

HACKBERRY  CREEK  
C O U N T R Y C L U B

*A Member of the ClubCorp Family*

HACKBERRY CREEK  
COUNTRY CLUB

---

Tennis Handbook 2017

1901 W. Royal Lane

Irving, Texas 75063

Tennis Pro Shop: 972.869.1503

Clubhouse: 972.869.2631

# Contents

Hackberry Creek Country Club.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
The Tennis Facility .....	5
The Professional Staff.....	6
Brian Tennery, Director of Athletics .....	6
Jared Combest, Head Tennis Professional.....	7
Sierra Wisner, Tennis Professional.....	7
Chase Edgar, Tennis Professional .....	8
Suggestions, Concerns, & Compliments .....	8
Programming.....	9
USTA Rating System.....	9
Tennis Calendar .....	12
January .....	12
February .....	13
March .....	13
April .....	14
May .....	14
June .....	15
July .....	15
August .....	16
September.....	16
October.....	17
November.....	17
December .....	18
Instruction .....	19
Lesson Rates .....	19
Brian Tennery, Director of Athletics .....	19
Jared Combest, Head Tennis Professional.....	19
Sierra Wisner, Tennis Professional.....	19
Chase Edgar, Tennis Professional.....	20

Semi Private Groups .....	20
Open, Team, & Insanity Drills.....	21
Adult Open Drills & Insanity Tennis Schedule .....	22
Junior Tennis Academy .....	23
Junior Clinics .....	23
Red & Orange Ball.....	23
Green & Yellow Ball .....	23
Summer Camps .....	24
Information:.....	25
Children’s Birthday Parties.....	26
Ball Machines & Ball Machine Club.....	26
Guest Fees & Policies .....	26
Guest Fees .....	27
ClubCorp Club Member Guest Policy.....	27
One Member Guest Policies .....	27
Team Guest Rules .....	28
Play of the Match .....	28
COURT INFORMATION:.....	28
Dimensions: .....	29
PRIOR TO THE MATCH: .....	30
DEFAULTS: .....	30
WARM UP:.....	30
WHO SERVES 1ST: .....	31
KEEPING SCORE: .....	31
TIEBREAKERS: .....	32
SERVES:.....	32
RETURNING SERVE IN DOUBLES: .....	34
LINE CALLS:.....	34
WHAT’S MY JOB?.....	35
Server: .....	35

Server’s Partner:.....	36
Returner:.....	36
Returner’s Partner: .....	36
BAD LINE CALLS: .....	37
SINGLES POSITIONING:.....	38
DOUBLES POSITIONING:.....	38
ODDITIES: .....	39
ETIQUETTE:.....	41
THE BALL: .....	42
Top Ten Doubles Tactics .....	42
9. Know your job! .....	43
8. The Hot Seat is huge!.....	43
7. Step outside the hitter and you’ll know who covers the middle!.....	44
6. Inside balls inside!.....	44
5. Make your first volley in every point! .....	44
4. Get your first serve in!.....	44
3. Get your return of serve in the court, cross-court, at your opponent’s feet.....	45
2. “Get there firstest with the mostest!” .....	45
Bedford Forrest. ....	45
1. SPLIT STEP!.....	45
Why Play Tennis? .....	46

## **The Tennis Facility**

The Hackberry Creek C.C. Tennis Center is located in a beautiful setting of mature trees, which offer shade during the heat of summer, and a wind break during the winter.

We have 12 outdoor lighted courts, including 2 Hydro-Courts (Clay) and 10 hard courts, which are in the blue and green US Open colors. The courts are laid out in 2 court batteries and each court is individually fenced. Each battery of courts has a shaded deck, making tennis/social events lots of fun. There's also a hitting wall and a Playmate ball machine.

There's a pro shop with on-site professional stringing, and a large selection of the latest racquets, footwear, and accessories. Special orders and team orders are a specialty of the tennis professional staff, so if you don't find it in the tennis pro shop, ask...we can get it for you!

Additionally there are men and women's locker rooms, and a snack bar (Summer only.).

## **The Professional Staff**

### **Brian Tennery, Director of Athletics**

Brian Tennery was born and raised in Maryland. He's a graduate of The American University, in Washington, D.C., where he played #1 singles and doubles, was the team captain, and the MVP at this division I school.

