

**Greater Washington Tennis Association
(GWTA)
Annual Meeting**



**November 14, 2018
Maggiano's Tysons Corner Galleria**

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Welcome

The 2018 GWTA Board would like to welcome you to this year's annual meeting. The outgoing GWTA Board consists of the following members from the Four Seasons Racquet Club (RIP):

- Alice Edmondson (President)
- Mary Cassaday (Vice President)
- Deb Winchester (Treasurer)
- Kathy Rigney (Secretary)
- Barbara Hobbie (Event Coordinator)
- Alice Hume (Scorekeeper)

Approval of 2017 Minutes

The 2017 GWTA Annual Meeting Minutes can be found in Appendix A.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer has provided the following 2018 financial report and proposed 2019 budget for review and approval.

2018 Financial Report

Actual Balance 1-1-2018	\$2,353.09
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Income:

2018 Dues 62 Teams @ \$100 each	\$6,200.00
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Luncheon Receipts - Est. 52 guests @ \$26 each	\$1,352.00
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TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$9,905.09
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Expenses:

Webmaster 62 teams @ \$25/team	\$1,550.00
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Website Licensing (Tennisscores) 62 @ \$15	\$930.00
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Luncheon Maggiano's Est 122 @ \$26	\$3,172.00
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Supplies/Printing/Awards for meeting	\$506.00
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Total Expense	\$6,158.00
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PROJECTED BALANCE AT YEAR END DECEMBER 31, 2018	\$3,747.09
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2019 Proposed Budget

Projected Balance Forward at 1-1-19	\$3,747.09
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Income: 2019 Dues 63 teams @ \$100 each	\$6,300.00
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Guest Receipts Luncheon 60 @ \$35	\$2,100.00
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Projected Funds Available	\$12,147.09
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Expenses: Webmaster 63 teams @ \$35/team	\$2,205.00
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Website Licensing (Tennisscores) 63 @ \$15	\$945.00
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Luncheon Maggiano's Est 130 @ \$35	\$4,550.00
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Supplies/Printing/Awards for meeting	\$500.00
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Total Expenses	\$8,200.00
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PROJECTED BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2019	\$3,947.09
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2018 GWTA Results

The following sections display 2018 division winners as well as the final standings within each division.

A1* (WINNER TBD)	Won	Lost	A2	Won	Lost
Anne Arundel	35.5	19.5	Stonebridge**	50	20
Rockville	33	22	River Falls White	39	31
McLean Racquet Purple	33	27	Fairfax Pearls	37	33
Four Seasons Red	26.5	28.5	Mount Vernon Aces	34.5	35.5
Cabin John	24.5	30.5	Fairfax Platinum	33	37
Ashburn	24	31	Aspen Hill 1	32	38
Fairfax Diamonds	18.5	36.5	McLean Racquet Club Silver	31	39
			Autumnwood Rally Girls	23.5	46.5
B1	Won	Lost	B2	Won	Lost
McLean S&H Rockers**	48	22	Great Falls**	40	20
Burke Purple	46.5	23.5	Mount Vernon Magic	37	23
Cosca Silver	39	31	Georgetown Prep	35	25
Belmont CC White	36.5	33.5	Cattail Creek CC	30	30
Four Seasons Sapphires	32	38	McLean Racquet Club Bronze	24	36
Bready Bunch	30	40	Hains Point	23	37
Reston Gold	28	42	Burke Pearls	21	39
Fairfax Blue	20	50			
B3	Won	Lost	B4	Won	Lost
TennisPlex 1**	52	18	Aspen Hill 3**	43	27
Tuckahoe Black	44	26	Palisades Green	40	30
Worldgate Wildcats	37	33	Aspen Hill 2	39	31
River Bend Foxes	36	34	DC Rocks!	38	32
Cardinal Hill 50 Shades of Gray	33	37	Great Falls Gold	36	34
Congressional Blue	28	41	River Falls Blue	33	37
McLean Racquet Club Gold	27	43	Reston Pearls	27	43
McLean S&H Rebels	22	47	Bretton Woods CC	24	46
C1	Won	Lost	C2*	Won	Lost
Mount Vernon Marthas**	47	23	Carderock White**	54.5	7.5
River Bend Slice Girls	46	24	Bretton Woods 2	49.5	19.5
Burke Diamonds	37	33	Great Falls Silver	41	28
McLean S&H Match Makers	33	37	Mount Vernon Nellies	39	31
Belmont Country Club	32	38	Palisades 2	36	30
Reston Bronze	30	40	McLean Racquet Club Hot Shots	21	49
TennisPlex 2	28	42	River Falls Red Hots	17	52
McLean Racquet Club Aces	27	43	Tuckahoe Gold	12	53

*A1 & C2 divisions have matches to complete by 11/12. In A1 division, all teams except McLean Racquet Club Purple have one match to play; the division winner cannot be determined until these matches are played.

