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Orindawoods Tennis News

Orindawoods Tennis Club: 925-254-1065; Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat./Sun.: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., www.orindawoodstennis.com
"I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it – Celia, As You Like It, Act II, Scene IV

Court Reservations and Membership

This article was first sent out as a group e-mail to the members, but it is worth repeating here, as it contains the fundamentals on which our club operates. It is also nice to have this information in a hard copy.

Lots of new members have joined Orindawoods in the past year. We want to **welcome** all those people to Orindawoods. Our Club has a somewhat unique way of operating, and not everyone understands the way we work from the get go.

Membership, and personal responsibility are a huge part of what makes Orindawoods work, and work so well. We do not have a large staff that is policing the membership. Instead, the membership takes responsibility for policing themselves, and treating each other with respect and friendship. That is the key. The staff will help with situations that can't be resolved, but that is rare.

With all these new members, the Club has certainly gotten busier. This is great news, and more people than ever are enjoying their tennis, and there are more potential partners for us to play with. This increased activity leads to more players making reservations, and more potential conflicts around reservations, court rules, as well as the transition from one group using a court to the next (bumping).

With all this change, I think it is appropriate to go over some of the **Court Rules** here at Orindawoods for not only the new members, but for also for the members of longer standing who never really had to know the rules in the past, when court usage was lower and there was less competition for courts.

The **Court Rules** are posted in the glass case on the deck by the drinking fountain. They can also be found **on the Club's website**, www.orindawoodstennis.com.

To begin, let's take a look at the Club's **Mission Statement**:

"The Club is primarily for the recreational enjoyment of the owners and associate members. We strive to promote the enjoyment and growth of tennis."

There are lots of important things here in just two small sentences, but **enjoyment** is key. Fighting over courts (or other rules) clearly takes away from enjoyment, and really hurts our Club. We don't want anyone to have a miserable experience here at Orindawoods (other than perhaps, "my backhand was off today"). If people's behavior is ruining the Club experience for others, it needs to be dealt with. The health, as well as the fun and enjoyment of the membership, is at stake. This is no small issue.

Often the **spirit behind the rules** is as much of a guide as the rules themselves. We are all club members here, friends and neighbors. The idea is not to figure out ways to get an edge on our friends, or trick them out of a court, but to **work together to share the Club** as best we can.

Intimidation, and creating a miserable experience for someone else, clearly has no place. The rule behind the Orindawoods Club rules is an oldie but a goodie: The Golden Rule. **"One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself."**

This is a **shared use facility**. It is not anyone's private court. There is no entitlement to a particular court or time for anyone.

It is important to realize that no code of behavior, set of rules or laws are going to be perfect and cover every scenario or potential problem or conflict. So behavior that is within the rules, but not within this spirit is still wrong, and should not be pursued. We have a culture here at Orindawoods that is supportive of each other, and not one where people are looking for loopholes. **Any behavior that involves trying to get more than your fair share it is not acceptable.**

The Rules

Let me highlight a couple of rules that are perhaps a bit more subtle, or easy to get confused.

There are no "back-to-back" reservations. People who have been playing for 90 minutes (even on a walk-on court) do not have the right to bump someone who has also been playing for 90 minutes on another court by making a reservation for that court after that first 90 minutes. The rule is that play is for 90 minutes, and you can play longer on your same court, if someone does not bump you. If another court opens up, you can move over and play on that court, but you can't bump someone else if you have been playing already. Taking away someone else's ability to play longer just because you want to play longer but your court happened to get bumped isn't nice. You wouldn't like it if the situation were reversed. . One group is getting lucky here, but no one has a right to more time than 90 minutes.

The member who made the reservation needs to be present on that court. If you make the reservation, and then get

a sub, contact Keith or Patric and they can change the reservation on the computer. This is a subtle way of saying **you can't reserve two courts at the same time slot** (because you can't be playing on two courts at the same time). So if you have a big group coming out, and need two courts, at least two of you need to make reservations.

Please **use the court that you have reserved**. Again, this is just kindness to the people who also want to play. They see your name down on court 1 for example, and they don't know who you are and that you actually moved to court 5 instead. They think if they take court 1, they will be bumped.

It is the Club's goal to have as many people playing as possible (the only exception is we treat singles and doubles equal, so that there is singles play at the Club to take advantage of its many health and well-being benefits), so we don't want courts sitting empty if there are people out there who want to play, but just don't know the court is actually free.

If you have a reservation, and you can't make it, please cancel. Again, this lets people know that the court is available for open play. This is what friends and neighbors do for each other.

Bumping.

