

VENICE TENNIS - COURT COURTESY

IN THE 1970'S ART & NORMA STAINFORTH ORGANIZED A UNIQUE FORM OF SOCIAL TENNIS AT HERKSCHER PARK WHICH HAS ENTERTAINED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS. THIS SYSTEM WORKS FOR THE SAME REASON COMPETITIVE PLAYERS CAN CALL THEIR OWN GAME AND WALK OFF THE COURT AS FRIENDS. IT IS A SYSTEM OF TENNIS ETIQUETTE BASED ON THE "HONOR SYSTEM". THE SPIRIT OF THIS SYSTEM IS EXEMPLIFIED BY FAIRPLAY AND HONORABLE AND POLITE BEHAVIOR. PLEASE ABIDE BY THESE RULES

- LIMIT PLAY TO ONE SET OF DOUBLES FOR EACH TIME YOU REGISTER ON THE SIGN-IN-SHEET
- ONE PLAYER MAY REGISTER; THERE IS NO NEED TO HAVE A PRE-ARRANGED FOURSOME
- A PLAYER ON THE COURT MAY NOT REGISTER TO PLAY IN SUBSEQUENT SETS UNTIL HE HAS FINISHED PLAYING EACH SET
- WHEN A TIE BREAKER MUST BE PLAYED, LIMIT PLAY TO THE FIRST TEAM TO REACH FIVE POINTS. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO WIN BY TWO POINTS. EACH PLAYER SERVES FOR TWO POINTS. STARTING IN THE DUCE COURT WITH THE SAME SERVE ROTATION AS USED DURING THE SET EXCEPT FOR THE FOURTH SERVER WHO SERVES FOR THREE POINTS, IF NECESSARY
- AT THE END OF THE SET, CALL OUT "COURT" TO ALERT NEXT SET OF PLAYERS TO PREPARE TO ENTER THE COURT
- WHEN GOING TO AND FROM YOUR COURT, WAIT FOR PLAY TO TEMPORARILY STOP ON COURTS YOU MUST CROSS, THEN WALK AT THE NET!
- THE FIRST SERVE OF EACH SET STARTS AT THE SOUTH (VENICE AVENUE) END OF THE COURT
- IN THE AM, DOUBLES MAY CLAIM A COURT BEING USED BY SINGLES
- A PLAYER'S NAME MAY NOT BE SIGNED IN TO PLAY IF THE PLAYER IS NOT PRESENT
- WHEN A BALL ROLLS ONTO ANOTHER COURT, DO NOT RETRIEVE IT WHEN THERE IS A TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF PLAY ON THE OTHER COURT, THOSE PLAYERS WILL RETURN YOUR BALL. WHEN RETURNING ANOTHER COURT'S BALL, THROW IT TO A PLAYER DURING A BREAK IN PLAY OR ROLL IT TO THE FENCE
- ALWAYS GIVE YOUR OPPONENT THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT; IF YOU ARE NOT SURE BALL IS OUT, PRESUME THAT IT IS GOOD
- IT'S A PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL THE BALLS ON HIS SIDE OF THE NET. TO HELP MAKE CALLS ON THE OPPONENT'S SIDE IF ASKED, AND TO CALL ANY OF HIS OWN BALLS THAT HE SEES GO OUT
- WHEN PARTNERS DISAGREE WHETHER A BALL IS OUT, BALL MUST BE CONSIDERED GOOD
- THE SERVER SHOULD ANNOUNCE THE SET SCORE BEFORE EACH INITIAL GAME SERVE AND THE GAME SCORE AFTER EACH POINT

DO NOT CONFUSE WARM-UP WITH PRACTICE.

Thank You