Establishing a Ladder

Each coach shall establish a ladder lineup in writing on the challenge match form prior to the first match of the season. The coach is required to present a complete and accurate challenge match form to the opposing coach at each match played by the team. Failure to have a complete, accurate challenge match form (CFM) at the match shall result in a penalty of loss of toss and loss of one game at each position. This penalty must be implemented at the start of play. Furthermore, if a valid CFM is not provided to the opponent’s school within 24 hours of the match, the result will be a total forfeit of the match.

1. When establishing the team ladder for the top three singles positions, challenges must be the best of three full sets.
2. When establishing the team ladder for first and second doubles positions, challenges may be limited to one full set.
3. For the remainder of the team singles ladder, after the top three, challenges may be limited to one full set.
4. Due to the differences in skill sets, the singles ladder is not the defining criteria for establishing doubles teams.
5. Once a ladder is established, a player or doubles team may move up or down the ladder no more than one position per challenge match.
6. To solidify a new position a player must have a loss to the player just above him on the ladder and a win over the player just below him on the ladder.
7. Results of matches played in high school conference, county tournaments etc. will count as challenge matches and may result in changes to the existing ladder.
8. If it is discovered that a match was played with an invalid line-up form, the result will be a forfeiture of all positions from the infraction down through second doubles.
9. Any challenge match halted due to injury or unsportsmanlike conduct will count as a completed match.
10. All challenge matches must be recorded on the front or back of the CFM. Any player whose name, ladder position and challenge match information is not on the CFM, may not participate in the match.
11. A player who is absent from competition for a prolonged period (7 or more consecutive calendar days), must either compete at his previous established position or compete in challenge matches to establish a new position.

Line-Up Substitutions

1. If you are missing your #1 singles player, #2 moves up to play the number one position and #3 moves up to play the number two position. If the #2 player is missing, the third singles player will move up to play the #2 position. Unless the missing player is out for more than 7 consecutive days or is going to be out for the rest of the season, a coach may choose to keep her doubles teams intact and use a JV player in third singles. However, once 7 days have passed or once the coach is aware that an injury will be season ending, she must immediately readjust her lineup, breaking up her doubles teams if necessary.

2. If you are missing two singles players, the remaining singles player must move up to play #1 and the coach must put the next two players on his singles ladder (#4,5) in to the second and third singles positions. This will likely necessitate breaking up his doubles teams in order to fill the singles positions.

3. If you are missing one or both players from your first doubles team, your second doubles team must move up to the #1 slot unless challenge matches are recorded that determine otherwise. If you are missing one first doubles player and one second doubles player, the remaining doubles players must play first doubles. If time permits, challenge matches are mandatory to establish that the new first doubles team has a win over the new second doubles team.

4. If a team has only 6 players present, the line-up will be three singles and one doubles. If a team has seven players, it may not forfeit any position.