Bumping is a tough situation. The people on the court, by virtue of still being there, would like to play longer. But their allotted time is up. So the people with the next reservation need to inform the current players that they are ready to come on. The people playing have the right to **finish the game** that they are on. Please **play "no ad" if the score gets to deuce, and please, no tie-breakers.**

No one wants to be bumped. **The tact and respect** used here by the group doing the bumping is of utmost importance to the success of this challenging exchange. Signal to the players playing that you are ready for the court. That means the group in possession of the court should finish the game they are on (see above). Please do not walk on their court until they are done. Walking behind their court, or making a lot of noise just outside the court while they try to finish isn't very nice, and you wouldn't appreciate it if it were happening to you. No one appreciates vultures circling their court.

It is hard enough to play well when you know these are your last few points. It is really hard to play well, and finish your match on an up note, when an unruly group who doesn't give a damn about you can't wait for you to get off.

The people being bumped need to **respect** the oncoming group too. One of the reasons the oncoming group might be unruly is time pressure. **If you have been bumped, please leave the court in a kind, timely and respectful manner.** Keep in mind that the players after you may also be under time constraints and if you take a long time to leave the court, you are cutting into their time, when someone comes to bump them later.

When **switching courts**, please respect any players on courts you may be passing or walking through. There is outside access to every court. **It is best not to walk through a court when someone is playing or a lesson is in progress.** When passing please wait until they finish their point, and please move quickly together as a single group, and not straggle along interrupting several points in a row. Remember, concentration is tough in tennis, and let's help each other maintain our concentration and not be disruptive.

And while we are talking about switching courts, please remember to **close all the gates** you pass through, even if no one is playing on the court. It is quite annoying to see your ball roll onto another court disrupting someone else's game simply because who ever passed through last didn't close the gate.

Play is for 90 minutes (60 minutes for the ball machine): Reservations are for 90 minutes at Orindawoods (singles and doubles). If no one bumps you, you are welcomed to play longer (as long as you want). However, after 90 minutes, you can be bumped (on the walk-on courts as well as the reservation courts). It should be noted that if you are bumped after 90 minutes, this does not give you the right to go bump someone else who has been playing for 90 minutes.

Traffic control: **designated start times.** During the busy times of the day, the Club has some designated start times (marked in red on the court scheduler) to help us control the flow of traffic at these busy times. The idea is that we insist certain courts start at certain times so that there will be time available later for other members to play (before it gets too late in the day, or evening). Usually when we have designated start times, we try to leave **one court with a more flexible time schedule** for those who need a bit more flexibility (on those courts, reservations can be made on

the 1/2 hour).

Reservation Courts and Walk-on courts. In similar fashion, we try to have some of the courts reserve-able, and some courts walk-on, so that there are courts for people who plan ahead, and there are courts for people who like to make last-second arrangements to play. We don't see one personality type as superior, and want to be inclusive, so we attempt to have both.

Sign In. Please sign in on the green board, with an accurate starting time. Again, would you want someone posting a time that gave him or her two hours if you were

Quote of the Month:

"[The] life of man [is] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."

--Thomas Hobbs



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*Reservations, Club
calendar, weather and
court updates, lesson
programs and much
more!*

waiting? **Sign in even if you have a computer reservation.**

Members: **Half the players should be members.** It is a privilege of membership to have non-members play with you (\$5 per person). Half the players on a court should be members, however.

Enforcement: Orindawoods is a club of family, friends and neighbors. We do not have a police force to enforce every rule and every member-to-member exchange. Some clubs operate that way, and the truth is, they cost a lot more (dues to have a full-time staff person on site would push us up to at least \$150 per month, not to mention restructuring the entrance so everyone has to pass through a front desk area). Clubs like that don't have the same casual, friendly feel that we all love about Orindawoods either. But **joy and happiness comes with responsibility**, and it is up to all of us to treat each other with respect. If there is a circumstance that can't be worked out, then the staff will assist or make a ruling.

In sports rules and officiating there is a broad category that officials are able to use in extreme circumstances called "**unsportsmanlike behavior.**" The same goes for conduct here at Orindawoods. Some actions may look within the rules, but are clearly outside of the intent. We will match the rules to the intent as best we can, but there is no way to foresee or legislate every possibility. But I can say, it is usually pretty clear whether the intent was being followed or not.

A friendly club based on friendship. The culture of Orindawoods is not universal. Not every Club or tennis facility operates on the "this is your own back yard" / "friends and neighbors" model. This is one of the things that makes Orindawoods great, and we want to keep it that way. Many public facilities are much more cut throat. As Thomas Hobbs said, "[The] life of man [is] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." We've all joined a club in some attempt to get away from the harsh, cruel world. Let's not bring it on the court along with our tennis bag, racquet and shoes. Let's keep Orindawoods the refuge that it has come to be. Thank you!

Tennis Tip:

Phun (Fun) With Physics

There are certain principles of science (both physics and physiology) that are really helpful to understand for tennis. One is that the easiest way to return a ball is back the way it came. Same direction, speed and height. So a ball lobbed high and slow to the backhand corner would be easiest to return with a lob, slow and crosscourt back toward the opponent's backhand corner. This doesn't mean that a player can't change the direction, speed or height, it just makes it harder to be successful.