After college he traveled internationally and throughout the United States, as a member of Dennis Van der Meer's staff, teaching tennis camps for adults and juniors, and the "Tennis University", a course for aspiring tennis professionals. Van der Meer is widely regarded as one of the foremost tennis teachers in the world.

He was the Director of Tennis at Lakewood C.C., a member owned country club, north of Washington, D.C., for 26 years.

Brian is a member of the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) with a "Professional" rating; and is a National Clinician & Tester. He was 2011 PTR Member of the Year, for the state of Texas; and was the Chairperson of the International Testers Committee.

Brian is married to Elayne, and they have 5 children, and 2 grandchildren. He's been the Hackberry Creek C.C. Director of Athletics since 2011.

### **Jared Combest, Head Tennis Professional**

Jared Combest is a member of the Hackberry Creek C.C. tennis professional staff, in the capacity of a Tennis Professional. He's responsible for shop administration, facilities maintenance, and teaches adults and juniors.

Jared is a native Texan, having grown up in Flower Mound, playing for Flower Mound H.S. He was the team captain his final two years, and was a doubles specialist, going to regionals twice, and attaining a ranking of #12 in the state.

Most recently Jared was a member of the teaching staffs at Trophy Club C.C. and Las Colinas C.C., where he was a junior specialist. Jared is a member of the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR), with a "Professional" rating. Jared came to Hackberry in January 2012.

### **Sierra Wiser, Tennis Professional**

Sierra Wiser is a recent resident of Irving and was raised in Denton, Texas. Sierra played #1 singles and doubles at Guyer High School in Denton and went on to play four years of Division II college tennis at Dixie State University where she was the team captain for two years.

Sierra was the associate director for Nike tennis camps at the University of North Texas for four summers.

Sierra is a certified "Tennis Professional" with the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR). She has been a member of the Hackberry Creek C.C. tennis professional staff since May 2016."

## **Chase Edgar, Tennis Professional**

Chase Edgar was born and raised in Trophy Club, Texas. He is currently enrolled at Tarrant County College, and intends to transfer to SMU or UTA for accounting.

As a junior, Chase was a USTA “Champ” in the 14s, 16s, and 18s. He graduated from Byron Nelson H.S., where he played 4 years on the varsity.

Chase is PTR certified, and joined the H.C. staff in 2016.

## **Suggestions, Concerns, & Compliments**

We love to hear from our members. We don’t already have every great idea, so we always welcome your suggestions. If you have a concern (That’s “New Age” for complaint.), please let us know, because we can’t fix what we don’t know is broken. We also love to hear that a member of our staff has done something to make your day special, and we always pass your compliments on.

## **Programming**

Hackberry Creek prides itself on offering an “Instant Tennis” program. There’s no need for a new member to have to find his or her own tennis games. Simply call the Director of Athletics and schedule a complimentary ½ hour evaluation, and he’ll point you in the right direction.

Whether it’s adult drills, the Junior Tennis Academy, adult triples, inter club teams, Kid’s Court, or the Club Championships, there’s something for every age and ability at Hackberry.

## **USTA Rating System**

A large majority of programs (Drills, leagues, teams, etc.) are organized based on the USTA Rating System:

- 1.0 Player is just starting to play tennis.
- 1.5 Player has limited playing experience and is still working primarily on getting the ball over the net; has some knowledge of scoring but is not familiar with basic positions and procedures for singles and doubles play.
- 2.0 Player may have had some lessons but needs on-court experience; has obvious stroke weaknesses but is beginning to feel comfortable with singles and doubles play.

- 2.5 Player has more dependable strokes and is learning to judge where the ball is going; has weak court coverage or is often caught out of position, but is starting to keep the ball in play with other players of the same ability.
- 3.0 Player can place shots with moderate success; can sustain a rally of slow pace but is not comfortable with all strokes; lacks control when trying for power.
- 3.5 Player has achieved stroke dependability and direction on shots within reach, including forehand and backhand volleys, but still lacks depth and variety; seldom double faults and occasionally forces errors on the serve.
- 4.0 Player has dependable strokes on both forehand and backhand sides; has the ability to use a variety of shots including lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys; can place the first serve and force some errors; is seldom out of position in a doubles game.
- 4.5 Player has begun to master the use of power and spins; has sound footwork; can control depth of shots and is able to move opponent up and back; can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve; is able to rush net with some success on serve in singles as well as doubles.

