



# DBH Tennis League

## Wayside Player's Guide

### **Overview - Dorothy Bruno Hills Indoor Tennis League (DBHiTL)**

The Dorothy Bruno Hills Tennis League (DBH) is a women's tennis league that provides weekly intra-club doubles competition from October to April. It's made up of teams through-out Massachusetts and operates independently - separate from and not affiliated with the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

In the DBH league, local tennis clubs sponsor teams that compete against each other in "home" and "away" matches – it's a traveling league where matches are played at host and rival clubs. Teams that participate are organized into 5 levels based on skills, from 4 (beginner level) up to Super A (highest skilled).

Teams at the same level are organized into "flights" made up of 10 teams who compete against each other through-out the season.

Matches are held weekday mornings, either Wednesdays or Thursdays depending on the team. Teams compete in 4 doubles matches. 8 players from each club participate (a total of 16). Match results are compiled and tracked; Weekly standings are tabulated and published at the DBH website. At the end of the season, the team that has won the most matches wins its flight and moves up to the next competitive level, while the team that comes in last moves down to the lower competitive level.

### **Wayside Teams for 2009-2010 Season**

We will be hosting 1A, 2 and 4 teams; We have applied for a "3" level team and hope to be awarded one.

### **Team Commitment**

Wayside's DBH season runs for 24 weeks which includes pre-season practices and during the season, weekly practices and matches. Players who accept team positions make a commitment to participate in weekly practices, matches and scheduled round robins for the entire 24 week period. Section "Master Calendar" lists practice days & times and season start dates.



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### Team Rosters

The 1A, 2 and 3 teams have 8 regular players who practice and play as doubles teams.

### Team Rosters – the 4 Team

Our 4 team is for developing and first-time league players so can accommodate up to 12 players. The 4 team players practice weekly but will take turns in the weekly match line-ups. Players can join the 4 team with or without a partner and will have the opportunity to experience different playing partners through out the season.

### Team Substitutes

Other club players are welcomed to participate in DBH matches as alternates or substitutes to help the DBH teams in the event a regular player can't play a match due to illness, injury or other circumstances. See "Pay to Play" policy that follows.

### "Pay to Play" Policy - NEW!

This year we are implementing a new policy called "Pay to Play" in which everyone pays for the matches they play. For DBH this means that a player substituting for a regular player in a match will pay the match fee. The club will make the payment adjustment to each player's account: the regular player's account will be credited the match fee that she pre-paid; the substitute player will be billed the match fee.

### Fielding the Teams

We are using a Challenge Ladder to fill each of the 8 spots on the 1A, 2 and 3 teams. The Challenge Ladder is open to all players who want to play on one of our teams. Anyone is welcomed to try out: existing players, past players and players new to or considering the club.

We will NOT use a ladder to fill the 12 spots on our DBH 4 team. Any player interested in joining the 4 team can sign up with or without a partner and will be evaluated by one of the coaches. If the skill level is appropriate they are welcomed to join. If there are more players interested in playing on the 4 team than spots available, the tennis director and coaches will make the final decision about who is invited to play for the team.



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Per DBH league rules, all DBH players must be members of the club for whom they play. To play for our DBH teams, you must be a Wayside club member in good standing by the first practice.

### What is a Challenge Ladder?

A Challenge Ladder is a process using *competitive skills* to select players for a team. It's useful when there are a limited number of spots on a team and more players than spots available, or when trying to field teams with players with similar competitive skills and abilities. The process is fair and objective, using match results to determine player placement on teams.

In a Challenge Ladder, tennis partners sign up and then are placed on the ladder in positions 1 thru "x" based on ability. Then teams challenge teams positioned above them and play matches in attempts to win and take the higher positions or "move up" the ladder.

### Signing Up For the Ladder

The Ladder process is open to all players. You must sign up with a partner to participate in the Ladder. If interested but without a partner, sign up and the Tennis Department will work with you to try to find a suitable partner.

The last day to sign up is Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon. You can either sign up at the Front Desk or send an email to: [TennisAtWayside@aol.com](mailto:TennisAtWayside@aol.com)  
When signing up, provide NAMES, CELL PHONES and EMAIL ADDRESSES for you and your partner.