**Division winner.

Proposed 2019 Rule Changes

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 1 (proposed by the GWTA Board)

Current Rule 6.6 – At the end of each year the highest scoring team in each division must move up to the next higher division and lowest scoring team in each division must move down to the next lower division – i.e., movement upward and downward is mandatory. This mandatory movement must remain consistent even when a governing board needs to realign divisions due to vacancies. For the first vacancy occurring within a division, an existing team which finished at the top of their division will be moved into the vacancy in the division above before the board can consider a team on the waiting list petitioning to come into the league. If there is more than one vacancy in a division at the beginning of a year and there are no teams in the division immediately below the division that are willing to move up to the extra vacancy, then the lowest scoring team that is designated to move down to the lower division may elect to stay in the division.

Proposed Rule 6.6 -- At the end of each year the highest scoring team in each division **(other than the highest division)** must move up to the next higher division and lowest scoring team in each division **(other than the lowest division)** must move down to the next lower division – i.e., movement upward and downward is mandatory. This mandatory movement must remain consistent even when a governing board needs to realign divisions due to vacancies. For the first vacancy occurring within a division, an existing team which finished at the top of their division will be moved into the vacancy in the division above before the board can consider a team on the waiting list petitioning to come into the league. If there is more than one vacancy in a division at the beginning of a year and there are no teams in the division immediately below the division that are willing to move up to the extra vacancy, then the lowest scoring team that is designated to move down to the lower division may elect to stay in the division.

Rationale – The rule change would conform the rules to existing practice. Because Rule 6.6 is written as a mandatory rule, it raises issues about what happens to the teams in the highest and lowest divisions.

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 2 (proposed by the GWTA Board and Burke Purple B1)

Current Rule 1.7 – Additions to a roster may be made after the season begins as long as the team captain sends an email to her scorekeeper no later than 8 p.m. the day before the match. The email must include the captain's name, team name and division, name and phone number of the player, and a statement that the player has not played for another GWTA team this season. The scorekeeper will send the captain a confirmation email when the addition is processed.

Proposed Rule 1.7 – Additions to a roster may be made after the season begins as long as the team captain sends an email to **the** scorekeeper **prior to the match start time**. The email must include the captain's name, team name and division, name and phone number of the player, and a statement that the player has not played for another GWTA team **during the calendar year**. The scorekeeper will send the captain a confirmation email when the addition is processed.

Rationale – Captains often scramble to find substitute or new players for their rosters when a player has a last minute emergency. The current rule creates an artificial deadline for player roster addition that is unnecessary in the age of electronic notice. The GWTA Board believes that a primary goal of GWTA is to

play tennis and the rule change will reduce defaults by allowing captains up to the start time of a match to find new players for their rosters.

The change to “during the calendar year” from “this season” conforms Rule 1.7 to Rule 1.4, which says “Players may play for only one GWTA team for the calendar year; and there, players may be active on only one GWTA roster in a calendar year.”

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 3 (proposed by the GWTA Board)

Current Rule 1.1 – Each new team must submit to the scorekeeper a roster of the women on that team, typed and listed alphabetically, including the home phone number – and optionally the email address – of each player. Rosters may be mailed or emailed, but they must be dated at least two weeks before the earliest starting match of any division of the GWTA season.

Current Rule 1.2 – All teams may review and update their rosters online – adding, deleting, or changing contact information – prior to the first match of the spring season.

Current Rule 1.8 – Captains may delete a player from their online roster after the season has begun as long as that player has not played in a match during the calendar year. Scorekeepers do not need to be notified of player deletions.

Proposed Rule 1.1 – **Each team must submit an online roster of players before April 1 of each calendar year. The information for each player must contain, at a minimum, the player’s name and telephone number. Captains should include e-mail addresses for each player if they intend to use the online team management system.**

Proposed Rule 1.8 – **A captain can delete any player from her roster if the player has not played in a match for the team during the calendar year and the captain sends a request to the scorekeeper by email.**

Current rule 1.2 would be deleted and rules 1.3-1.10 would be renumbered 1.2-1.9.