- 5.0 Player has good shot anticipation; frequently has an outstanding shot or exceptional consistency around which a game may be structured; can regularly hit winner or force errors off of short balls; can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, and overhead smashes; has good depth and spin on most second serves.
- 5.5 Player is being ranked at the sectional level, has developed power and/or consistency as a major weapon; can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation.
- 6.0 Player typically has had intensive training for national tournament competition at the junior and collegiate levels and has obtained a sectional ranking.
- 6.5 Player has a reasonable chance at succeeding at the 7.0 level, has extensive tournament experience and has obtained a top college ranking.
- 7.0 This is a world class player, any male currently ranked in the top 500 on the ATP computer and any women ranked in the top 200 on the WTA computer. This player is committed to tournament competition on the international level and whose major source of income is tournament prize winnings.

## Tennis Calendar

### January

Thu.	5	OSO*: Serve & Return, 9am.
Thu.	5	Women's Triples Grand Prix, 10am
Fri.	6	Adult Pickleball Mixer, 6:30pm
Thu.	12	OSO*: Attacking the Net, 9am
Thu.	12	Women's Triples Grand Prix, 10am
Mon.	16	Mini Junior Tennis Camp, 10 & under (10am-1pm) & 11+ (2-5pm)
Thu.	19	OSO*: Lobs & Overheads, 9am
Thu.	19	Women's Triples Grand Prix, 10am
Fri.	20	Friday Night (Under the) Lights-Adult Triples & Kid's Court, 6:30pm
Sat.	21	JTA Matchplay, 2pm
Thu.	26	OSO*: Poaching & Tandem Play, 9am
Thu.	26	Women's Triples Grand Prix, 10am

\*Off Season Opportunities.

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## February

Thu.	2	OSO*: 9am, Specialty Shots-the cool stuff!
Thu.	2	Women's Triples Grand Prix, 10am
Wed.	8	TCD Tennis & Fitness Boot Camp, 10am-12pm
Thu.	9	Women's Triples Grand Prix, 10am
Sat.	11	Junior Summer Camp Sign up Day
Mon.	20	Mini Junior Tennis Camp, 10 & under (10am-1pm) & 11+ (2-5pm)
Fri.	24	Friday Night (Under the) Lights-Adult Uptown/Downtown Progressive Doubles & Kid's Court, 6:30pm
Sat.	25	JTA Matchplay, 2pm

\*Off Season Opportunities.

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## March

Mon.-Fri. 13-17		Spring Break Junior Camp, 10 & under (10am-1pm) & 11+ (2-5pm)
Fri.	24	Friday Night (Under the) Lights-Adult Triples & Kid's Court, 6:30pm
Sat.	25	JTA Matchplay, 2pm

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## April

Wed.	5	New Member Mixer, 6:30pm
Fri.	14	Adult Pickleball Mixer, 6:30pm
Sat.	15	Instant Tennis! 3-6pm
Fri.	21	Friday Night (Under the) Lights-Adult Handicap Doubles & Kid's Court, 6:30pm
Sat.	22	JTA Matchplay, 2pm

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## May

Wed.	10	Men's & Women's Attack & Defend Club Championships
Fri.	19	Women's Member/Guest Tournament
Sat.	20	JTA Matchplay, 2pm
Mon.	29	Memorial Day Adult Triples Mixer & Kid's Court, 9am

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## June

Fri.	9	Men's Member/Guest Tournament
Thu.	15	Junior Red & Orange Singles Club Championships
Fri.-Sat.	16-17	North Texas Tennis Championships
Fri.	23	Friday Night (Under the) Lights-Adult Drills & Kid's Court, 6:30pm

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## July

Tue.	4	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Adult Triples Mixer & Kid's Court, 9am
Wed.	12	Women's & Men's Triples Club Championships
Sat.	15	Member Appreciation Day, 3pm
Thu.	20	Jr. Green & Yellow Singles Club Championships
Fri.	21	Adult Pickleball Mixer, 6:30pm

