

LIPTA – 2019 Spring League Guidelines

LIPTA is excited to announce the formation of an all new Spring paddle league. This is a different league structure than the Winter League and previous Spring Leagues, so please take a moment to read the league overview. If interested, a representative from each team should register the team on line at https://www.lipta.com/lipta_main.php?tmpl=SpringLeagueRegistration. Information you will need to register:

- Name, cell phone and email for all team members, and which club each player was rostered on for 2018/19.
- Primary and alternate “point of contact” for each team
- Designated LIPTA-affiliated club(s) where your team will host home matches
- Weeknight Availability:
 - Monday (Y/N)
 - Tuesday (Y/N)
 - Wednesday (Y/N)
 - Thursday (Y/N)

Highlights:

- Create your own team of 2 to 4 players and play in 6-team divisions of **similar competitive ability** (only 2 players from the team will play each week)
- No fee! Entrance fee is included with your 2018/19 LIPTA membership
- No large club-based teams, captain responsibilities or division/court placement politics

League Structure / Guidelines

Requirements:

- All players must be active members of LIPTA registered for the 2018/19 season (no additional fee for the Spring League)
- Register for the Spring League as a team on line at https://www.lipta.com/lipta_main.php?tmpl=SpringLeagueRegistration
- Registration commits your team only for the **first** 5-week session.
 - League Commissioners will request commitments for the following 5-week session (or more, assuming continued interest) near the end of each session

Season Calendar / Schedule:

- Two five-week sessions
 - Session 1: Week of March 25 – 28 through week of April 22 – 25
 - Session 2 (if you re-commit), week of May 6 – 9 through June 3 -6
 - Additional sessions: Tentative, based on level of player interest
- Each division will play all matches on the same night each week

League Structure

- League Commissioners will create divisions of 6 teams (2 to 4 players per team) of **similar competitive ability** and issue a schedule for the whole session where each team play the other in their division once each over a 5-week session
- At session-end, team with best record moves up a division, and worst record moves down.
- League Commissioners may also use discretion to balance the competitive level of all teams in each division.

Team Structure:

- Create your own team of 2 to 4 players (from any LIPTA club), ideally of similar competitive levels and register collectively as a team (2-man teams are allowed if both players are confident they'll be available every week)
- Teammates decide among themselves on the line-up each week, and the same two players must play the entire match

- No player minimum or maximum number of matches for each player

Home Team (Host) Responsibilities:

- Home team must reserve a court and provide two balls.
 - Default ball for the first two sessions is the regular-bounce winter ball; league may switch to a summer low-bounce if additional sessions extend into summer months
 - No requirement to provide food/beverages - every player brings their own beverages/snacks, but should confirm with host team to avoid violating club rules
- Home teams **must** have at least one member of the host club playing each week
- Guest fees (if applicable) are the responsibility of the home team
- League will create a schedule where teams have roughly an equal number of home vs. away matches

Match Structure / Scoring:

- Every match consists of 3 sets, all of which must be played regardless of the outcome of the first two sets.
 - Conceding the third set results in a forfeit of the entire match
 - Injuries: Completed set wins are counted, and you only forfeit the sets you didn't finish as a result of the injury.
- Scoring: 1 point for each set won.
- League will collect match results and distribute weekly standings

Substitutes:

- Subs must be member of a Spring League team, and from a lower Spring League division only.

Pre-match Responsibilities:

- Teams are expected to play at the time/location per the schedule, but may agree ahead of time to change times / locations if there is an issue with home team's court availability.
- Each team will have a designated and alternate point of contact (POC)
 - Team POCs **must** connect at least 1 day before the scheduled match to confirm location and time.
 - Matches cannot be postponed unless both teams agreed to a firm make-up date BEFORE the scheduled match, confirmed by email (with a cc: to the League Commissioner)
 - If you cannot agree on a make-up date or find a sub, the team that initiates the cancellation forfeits all three points.
- Confirmation with opposing POC must get a positive reply back - unanswered emails, texts or voice mails are not considered sufficient notice to confirm or cancel matches.

Weather-Related Postponements:

- Matches are expected to be played in light to moderately rainy and windy conditions.
- Your team will forfeit all 3 points if you don't show up and your opponents do
- For days where conditions are questionable, POC's must connect and decide to play or postpone; same rules for postponement apply as noted above.
- Lightning: suspend play until it's safe to return to courts; reschedule your match if conditions dictate.

League Commissioners:

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