Rationale – The proposed changes are designed to conform the GWTA rules to current GWTA practices. Team rosters for new and returning teams are submitted online prior to April 1, reviewed, and approved. Player deletions are handled by the webmaster after double checking to make sure the player has not played a match during the current calendar year.

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 4 (proposed by the GWTA Board)

Current Rule 3.2 All clubs in the league must own or have control of at least four courts which are in good condition and in the same location. An exception to Rule 3.2 requiring four courts in one location may be made for a club that has been in good standing with the GWTA league for 15 years and only has three courts available due to permanently losing one court to renovations. The club must provide two additional courts to play on within five miles as an option.

Current Rule 3.6 The fifth team shall play late unless otherwise agreed.

Current Rule 4.1 Host captains should contact the visiting team captain no later than the day before the match. At that time, the captains shall decide upon a mutually agreeable time to match cancellation in the event of inclement weather.

Proposed Changes to Rule 4.1 – Host captains should contact the visiting team captain no later than the day before the match. At that time, the captains shall decide upon a mutually agreeable time to discuss match cancellation in the event of inclement weather. **In the case of a team that has fewer than 5 courts available to start at 10 am on the day of the match pursuant to Rules 3.2 and 3.6, the host team captain should contact the visiting team captain at least 3 days prior to the match to inform her of the number of courts starting at 10 am and to discuss the court or courts that will begin late. At the request of either captain, teams may also agree to start one or more lines early. If the host team captain fails to provide timely notice, then the visiting team can decide which line will begin play late.**

Rationale – The proposed new notice requirement makes it easier for visiting team captains to plan their lineups for a match in cases in which a court must begin play late. The current rule creates a disadvantage for visiting teams by providing no more than 1 day notice of the court that will begin play late. Captains often prepare their lineups well in advance of 24 hours prior to a match and may have difficulty finding alternate players if a court begins play late.

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 5 (proposed by Cabin John A1)

Current Rule 5.19 – Any team that has a total of six or more defaults at the end of the spring and fall seasons combined may be subject to dismissal from the league at the discretion of the GWTA Board.

Proposed Rule 5.19 – Any team that has a total of **eight or more defaults** at the end of the spring and fall seasons combined may be subject to dismissal from the league at the discretion of the GWTA Board.

Rationale – Sometimes a team may have problems with injured players and/or schedule conflicts and cannot field a full team for a match or 2. The proposed rule change provides a bit of latitude on defaults.

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 6 (proposed by Ashburn A1)

Current Rule 4.5 – No match shall be postponed unless the courts at the host club are unplayable due to inclement weather conditions which would prevent play.

Current Rule 4.7—Rains dates will be moved to the end of the season and played on your designated play day unless another date can be mutually agreed upon by the two captains.

Proposed Rule 4.5 – No match shall be postponed unless the courts at the host club are unplayable due to inclement weather conditions which would prevent play. **In the case of an outdoor match, if a Code Red day is in effect for the match day or the temperature at match start time is forecast to be below 40 degrees F., either captain can elect to treat the courts as unplayable and postpone the match pursuant to Rule 4.7.**

Rationale – The current rules do not define when courts are unplayable due to inclement weather. The GWTA rules address excessive heat days by allowing players to agree to play a third set tiebreaker in lieu

of a full third set. However, captains should be able to postpone matches when extreme hot and cold weather conditions create dangerous conditions for players. Player safety and the prevention of injuries should take the highest priority. Thus, the proposed rule would allow captains to elect to move a match to a makeup date in certain extreme hot and cold weather situations.

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 7
(proposed by McLean Racquet Club Silver A2)

Current Rule 3.5 – Play will be on all court surfaces. If a host team has more than one type of court surface or location for a match (e.g., inside vs. outside, clay vs. hard, or on-site vs. off-site), the host captain must inform the visiting captain which positions will be playing on which surface or in which location as soon as the visiting captain arrives and prior to exchanging line-ups. In addition, the home team captain must provide this information to the visiting captain the day before the match if the home captain is asked and the information is known at that time by the home captain.

Proposed Rule 3.5 – Play will be on all court surfaces. If a host team has more than one type of court surface or location for a match (e.g., inside vs. outside, clay vs. hard, or on-site vs. off-site), the host captain must inform the visiting captain which positions will be playing on which surface or at which location **at least 24 hours prior to the match start time.**

Rationale – Clubs typically schedule their court time a week in advance. Visiting captains should know prior to arriving at a match what lines will be playing on what court surface. Thus, home team captains would be required to provide this notice at the same time match confirmation is required under Rule 4.1 (i.e., no later than the day before the match).