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## August

Sat.	5	Adult Clay Court Championships
Sat.	12	The Bad Tennis Player or Bad Golfer Tournament
Wed.	23	TCD Tennis & Fitness Boot Camp, 10am-12pm

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## September

Mon.	4	Labor Day Adult Triples Mixer, & Kid's Court, 9am
Wed.	6	Starts Men's & Women's Doubles Club Championships. All Wednesdays during September.
Wed.	13	Charity Classic Adult Triples Tournament, 6:30pm
Sat.	16	Charity Classic Carnival
Sat.	23	JTA Matchplay, 2pm

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## October

Wed.	4	Starts Mixed Doubles Club Championships. All Wednesdays during September.
Fri.	11	Adult Pickleball Mixer, 6:30pm
Fri.	18	Friday Night (Under the) Lights-Adult World (Hackberry) Team Tennis & Kid's Court, 6:30pm
Sat.	21	JTA Matchplay, 2pm
Tue.-Fri.	24-27	Kiddo's Halloween Week at the Junior Tennis Academy

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## November

Sat.	18	JTA Matchplay, 2pm
M-W&F	20-22, 24	Thanksgiving Junior Camp, 10 & under (10am-1pm) & 11+ (2-5pm)
Fri.	24	Black Friday Tennis Pro Shop Sale

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## December

Fri.	8	Friday Night (Under the) Lights-Polar Bear
		Adult Triples & Kid's Court, 6:30pm
M.-Th.	18-22	Winter Break Junior Camp, 10 & Under (10am-1pm) & 11+ (2-5pm)
T.-Th.	26-29	Winter Break Junior Camp, 10 & Under (10am-1pm) & 11+ (2-5pm)

Notes: Half price guests on Wednesday.

## Instruction

The Tennis Professional staff offers private lessons, drills, camps, and Insanity Tennis for all ages and abilities, and we specialize in “Quick Start” tennis instruction for the 10 & under set.

### Lesson Rates

#### Brian Tennery, Director of Athletics

1 Hour Private Lesson \$75  
½ Hour Private Lesson \$50

#### Jared Combest, Head Tennis Professional

1 Hour Private Lesson \$65  
½ Hour Private Lesson \$45

5 Lessons for \$300  
(Regularly \$325)

#### Sierra Wiser, Tennis Professional

1 Hour Private Lesson \$60  
½ Hour Private Lesson \$40

5 Lessons for \$250  
(Regularly \$300)

Chase Edgar, Tennis Professional

1 Hour Private Lesson \$55

½ Hour Private Lesson \$35

5 Lessons for \$230

(Regularly \$275)

Semi Private Groups

Semi Private Lesson fees are the cost of a private lesson, plus \$10 for each additional person, per hour.

## Open, Team, & Insanity Drills

“Open” drills are gender specific (Men’s, women’s, or mixed.), and at a specific USTA rating (Example: 3.0-3.5). “Team” drills are for a specific team. Both “Open” and “Team” drills are 1 ½ hrs. in duration, have no long-term commitment, and are signed up for on a week to week basis.

“Insanity Tennis” is great music, lots of running, lots of hitting, and lots of fun! Special racquet, footwear, and apparel pricing for new players! Fee Schedule:

### Per Person:

Open/Team Drill 3+players	\$24
Open/Team Drill 1 or 2 players	\$29
Insanity 4+ people	\$12
Insanity 3 people	\$20
Insanity 2 people	\$25

Note: In the case of 1-½ hour drills, if there are only two attendees, the drill is shortened to 1 hr.

## Adult Open Drills & Insanity Tennis Schedule

<u>Drill:</u>	<u>Level:</u>	<u>Days:</u>	<u>Times:</u>
Women's	3.5-4.0	Tuesday	6:30-8pm
Men's	3.0-4.0	Tuesday	7-8:30pm
Insanity	All	Wednesday	10-11am
Women's	2.5-3.5	Wednesday	11-12:30pm
Men's	3.0-4.0	Thursday	6:30-8pm
Insanity	All	Friday	10:30-11:30am
Women's	2.5-3.5	Friday	11:30-1pm
Mixed	3.0-4.0	Saturday	9-10:30am
Women's	2.0-2.5	Saturday	10-11:30am
Mixed	All*	Saturday	1-2pm

\*Complimentary!

