by the team captains.



FORMING TEAMS

Captains will determine their teams once they have assessed the number of current and new players and their level of commitment. Captains should send an email to all new and existing paddle players, late July/early August, prior to the captain's meetings. Information that may be sought includes....

Player name

Email Address

Phone Number

New or Returning Player

Will play day and/or evening

Availability / Commitment to play

80-100%

51 – 79%

50% or <

Forehand or backhand player or both

If during the season, a team loses a player for the remainder of the season due to illness, injury, out of town move or for any other reason resulting in a permanent opening on that team it is at the team's discretion whether an additional player is immediately added to the roster or whether substitutes will be used as needed.

The captains will meet at the beginning of the season and agree on overall team goals. The captains will have the authority to pick whomever they feel based on the goals of the team. The captains of the first team, whether it be day or night, have the first choice to decide who they would like on their teams based on their goals. After the first team has determined players, the second highest team will choose their players, etc. Overall, team make-up should match player ability to league play.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM

It is most optimal to have 10 players / team as this affords the greatest ability to decrease the need for substitute players and aides the development of flexible partnerships (recognizing that the lowest ECC division team in each program may carry more players). This decision is based on the ability to appropriately field all day and /or evening teams with minimal forfeiting of lines throughout the season. The resulting teams must have a minimum of 8 / team.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Prior to the beginning of each season, the captains will meet to determine their teams.

SUBSTITUTES

It is advisable that teams draw a substitute from the top line of the team below them. This allows the team that needs a substitute to have somewhat of a competitive chance to win because of whom they are drawing up. The ultimate goal is that all teams when doing their lineups will have their best players at line one to their weakest players at line 4. Teams can choose to bypass the top line player if subbing would require that player to leave their current team and become a rostered player on the team above.

If a team requires one player instead of two to substitute up, the team that is requiring the substitute will have to decide which person is best fitted to move up from the team below them. An example of this is if a deuce player is required, they will have to choose the deuce player below them and vice versa.



THE CAPTAIN

SELECTION OF CAPTAINS

Captains and co-captains will have a 2 – year term limit before being replaced. If the team votes for them to remain, then that captain and/or co-captain may continue.

If a captain advances to a higher team before the season starts, a new Captain will be nominated and elected by the team's members at the beginning of the paddle season.

Likewise, if a Captain advances to a higher team during the season, the remaining team members will elect a new captain.

CAPTAINS DUTIES

Communication to team players

Communication between team captains

Coordinating with the club for food & beverages

Scheduling practices

Determining line-ups for matches

Communicating to opposing team

Abiding by the league and ECC rules

Problem resolution

SCHEDULE FOR TEAM CAPTAIN MEETINGS

The captains/co-captains of their respective leagues are to meet annually before the start of the season in order to work out teams, players, substitutes, practice times and schedules. Communication needs to be kept open on a regular basis with at least a monthly meeting to maintain adequate coordination of players, etc.



THE COMMITTEE

PADDLE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The Paddle committee is maintained in order to address any issues or modifications to the current guidelines. The paddle/tennis pro will always be a member of this committee with voting rights. Additional committee members will include the recreation committee ECC board member, recreation chair and broad representation of the current teams which includes three from the men and women's teams.

Guidelines will be updated and emailed every Fall by the club to all rostered ECC players. A letter will be included, reminding all players that they should read and be familiar with the guidelines. Players should strive to demonstrate good sportsmanship in team matches.

The committee will begin to meet every other month from April through October. Meetings from October through March will be ad hoc.

Any player who has an unresolved issue has the right to bring the issue to the attention of the committee and to attend a committee meeting to discuss the issue.

All decisions made by vote of the committee and will be communicated to the committee members and to the player who brought the issue forward. The committee members are required to send the information to the respective team.

Mid-season Problem Resolution: An unforeseen conflict that arises mid-season not covered by the included guidelines can be brought before the paddle committee for a resolution. If any member of the paddle committee is personally involved in the conflict, he/she will be invited to join in the discussion but will not participate in the deciding vote.

PADDLE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The goal of the Paddle committee is to maintain consistency on the committee and to provide ample representation for teams at all levels. Players on the committee should be those without a personal agenda. They should strive to make rational and fair decisions for the good of the overall program.

The committee should include three men and three women that provide a broad representation of the players. Each year, at the conclusion of the paddle season, all players will have the opportunity to request to participate as a committee member by sending an email to the pro and/or the committee recreation chair. The committee will then decide how to appropriately balance the committee membership. At no time should the entire paddle committee be replaced with all new members.

New committee members would begin to attend the April/May meetings.



COMMUNICATION PLAN

The committee will have an update provided to the paddle players after each of the meetings. The committee chair will construct the update which will be reviewed by the paddle committee and BOD prior to being emailed out to the paddle players. An abbreviated update will be placed in the ECCO. The committee will work to determine the following:

Event: What events warrant the need to communicate

Message: What information needs to be communicated

Communicator: Who is responsible for preparing, delivering, & verifying receipt of information

Audience: Who needs the information

Timing: When should the communication occur

Tools / Format: How will the information be communicated

Accountability: Who is ultimately responsible for implementing the communication plan

MISCELLANEOUS

COURT USAGE [PLATFORM COURTS / TENNIS / PICKLEBALL

The pro will provide an updated schedule that will "black out" times when courts are not available on the ECC website. Members can access the site by going to "Tennis Info".

Each schedule will address the Paddle and Tennis courts

Members can also directly call the pro to determine court availability if needed