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### Signing Up with New Partners

If an existing Wayside DBH player is signing up with a new partner, they will be placed on the ladder based on the returning player's position held at the end of the prior DBH season. If a team is splitting up and BOTH players are joining the ladder with new partners, then the newly formed teams must play each PRIOR to the start of the Ladder to determine which spot each team will occupy. This "one-match" playoff will follow the challenge match format described here, with the winning team taking the higher position and the losing team below them on the ladder.

### Wildcarding onto the Ladder

Any new partners who have not played DBH at Wayside are welcomed to join the Ladder and will be placed at the bottom of the Ladder. Wildcard Teams must ok their challenges with the Tennis Director, Steve Winer.

### The Ladder – Posted!

The Ladder will be available on Sunday August 23<sup>th</sup> at noon and posted in the Wayside Tennis Lobby and sent out by email to all those players who are registered.

### Issuing a Challenge

A team must designate one of its players to be its contact person. A team with a position on the ladder can challenge up to three (3) positions above their position. Wildcard teams must have their challenges pre-approved by the Director.

A challenge must be:

- made on Monday Noon of each of the 3 challenge weeks
- made by cell phone and email
- "cc'd" to [mmichele.watkins@gmail.com](mailto:mmichele.watkins@gmail.com)
- played the week it is made, Monday through Saturday Midnight
- acknowledged in 24 hours by the challenged team or the team forfeits their position on the ladder
- on the books within 48 hours with 2 court reservations for that week or the challenge is "voided" by both parties.

Teams must accept and play 1 challenge per week (2 matches). If a team receives multiple challenges on Monday, they must accept the challenge from the team that is closest to their position on the ladder.



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Teams can accept more than 1 challenge per week if they want to but must complete both during the same week.

Teams must complete a challenge before issuing another.

A team can only challenge higher if they win; if they lose a challenge they can not challenge any higher than the position they lost to.

The last date to issue a challenge is Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>.  
The last date to play a challenge is Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Both teams bring balls. Winners take home new can.

### **Moving up/down The Ladder**

Challenging teams must PLAY and WIN TWICE in order to take the other team's ladder position. If they win, they take that team's position, and the other teams all move down one spot. If they DON'T win BOTH matches, the team standings remain as posted – no changes. If a challenging team loses their first challenge match, the second match is NOT played.

If a challenging team loses their first challenge, they can only challenge teams BELOW their original challenge. If a team lost their position to a challenger, they can re-challenge that team to try to regain their position if time remains in the ladder process to do so.

### **Reserving a Court- First come, First Serve**

Challenging teams are responsible for reserving a court. Email [mmichelle.watkins@gmail.com](mailto:mmichelle.watkins@gmail.com) with the dates and times you need a court. She will reserve you a court and email your confirmation. You must sign up for BOTH challenges when making reservation. Courts will be made available Tues-Fri 9:00-12:00 for matches, but you can play your match any weekday and anywhere – at the convenience of both teams. Players are responsible for court fees, and will be billed the fees by the Director at the end of the ladder process.

### **Match Format**

Matches best 2 out of 3 sets with a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) played in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. Ads are played out. Matches are 1.5 hours in length. If time runs out, the win is awarded to the team with the most games won.



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### Recording Results

There will be a Ladder Tracker Board in the Wayside Lobby. Once a match is completed, the winning team posts the results on the board and both teams will initial them. The winning team sends an email to [mmichelle.watkins@gmail.com](mailto:mmichelle.watkins@gmail.com) and "cc'ing" the losing team, detailing the teams that played, their starting ladder positions, the match score and winners.

All challenge results MUST be emailed to [mmichelle.watkins@gmail.com](mailto:mmichelle.watkins@gmail.com) by Friday midnight of the challenge week or the match WILL NOT COUNT. Results will be tabulated and distributed to ladder participants on the weekend, and posted in the Lobby on Monday morning of each challenge week.