## **Junior Tennis Academy**

### **Junior Clinics**

**Less than \$5 per class with a monthly commitment!**

#### **Red & Orange Ball**

The emphasis of the Red & Orange Ball Quick Start program is motor skill development, beginning tennis skills, and FUN!

#### **Green & Yellow Ball**

The focus of the Green & Yellow Ball programs is continued stroke development, match play skills, and conditioning.

#### **Schedule:**

<b><u>Level:</u></b>	<b><u>Ages:</u></b>	<b><u>Days:</u></b>	<b><u>Times:</u></b>
Red	4-8	Tue.-Fri.	4:30-5:30pm
Orange	8-10	Tue.-Fri.	4:30-5:30pm
Green	10-12	Tue.-Fri.	5:30-6:30pm
Yellow	12+	Tue.-Fri.	5:30-6:30pm

Fees:

Daily Drop In:       \$20  
Monthly:               \$89\*

\*Includes Saturday matchplay days.

Information & Registration:

Please contact Brian, Jared, or Sierra at 972-869-1503 for more information or registration. Please remember to ask about our first lesson free offer, and monthly discounts!

**Summer Camps**

Ages 4-10:       Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm  
Ages 11+:       Monday-Friday, 2-5pm

Fees:               \$89 per week (July 3-7: \$72) or \$35 per day.

Dates:	June 5-9	July 17-21
	June 12-16	July 24-28
	June 19-23	July 31-August 4
	July 3-7	August 7-11
	July 10-14	August 14-18

## Levels:

**Red:** Ages 4-8. Are beginners or with limited playing experience. This program is based on 36' *Quick Start* tennis method.

**Orange:** Ages 8-10. Are beginners/advanced beginners playing “short court” tennis. This program is based on 60' *Quick Start* tennis methods.

**Green:** Ages 11+. These juniors are just starting to play full-court tennis.

**Yellow:** Ages 11+. These are juniors who desire to, or play for, middle school teams, and are starting to play tournaments.

## Information:

Please call Brian Tennery (Director of Athletics) or Jared Combest (Head Tennis Professional), 972-869-1503.

## Complimentary Clinic

We offer or *complimentary* Saturday Family Funday, every 12-1pm, for ages 8 & under. Kiddos, bring your parents, and learn to play and practice together!

## Important Instructional Information

1. Private lesson no shows and same day cancellations are charged 100%.
2. For information or registration, please contact the professional staff, at 972-869-1503.

## Children's Birthday Parties

We offer tennis birthday parties for children of all ages and abilities. The parties include 1-½ hours of tennis instruction and games. The cost is \$20 per child. Loaner racquets are available.

## Ball Machines & Ball Machine Club

A ball machine may be reserved and rented by the hour, at a rate of \$15; or you may join the “Ball Machine Club”, and pay \$135 for unlimited use by the whole family.

## Guest Fees & Policies

Members should report their guests to the tennis staff, if they want the guest fee to be billed to them. If they want the guest to pay the guest fee they should ask their guest to report in to the tennis pro shop, let the staff know they are paying, and pay the guest fee by cash or credit card. Guests may play at Hackberry Creek no more than twice per month.

## Guest Fees

\$10 Daily

### ClubCorp Club Member Guest Policy

Members of other ClubCorp clubs are required to pay the regular guest fee when playing tennis at Hackberry Creek C.C.

### One Member Guest Policies

A One Member must call the ClubCorp “Club Line” anytime he or she wishes to play at another ClubCorp club. The “Club Line” staff will call the club at which the One Member wishes to play, reserve a court, and confirm that reservation with the One Member.

If a One Member wishes to join an existing reservation, at another ClubCorp club, the One Member must call the “Club Line” so that he or she may be added to the reservation.

The One Member will not pay a guest fee, but will be charged any applicable indoor tennis fees.

## Team Guest Rules

Guests, at 3.5 level may play 1 season on a Hackberry team, by paying a \$50 guest fee. Guests, who are 4.0+, may play unlimited seasons, for a \$50 guest fee per season, per team.

## Play of the Match

By Brian Tennery

Here are some basics for the new player, as well as some difficult issues for more advanced players.