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 8
(two proposals received)

Current Rule 1.5 – Captains may add existing players from lower division teams within the same club to their rosters as substitutes. These players do not count in the total player count specified in 1.3 – either to meet the minimum of 12 or to exceed the maximum of 35. Substitute players do not need to be added to a roster prior to the start of a match, but a captain should notify the opposing captain that she is using a substitute player, either orally or by designating the player as a substitute on the scorecard that is exchanged. Captains should notify the scorekeeper of substitute players who need to be added to rosters to ensure that the scores for the match can be entered in a timely manner.

Current Rule 1.6 – Captains may not add existing players from a higher division team or from a team within the same division to their rosters as substitutes, even if they are within the same club.

Current Rule 2.5 – There is no limit to the number of substitute players that may be borrowed from below, but an individual player may not sub for the same team more than TWICE in the spring and TWICE in the fall.

Proposal 8-A (Proposed by Ashburn A1)

Proposed Rule 1.5 – Captains may add existing players from **the roster of any lower division team of any club** to their rosters as substitutes. These players do not count in the total player count specified in 1.3 – either to meet the minimum of 12 or to exceed the maximum of 35. Substitute players do not need to be added to a roster prior to the start of a match, but a captain should notify the opposing captain that she is using a substitute player, either orally or by designating the player as a substitute on the scorecard that is exchanged. Captains should notify the scorekeeper of substitute players who need to be added to rosters to ensure that the scores for the match can be entered in a timely manner.

Rationale – The current substitute player rule creates a disadvantage for teams that are not affiliated with an organized club, but can also be a problem for clubs that only have one team. Clubs with multiple teams have a huge advantage relative to other teams because they have great flexibility to set rosters to maximize the availability of substitute players.

This proposed rule change would enable all teams to use playing level appropriate substitute players from any club. So a team at A1 could use a substitute player who is a player on another A1 team or on any other GWTA team. A C1 team could use a substitute player from any other C1 or C2 team. A C2 team could use a substitute player from any other C2 team.

This rule change would help C2 teams, who cannot use any substitute players under the current rules and would make it easier for new C2 teams to enter the league.

The rule would have the added advantage of reducing the number of court forfeitures by greatly increasing the availability of substitute players to fill open slots.

Current Rule 2.5 is retained so that players cannot sub for any team more than twice in the spring and twice in the fall.

Proposal 8-B (proposed by Cabin John A1)

(to be considered only if Proposal A does not pass)

Proposed Rule Changes – Rules 1.5, 1.6, and 2.5 would be deleted. As a result, no GWTA team would be allowed to use substitute players.

Rationale – The current substitute player rule creates a disadvantage for teams with no lower division teams. This is a particular problem for teams that are not affiliated with an organized club, but can also be a problem for clubs that only have one team. Clubs with multiple teams have a huge advantage relative to other teams because they have great flexibility to set rosters to maximize the availability of substitute players. Rule 1.4 states there is one roster, per team, per calendar year. Since this is a rule, we shouldn't allow clubs to pull subs from a lower division as they technically on the roster (even as a sub). These subs get to play on 2 or more GWTA teams while players on teams that are not affiliated with a club or players who play for clubs that only have one team do not have such luxury. Removing the substitute player rule would put all teams on a level playing field.

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 9
(proposed by Aspen Hill #1 A2)

Current Rule 5.1 – Each team match will consist of five doubles teams, lines 1-5, each playing the best 2 out of 3 sets. In the event of a Code Red day, an impending rainstorm, or if any line agrees, a 10-point Coman match tiebreak (first to 10 leading by 2) may be used in lieu of the third set. This must be agreed to by all four players on the court and the ruling would not apply to any other court. The decision to play a 10-point tiebreaker to decide the match may be made at any time before the start of the third set.

Proposed Rule 5.1 – Each team match will consist of five doubles teams, lines 1-5, each playing the best 2 out of 3 sets. In the event of a Code Red day or an impending rainstorm, a 10-point Coman match tiebreak (first to 10 leading by 2) may be used in lieu of the third set **only as agreed to by the captains before the start of the match.**

Rationale – The rule change requires that captains agree that the courts will play a tiebreaker in lieu of a full third set prior to the start of the match. The regular rules of play are that 3 full sets will be played unless there is a weather situation or emergency in the area. It prevents embarrassment on making the decision right before the third set. Players are using the tiebreaker just because they don't want to play longer.

Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 10
(proposed by Cardinal Hill B3)

Current Rule 2.6 - For each of the individual spring and fall GWTA seasons, any player in the lineup at Position 1 including defaults shall not play any other match at Position 5. Likewise for each of the individual spring and fall GWTA seasons, any player in the line-up at Position 5 including defaults shall not play any other match at Position 1. The penalty for any player found in violation of this rule shall be an automatic default at the court in which the player is playing.

Proposed Rule 2.6: For each of the individual spring and fall GWTA seasons, any player in the lineup at Position 1 including defaults shall not play any other match at **Position 4 or** Position 5. Likewise for each of the individual spring and fall GWTA seasons, any player in the line-up at **Position 4 or** Position 5 including defaults shall not play any other match at Position 1. The penalty for any player found in violation of this rule shall be an automatic default at the court in which the player is playing.

Rationale: In the eight seasons we have participated in GWTA, the level of play on Court 1 is almost always significantly stronger than on Courts 4 (and 5). It is unfair to the players on Courts 4 (and 5) to compete against a Court 1 player. It also gives a captain more chances to stack the courts if we allow a Court 1 player to play on Court 4.

Old & New Business

- The GWTA 2019 season will begin on Monday, April 8, 2019. Spring season matches must be completed by June 30, 2019.
- There are 3 new teams interested in joining GWTA in 2019.

2019 GWTA Board and Beyond

The sections below list the Board members for 2019 and lists the teams that will lead the Board from 2020-2025.

Introduction of the 2019 GWTA Board

The 2019 GWTA Board consists of the following members from Ashburn (A1).

Title	Name	Contact
President	Jennifer Austell	GWTABoard@gmail.com austell50@gmail.com (540) 272-4037
Vice President – At Large	Aimee O'Connor	Aimee@mollydawnhomes.com
Vice President – Annual Meeting	Grete Bravo	gstrombravo@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jennifer Snyder	ens2plus2@gmail.com
Secretary	Kim Miller	kimmiller759@aol.com
Scorekeeper	Sherry Gruden	GWTAScorekeeper@gmail.com

GWTA Board Succession

Below is a list of tennis entities that will comprise the GWTA Board from 2020-2025 (the full list may be found on the GWTA website under **League Info > GWTA Board Succession**):

- 2020 – Aspen Hill Club
- 2021 – Great Falls Swim & Tennis
- 2022 – Cabin John
- 2023 – Worldgate Sport & Health
- 2024 – Congressional Country Club
- 2025 - Bretton Woods

Adjournment

Thank you for attending the GWTA 2018 Annual Meeting. We look forward to 2019!

Attachment: 2017 GWTA Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

Greater Washington Tennis Association Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Maggiano's, Tysons Corner Galleria

Greater Washington Tennis Association will heretofore be referred to as "GWTA".

The attendees included team captains, co-captains, and team members representing the 61 teams out of 63 team eligible to vote in the league. Each captain (or appointed proxy) was given a folder, which contained voting cards, financial report, proposed rule changes, list of division winners, and names of the incoming board members for 2018 (Four Seasons Tennis Club) and 2017 Final Team Standings for each Division.

At approximately 11:05 a.m., Paige Smith (2017 Board President – McLean Racquet and Health Club) called the meeting to order. She introduced and thanked the McLean Racquet members and Mary Schmidt for their help and support.

Paige called for a motioned to waive reading the 2017 minutes as they were distributed electronically. The minutes were approved as posted.

Diane Diner, Treasurer, presented the 2017 Financial Report and 2018 Proposed Budget (attached). The 2017 Board proposed a \$20 increase in Annual Team Dues to cover increased website licensing fees and a proposed \$5.00 per team increase in webmaster management fees. The Financial Report and Proposed 2018 Budget were approved and thus the 2018 GWTA Team Dues increased from \$80.00 to \$100.00.

There was a lengthy discussion on ways to save money by possibly eliminating trophies for the division winners or replacing yearly trophies with a "traveling" division trophy that would be passed from winner to winner each year. The discussion was tabled and the 2018 Board was asked to consider recommendations presented.

