



2021 Stonewall Sports Tournament & Summit

Tennis Rulebook

Sport Leadership

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Sport Location:

Byrd Park Tennis Courts
601 S. Sheppard St.
Richmond, VA 23220

Dates & Location

The 2021 Stonewall National Tournament is **September 18-19, 2021** in Richmond, VA. Games will be played on the tennis courts at Byrd Park at **601 S. Sheppard St. Richmond, VA 23220**.

Schedule

Match play may begin as early as 9AM on both Saturday Sept. 18th and Sunday Sept. 19th, and matches may last into the early evening each day. An email with your specific match times will be sent once draws are complete. Please make travel plans accordingly, as some final matches may not complete until late Sunday afternoon.

Players are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their match start times, and check in at the registration desk to let the staff know they are present. Players arriving late may be subject to loss of points, games, or match forfeitures, as outlined in the GLTA rules (see below). Once on court, you and your opponent will be allowed a 5-minute warm-up period. In order to keep the tournament running on schedule, please be mindful of this time and start your match immediately following warm-ups.

Rules

The rules of tennis can seem daunting to someone unfamiliar with the sport, but once you have played a few times, the flow, positioning, match scoring really do become second nature. If you are new to tennis, or just need to brush up on the basics, [this website](#) will give a quick overview of the objectives and scoring of a tennis match.

Of course, there are many more details and nuances beyond these basics, and specific tennis rules can vary between different tennis leagues, venues, and countries. To ensure a consistent framework, the Stonewall National Tennis Tournament will follow the United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules, and be supplemented with the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA) rules. In case of any discrepancy between them, the GLTA rules will take precedence.

The USTA published their complete rulebook, known as “Friend at Court” available here. [this link](#). The GLTA rules are available [here](#).

The tournament committee is experienced with both the USTA and GLTA rules, and will be happy to assist in the interpretation of any them. It is advised that if you have concern or dispute with any rule during the match, you should momentarily stop the match and seek our help immediately, as it will not be possible to change the outcome once the match has

completed. In the event of any dispute, the Tournament Director will have final say on the rule interpretation.

Tennis Divisions & Guidelines

To ensure you are matched with individuals of a similar skill level, The Stonewall National Tennis Tournament will offer 5 separate divisions for both Singles and Doubles Play (Open, A, B, C, and D). These divisions are based on a player's ability rating, as follows:

Division/Level	USTA NTRP* Rating	Ability Level
Open	5.0 and above	Very Advanced Player
A	4.5	Advanced Player
B	3.5-4.0	High-Intermediate Player
C	3.0	Low-Intermediate Player
D	2.5 and below	Beginner/Novice

*NTRP stand for "National Tennis Rating Program", which is the primary method of classifying skill level within the USTA.

Guidelines for Choosing Your Division

One of the most common questions asked by participants is "Which division should I play in?" The methodology for division selection for this tournament will be as follows:

1. If you are a GLTA member with an established rating level, you **must** play in a division at or above this level. This will be verified prior to the start of the tournament.
2. If you are an established USTA member with a NTRP rating, you should select the division at or above that rating, per the table above. If you feel your NTRP rating does not adequately reflect your current level of play, please contact one of the directors above to discuss further.
3. If you have neither a GTLA or USTA rating, you will be asked to self-rate based on your ability. To assist with this, the USTA has developed [this table](#) and [these videos](#) to help you determine your appropriate level. Please review and select your level based on this self-rating system.

Important: Selecting the correct division is one of the most critical parts of any tennis tournament. Keeping matches competitive not only makes them more enjoyable for all players, but also preserves the integrity of the tournament. If you are unsure of your rating, do not hesitate to reach out to one of the committee members above for assistance in determining your level. To ensure fairness for all players, if the tournament committee determines that you are participating in a level that is lower than your true ability, they will have no choice but to disqualify you from any remaining matches.

Split Divisions

Both Singles and Doubles Events will be offered. Players may choose to split their Singles and Doubles division based on their current ability level. This means, for example, if you have rated your Singles ability level as a “B” player and your Doubles ability level as a “C” player, you could sign up for B-Singles and C-Doubles. Splitting your Singles/Doubles levels more than +/- 1 division apart will not be allowed, as typically your rated ability between Singles/Doubles does not differ that significantly.

Additionally, if playing doubles and your doubles partner is at a different ability level than yourself, you must participate in the division of the higher ability player. For example, Dave and Charlie want to play doubles together. Dave rates himself as a “B” player, but Charlie rates himself as an “A” player. You would both need to sign up in the A-Doubles division.

Draw Sizes

A minimum of 4 entries will be required for a draw to be held in any given division. Draw sizes of 4 or 5 will be in a round-robin format (everyone plays everyone else), with the champion and runner-up determined by total matches won. A draw size of 6 will result in 2 round-robin groups, with a championship final between the winner of each group. Draw sizes of 7 or more will be based on standard single-elimination brackets.

To ensure an on-time tournament completion, the maximum size for any draw is capped at 32 persons for Singles and 16 teams for Doubles.

Match Format

Main Draw Matches: All main draw singles matches will be best two of three sets with a 10-point super tiebreak (first to reach 10 points, win by 2) in place of the third set.

Consolation Play: We are pleased to be able offer consolation play in both singles and doubles to those players who lose their first round match. Consolation matches will be an 8-game pro set (first player to win 8 games, must win by 2), with no-ad scoring (if the score reaches Deuce, whomever wins the next point wins the game). If the match score reaches 8-8, a standard 7-point tiebreaker will be played to determine the overall winner. The Consolation finals matches will be the same format as the regular tournament matches -- best 2 of 3 sets, with a 10-point super tie-break in place of a full third set. Consolation play will not be offered in any events which use the round-robin draw format.

Due to the large number of matches that Consolation Play adds to the court usage, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to modify or cancel Consolation Play in the event of inclement weather. If such a situation would occur, Consolation Doubles would be canceled first, then Consolation Singles if deemed necessary. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Seeding

Seeding refers to the ranking of players within each ability division. This ensures higher ranked players within each division are separated in their respective draws. For example, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal rarely meet in the early round of a tennis tournament, because both are usually seeded and placed in separate parts of the draws.

Seeding for the Stonewall Tournament will be based primarily on the GLTA ranking points system. Special seeding considerations may be given as a result of recent tournament results. The tournament committee will make the final decision regarding such matters.

Attire

Proper tennis attire is required while competing on the court. This includes non-marking tennis shoes. The Stonewall t-shirt provided with your registration must be worn on Saturday for official photography.