Changing The Shot. The faster the shot, the harder it is to change the direction. Changing the height successfully may be difficult too, for changing the speed is also hard. If you aim higher, you have to hit the ball slower. Hard to do off a fast shot. On a ball going slowly, it is easier to change the direction, but hard to increase the speed.

Baseball. Baseball, like tennis, involves striking a ball. It is much easier to pull a ball (hit across your body) than to "go the opposite way," or as we say in tennis, "hit inside out." The ball is hit much harder when it is pulled, rather than when it is hit the opposite way.

Strategy. Strategy, or controlling the court, is how we apply some of these principles above to help us win. Winning is fun, so anything that gives you an edge, leads to more fun. Given what we learned up above, we should cover balls that are hit back the way they came, or pulled to the inside of that. It is much harder to "go the opposite way / hit inside out" and so we should not cover that as much, especially if the ball we hit is hard. We know that if a ball is hit inside out, it will not be going as fast, and we might be able to get it anyway. If we hit the ball slowly to our opponents, it is much more likely that they will be able to hit it the opposite way / inside out, but we know that it is difficult to hit a slow ball hard, so it will still be difficult to get it by us if we cover the inside/pull shot or the shot returned directly back to where it came from.

Results. If I am one step, or maybe even two steps closer to where they are going to hit the ball, that would improve my results dramatically. We know what we need to know to be that one step closer. Get moving!

The Problem Is Stupidity. The problem is that you are going to look stupid some of

the time (when you guess wrong). Guaranteed. If you don't move, you don't look stupid (to the untrained eye). However, to the accomplished player you are going to look stupid and exposed all of the time (not covering the court to your best advantage). The ego, the desire to look good and never be wrong, is what handicaps us. We're also assuming no one will notice when we don't make a glaring mistake, yet make a more damaging mistake just the same. This is crazy thinking. The kind of crazy thinking that happens when we let our ego run the show rather than logic.

Four Stages Of Learning. I have often talked about the four stages of learning. As applied here, Stage One (unconscious incompetence), you wouldn't even realize that a ball should have been yours. In Stage Two (conscious incompetence), you realize you should have gotten a shot, but didn't trust your knowledge or instinct, and let it go by. In Stage Three (conscious competence), you are starting to move to the right place and "fill the hole", but you might still lack a bit of fluidity and timing to make the best play. Sometimes your lack of confidence will cause to miss the shot, but you still made the best play. In Stage Four (unconscious competence) you don't even think, you just move and are standing there, waiting to put the ball away like you knew what was coming before your opponent was born. This is because you did. It takes time to get to that level of "knowing," but the sooner you start, the faster you will get there and the less time you will spend in stages two and three. Good luck and start reading the physics!

Junior Clinic Schedule Spring 2012 March 19th - May 28th

The 2012 Spring Junior Clinics began the week of **March 19th**, and will continue thru the week of **May 28th**. Plenty of space is still available. The 10 week program will be run by **Head Pro Patric Hermanson** and **Assistant Pro Anna Marie Gamboa**. The Level I and II classes will be taught using aspects of the USTA Quickstart / Ten-and-Under Tennis Program. Level III will also spend some time using Quickstart / Ten-and-Under Tennis.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Time(s)</u>	<u>One day/week</u>	<u>Two Days</u>
I	<u>Lil' Ones</u> (Ages 4-6)	Tu/Th 3:15-4pm	\$115*	\$195*

*The **Lil' Ones class** is for the always adorable 4-6 year olds. We will be developing the coordination and balance of these young players as well as giving them an introduction to tennis using age appropriate balls and court size.*

II	<u>Future Stars Group</u> (Ages 7-10)	Tuesdays 4-5:30pm	\$225*	N/A
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*The **Future Stars Group** is for our 7 to 10 year old players. The players will be working with Quickstart balls on 36' and 60' courts. Stroke instruction, tennis games, and match play are all part of the curriculum.*

III	<u>Tennis Development</u> (Ages 11-14)	Thursdays 4-5:30pm	\$225*	N/A
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*In the **Tennis Development Group** we will work on refining technique, improving footwork and developing strategic awareness for successful match play. This class is for beginning through intermediate players.*

IV	<u>Tournament Training Group</u>	Wednesdays 4:30-6pm	\$225*	N/A
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*The **Tournament Training Group** is an invitation only class. Contact Patric about setting up a try-out.*

*Non-members should add \$25 (Lil' Ones, only \$15)

We have factored into the cost of the clinics, the potential of two weeks of missed classes due to rain, illness, vacations, etc.

Special Discount: 10% discount off the cost of second siblings. Discount taken off the lower of the two costs.

Inclement Weather: In case of questionable, weather (rain), please call the Pro Shop for a court condition update. Tennis shoes required (no black soled shoes).

For more information or to sign up, please check out the club website or call Keith or Patric at the Pro Shop, or you can also e-mail Patric and patrictennis@yahoo.com.