### Final Player Selection

At the end of the challenge period, the final team rosters will be posted in the lobby and sent out on email to all participants. Players who have been awarded a position on a team must accept their position within 48 hours with a confirming email sent to [Stevewiner@hotmail.com](mailto:Stevewiner@hotmail.com) accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of \$480 per player for those electing to pay for the season in two installments or \$170 per player for those electing monthly installments (see "DBH Team Fee Schedule for details on the 209-2010 new payment options ). The deposit can be billed to a player account or payment made at the Front Desk. If a player is not currently a member of Wayside, they must become one and their deposit check must also be accompanied by a Wayside Membership Application with the required initiation fees before the first team practice.

If a team declines their position, the next team in line gets their spot.

### Team Captains & Social Coordinators

Teams select a captain by the first week of practice. The captain and the teams coaches will work together to ensure a great tennis team experience for everyone. Players should give their full support to their captain to make it a great season. Flexibility and reliability are the key!

**NEW!** Teams will also select a social coordinator responsible for organizing a "snack schedule" for the season to provide food and refreshments to the visiting teams during home matches... and hopefully a team party.



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## Master Calendar

Now - August 21, Fri 12:00	Ladder Registration
August 21 Fri 12:00	Last date for Registration
August 23 Sun	Ladder Posted & Distributed
August 31 –Sept 5	Challenge Period, M-Sat
Sept 7 –Sept 12	Challenge Period, M-Sat
Sept 14- Sept 18	Challenge Period, M-Fri
Sept 19 Sat	Team Rosters Announced
Sept 21 Mon	Player Deposits Due
Week of Sept 21	Team Practices Start (See practice schedule below)
(TBD)	Season Start- First Match
(TBD)	Season End – Last Match

<b>Team</b>	<b>Practice Day</b>	<b>Practice Time</b>	<b>Match Day</b>
<b>1A</b>	Monday	10:30-12:00	Wednesday
<b>2</b>	Monday	9:00-10:30	Wednesday
<b>3</b>	Tuesday	TBD	Thursday
<b>4</b>	Tuesday	10:30-12:00	Thursday



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## DBH Team Fee Schedule

2009-2010 Season

### DBH Team Fee: \$960 which includes

- > **Registration** for League Entry
- > **24 Weekly Practices** of 1.5 hours, 2 Courts and 2 Pros (1:4 ratio of Pro/Players)
- > **18 Weeks of Match Play**
- > **Pro attendance** at Home matches to provide feedback and consultations
- > **Round Robins or Practices** scheduled for "bye" weeks and vacation periods
- > **Balls (and on request Demo Racquets)** provided for Home Matches and Round Robins

### Team Fee Payment Options:

- A. Two installments of \$480, paid at the first and second half of the season.
- B. Seven (7) Monthly Payments of \$170, paid at the beginning of each month, October through March.

*Note: All fees are non-refundable. In the event a player needs to pull out of the season due to unforeseen circumstances beyond her control, every effort will be made to help find an alternate player willing and able to assume responsibility for the remaining portion and cost of the original player's team season. However, if no alternate player can be found, the original player is responsible for entire program fee. No refunds or credits will be provided.*



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## Questions and Answers

**I was on the team last year. Do I have to participate in the ladder?**

Yes. You need to participate in the ladder to make the team.

**What if I don't have a partner?**

Only partner-teams can participate in the challenge ladder process; you must have a partner to participate.

**What if I'm on vacation and won't be back in time for the Ladder?**

We hope with advance notice everyone who is traveling can make arrangements to return for the two week challenge period.

**What if I make the team but decide not to play?**

AOK; next partners in line gets option to take position

**What if the other team can't make the originally scheduled match?**

They either remake in 48 hours or default match

**What if I don't make the team I want?**

You can choose to be an alternate or sub on the team you want or join the team you've been offered a position on.

**What if I get sick and can't participate in the challenge ladder?**

Please stay healthy! (see Steve for extenuating circumstances)

**Need Help?**

If you have any questions or need help in the course of the season, please contact



**Leigh Zins**  
**Tennis Coordinator and Pro**  
Wayside Racquet and Swim Club  
[TennisatWayside@aol.com](mailto:TennisatWayside@aol.com)  
508-330-9992 (cell)

**Have Fun!**