Following previous years' protocol, all teams were emailed the rule change proposals. Eight proposals were presented with one withdrawn prior to the vote and one withdrawn during the meeting as it was similar to a prior proposal that was passed. Each proposal was read aloud (either by Tammy Lindquist, Head Scorekeeper, or a representative of the team proposing the rule change) and all were invited to discuss the proposed changes. There were 61 teams that were present and voted out of 63 teams that were eligible to vote. Proposed changes required a simple majority vote (31 votes) to pass.

Proposal #1 – passed, 42 Yes votes

Proposal #2 – passed, 46 Yes votes

Proposal #3 – defeated, 17 Yes votes - This rule change was defeated due to its wording. The reference to specific divisions (esp. C2) is unnecessary, and could cause an unintended consequence if the number

of divisions in increased, say, to include a C3. The suggestion was that it could be resubmitted in 2018, referring only to the highest and lowest rated divisions.

Proposal #4 – passed, 32 Yes votes

Proposal #5 – passed, 40 Yes votes

Proposal #6 – withdrawn as similar to Proposal #5

Proposal #7 – withdrawn prior to meeting

Proposal #8 – defeated, 5 Yes votes

There was some discussion that one team thought the wording of proposed rule changes presented at the meeting was slightly different than the wording that was emailed to each team prior to the meeting. The Board determined that the wording differences were not significant. The Board further determined that the proposed rule changes, as presented in the participant packets, were the ones on which the teams would vote.

The proposed rule changes can be found at the end of this document.

The winning team from each division was announced and trophies were presented to each team as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A1 – Rockville | A2 – Fairfax Diamonds |
| B1 – Aspen Hill 1 | B2 – Cosca Silver |
| B3 – Georgetown Prep | B4 – Tennisplex B |
| C1 – Reston Pearls | C2 – River Bend 2 |

The 2018 GWTA Board from Four Season Tennis Club was introduced:

President - Alice Edmondson

Vice President - Mary Cassidy

Secretary - Kathy Rigney

Treasurer - Deb Winchester

Event Coordinator - Barbara Hobbie

Scorekeeper - Alice Hume

Under New Business, it was announced that the 2018 Season will begin on April 3, 2018.

Raffle prizes were distributed. The McLean Racquet Board decided that, in an effort to minimize costs for the luncheon, each of its club's team would donate the raffle items. This effort applied to the 2017 year exclusively, leaving each subsequent Board to determine if and how to handle prizes at the annual luncheon.

The meeting adjourned around 12:25 p.m.

Below are the Rules that were voted on at the meeting. The number of teams eligible and present to vote were 60. The simple majority of 31 votes were required to win acceptance.

**Greater Washington Tennis Association
Proposed Rule Changes for 2018**

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 1
(proposed by McLean Racquet & Health Club)**

Passed: Yes 42

Current Rule 2.6 - For the full GWTA season, to include the spring and fall matches, any player in the line-up at Position 1 including defaults shall not play any other match at Position 5. Likewise for the full GWTA season, to include spring and fall matches, any player in the line-up at Position 5 including defaults shall not play any other match at Position 1. The penalty for any player found in violation of this rule shall be an automatic default at the court in which the player is playing.

Proposed New Rule 2.6 - For *each of the individual spring and fall GWTA seasons* any player in the line-up at Position 1 including defaults shall not play any other match at Position 5. Likewise for *each of the individual spring and fall GWTA seasons*, any player in the line-up at Position 5 including defaults shall not play any other match at Position 1. The penalty for any player found in violation of this rule shall be an automatic default at the court in which the player is playing.

Rationale - Due to the length of the GWTA year, many team rosters change substantially from the spring to the fall seasons due to injuries, moves and other issues. It is difficult to follow this rule if there have been substantial changes in the roster and in the availability of players.

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 2
(proposed by McLean Racquet & Health Club)**

Passed: Yes 46

Current Rule 6.6 - At the end of each year the highest scoring team in each division must move up to the next higher division and lowest scoring team in each division must move down the next lower division - i.e., movement upward and downward is mandatory. This mandatory movement must remain consistent even when a governing board needs to realign divisions due to vacancies. For the first vacancy occurring within a division, an existing team which finished at the top of their division will be moved into the vacancy in the division above before the board can consider a team on the waiting list petitioning to come into the league.

Proposed Rule 6.6 - At the end of each year the highest scoring team in each division must move up to the next higher division and lowest scoring team in each division must move down the next lower division - i.e., movement upward and downward is mandatory. This mandatory movement must remain consistent even when a governing board needs to realign divisions due to vacancies. For the first vacancy occurring within a division, an existing team which finished at the top of their division will be moved into the vacancy in the division above before the board can consider a team on the waiting list petitioning to come into the league. *If there is more than one vacancy in a division at the beginning of a year and there are no teams in the division immediately below the division that are willing to move*

up to the extra vacancy, then the lowest scoring team that is designated to move down to the lower division may elect to stay in the division.

Rationale – In 2017, the A1 level had only 7 teams because a team dropped out of the league and there were no A2 teams willing to be the extra move-up team. If this occurs again, the team designated to move down to A2 would have the option of staying at the A1 level to complete that level with a full complement of 8 teams.

For 2018, if this rule is in effect, the lowest scoring team in A1 could elect to stay in that division as long as no A2 teams agree to take the open position in A1. This would also then trigger an application of the rule at each succeeding lower level division, making it easier for the GWTA Board to keep eight teams in each division.

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 3
(proposed by Mt. Vernon Athletic Club (MTVAC)) C2**

Defeated – Yes 17

Current Rule 6.6 – At the end of each year the highest scoring team in each division must move up to the next higher division and lowest scoring team in each division must move down to the next lower division – i.e., movement upward and downward is mandatory. This mandatory movement must remain consistent even when a governing board needs to realign divisions due to vacancies. For the first vacancy occurring within a division, an existing team which finished at the top of their division will be moved into the vacancy in the division above before the board can consider a team on the waiting list petitioning to come into the league.

Proposed Rule 6.6 -- At the end of each year the highest scoring team in each division (**other than the A1 division**) must move up to the next higher division and lowest scoring team in each division (**other than the C2 division**) must move down to the next lower division – i.e., movement upward and downward is mandatory. This mandatory movement must remain consistent even when a governing board needs to realign divisions due to vacancies. For the first vacancy occurring within a division, an existing team which finished at the top of their division will be moved into the vacancy in the division above before the board can consider a team on the waiting list petitioning to come into the league.

Rationale – The rule change would conform the rules to existing practice. Because Rule 6.6 is written as a mandatory rule, it raises issues about what happens to the teams in the highest and lowest divisions.

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 4
(proposed by McLean Racquet & Health Club)**

Passed: Yes 32

Current Rule 1.5 – Captains may add existing players from lower division teams within the same club to their rosters as substitutes. These players do not count in the total player count specified in 1.3 – either to meet the minimum of 12 or to exceed the maximum of 35. Scorekeepers do not need to be notified of substitute additions.

Proposed Rule 1.5 – Captains may add existing players from lower division teams within the same club to their rosters as substitutes. These players do not count in the total player count specified in 1.3 – either to meet the minimum of 12 or to exceed the maximum of 35. **Substitute players do not need to be added to a roster prior to the start of a match, but a captain should notify the opposing captain that she is using a substitute player, either orally or by designating the player as a substitute on the scorecard that is exchanged. Captains should notify the scorekeeper of substitute players who need to be added to rosters to ensure that the scores for the match can be entered in a timely manner.**

Rationale – The current rule for substitute players does not specify when such players must be added to a roster. In practice, captains may need to pull a substitute player at the last minute because of an emergency with a scheduled player. The proposed rule would codify what is existing practice and provide clarity as to the timing of the addition of these players to a roster.

In addition, adding a rule to provide notice to the scorekeeper provides an opportunity for review of the player's status to make sure she is a valid substitute player. Captains sometimes designate players as substitute players even though the players are not on a lower level roster of the same club. The proposed rule helps ensure proper use of substitute players.

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 5
(proposed by Georgetown Prep)**

Passed: Yes 40

Current Rule 5.1 – Each team match will consist of five doubles teams, lines 1-5, each playing the best 2 out of 3 sets. If any line agrees, a 10-point Coman tiebreak (first to 10 leading by 2) may be used in lieu of the third set.

Current Rule 5.10.1 – In the event of a Code Red day or a pending rainstorm, a 10-point third set Coman tiebreak may be played instead of playing out the set. This must be agreed to by all four players on the court and the ruling would not apply to any other court.

Proposed Rule 5.1 – Each team match will consist of five doubles teams, lines 1-5, each playing the best 2 out of 3 sets. **In the event of a Code Red day, an impending rainstorm, or if any line agrees,** a 10-point Coman match tiebreak (first to 10 leading by 2) may be used in lieu of the third set. **This must be agreed to by all four players on the court and the ruling would not apply to any other court. The decision to play a 10-point tiebreaker to decide the match may be made at any time before the start of the third set.**

Current Rule 5.10.1 would be eliminated.

Rationale -- In 2013 when Georgetown Prep joined the league, I wrote the then GWTA Board (Carderock Springs) for clarification regarding rules 5.1 and 5.10.1. I wrote:

5.1 seems to mean that the four players may opt for a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of the third set under any circumstance as long as all four players agree whereas 5.10.1 seems to mean that the 10-point match tiebreak may only be played in lieu of a third set if it is a code red day or if rain is threatening to halt play and all four players agree. Can you clarify this for me?

The response I received from then GWTA President (Colette Whorley) is as follows:

The first reference to GWTA match play holds the most weight. We are a best 2 out of 3 set match league. Over the years examples have evolved where IF all 4 players in a match agree a Koman 10 pt tiebreaker may be played as the third set. Each foursome decides for themselves and if there is one dissenter then the full third set must be played. It is recommended that a foursome decide this at the beginning of a match but no rule was written to demand that, so some foursomes wait until the split sets happens, which brings a lot of strategy into the decision. It is between the 4 players, and again, if any ONE player disagrees the full third set is to be played as we are a best 2 out of 3 set match league.

Colette Worley President, GWTA

Since then, the issue of determining the timing of when the decision to play a 10 point time breaker in lieu of a third set has come up frequently. Based on the response I received at the time I have told my players that this decision may be made at any time during the match as long as all four players agree. Many teams have been under the impression that this decision must be made at the start of the match. However, this isn't really in keeping with the current rules-particularly 5.10.1 which indicates that decision might be made because of a threatening rain storm which wouldn't necessarily be known at the start of the match. In order to clarify and provide further guidance, I would like to propose new wording for rule 5.1 and that rule 5.10.1 be eliminated. The proposed new wording would allow for the decision to be made at any time prior to the start of the third set. While some would argue that the decision should be made before the start of the match, this could eliminate the possibility of making the decision in order to finish the match because of a pending rain storm. This could result in having to resume the match at a later date rather than being able to complete the match on the original match date—a circumstance which I would think most teams would like to avoid.

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 6
(proposed by Mt. Vernon Athletic Club (MTVAC) A2)**

Withdrawn – with the passage of Change No. 5 above, Mt Vernon Athletic Club agreed to withdraw this proposed rule change.

Current Rule 5.10.1 – In the event of a Code Red day or a pending rainstorm, a 10-point third set Coman tiebreak may be played instead of playing out the set. This must be agreed to by all four players on the court and the ruling would not apply to any other court.

Proposed Rule 5.10.1 – ***if all four players on a court agree***, a 10-point third set Coman tiebreak may be played instead of playing out the set. **The decision to play a tiebreak would not apply to any other court.**

Rationale – Many GWTA players have work and child commitments that do not allow for an unlimited time commitment. For clubs with indoor courts, the current rule does not apply, but the clubs may have limited court time available for GWTA matches. In addition, the 3rd set tiebreak is standard procedure for USTA matches.

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 7 (withdrawn)
(proposed by Mt. Vernon Athletic Club (MTVAC) C2)**

**Proposed GWTA Rule Change No. 8
(proposed by Mt. Vernon Athletic Club (MTVAC)) C2**

Defeated – Yes 5

Current Rule 4.8 – If a religious or Federal holiday falls on a weekday on which any GWTA division has regularly scheduled play, and if any team captain in that division feels that she is unable to field a competitive team due to the holiday, the captain of the opposing team must agree to reschedule the match to a mutually agreed upon date (either on some other day or days before the season ends or as a make-up on the division's usual play day at the end of the regular season). If both team captains agree that they can field teams on the religious or Federal holiday, matches will be played as scheduled.

Proposed Rule 4.8 – If a religious or Federal holiday falls on a weekday on which any GWTA division has regularly scheduled play, and if any team captain in that division feels that she is unable to field a competitive team due to the holiday, the captain of the opposing team must agree to reschedule the match to a mutually agreed upon date (either on some other day or days before the season ends or as a make-up on the division's usual play day at the end of the regular season). **Captains will make a decision as to a reschedule date prior to the beginning of play for the year.** If both team captains agree that they can field teams on the religious or Federal holiday, matches will be played as scheduled.

Rationale -- MTVAC suggests that language be included in current rule 4.8 that requires a change in date be made at the beginning of the year when the dates are known for the year. This will enable clubs to better plan operationally for the matches during the season.