### COURT INFORMATION:

#### Names/Locations of the Lines:

**Baseline:** Parallel to, and farthest from the net. You must stand behind this line to serve.

**Center Service Mark:** The center of the baseline, perpendicular to the net. You must stand to the right or left of this mark to serve to the appropriate service boxes.

**Service line:** The line parallel to, and closest to the net. It's one of the 3 lines that make up the service box.

Center Service Line: The perpendicular line running to the net, in the center of the court.

Singles Sideline: The line parallel to, and closest to the center service line. It's one of the 3 lines that make up the service box.

Doubles Sideline: The line parallel to the singles sideline, and farther away from the center service line.

Note: Players serve into the same service box for both singles and doubles. However, singles is the narrow court, and the alleys (The 4' 6" area between the singles/doubles side lines.) are added for doubles.

### Dimensions:

Net height:	3' center/3' 6" post
Length of the court:	78'
Width of the court-doubles:	36'
Width of the court-singles:	27'
Distance from net to Service line:	21'
Distance from Service line to baseline:	18'

## PRIOR TO THE MATCH:

Try to show up 30 minutes early and do some cardio, stretch, and in the case of a team match, hit a few balls with your partner. Try to avoid walking on the court "cold", and you'll avoid some injuries.

## DEFAULTS:

The USTA has a 15-minute default rule, and it is used in team and tournament matches. In a team environment as example: If warm up is to begin at 9:45am, the match to begin at 10:00am, and a player shows up at 10:16am, her team is defaulted.

## WARM UP:

Players may begin warm up at the service line, rallying soft groundstrokes, and move to the baseline; or just start at the baseline. When warming up for doubles 2 balls should be in play at once, with players hitting straight ahead. After players have rallied from the baseline, two players should come up and hit volleys and overheads, and then the other players do the same. The same format may be used for singles.

All warm up serves should be taken before the 1st point. "Play shall be continuous", per the USTA. Players serve cross-court, opponents catching the serves, and serving them back. Please try to avoid the ever-popular FBI (first ball in). This is a great way to damage your shoulder.

## WHO SERVES 1ST:

One of the players should ask the opponent(s) to call it "up or down" or "P or D", and spin her racquet. The player(s) who wins the spin has the following 3 choices: 1. To serve or receive; 2. choose a side of the court to start playing on; or 3. let her opponent(s) choose. Electing #3 drives people crazy.

## KEEPING SCORE:

It's the responsibility of the server to call the score before each point, but all players should know the score. If an opponent is serving, and fails to call the score prior to serving, the player or her partner should do so.

If a player has no points she has "Love". The 1st point is "15", the 2nd "30", the 3rd point "40", and if a player wins a 4th point its game. Should the score become "40 all" its called deuce and the player must win 2 points in a row, after deuce, to win the game. If the server wins the 1st point after deuce it's "ad in", and "ad out" for the receiver. If the player with the "ad" point wins the next point its game. If she loses, it returns to deuce.

Players must win 6 games to win a set, and win by 2. (6-0, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, or 7-5) If the score reaches 6 games all, a 12-point tiebreaker is played, and the winner of the tiebreaker wins the set.

If players can't agree on the score, they should revert back to the last score that they can agree.

### TIEBREAKERS:

Players serve in the same order as you served in the set. The 1st player serves 1 point to the deuce court (left).

Thereafter, each player serves 2 points, ad court (right) then deuce court. Change sides every 6 points. The first player or team to reach 7 points (win by 2) is the winner. After the tiebreaker, change sides and the person who served 2nd in the last set serves 1st in the next set.

### SERVES:

Players have 2 serves, each point, in which to put the ball into play. If a player misses the 1st serve it's a "fault". If a player misses the 2nd serve it's a "double fault" and the receiving team wins that point. (Each player serves one full game at a time.)

If a player's serve hits the top of the net and goes over, it's a "let", and the receiving team should say "let". (Any player may call a service let.) If the ball then lands in the proper service box, the server gets to take that serve over. (If it was the 1st serve, she gets 2 more serves.) If the ball didn't fall into the proper box, it's a "fault", and should be so called.

When playing doubles, decide who will serve 1st and that will determine your serving order for the set. A player serves an entire game when it's her turn. Players may change a team's service order after each set.

Players may not step on or over the baseline prior to serving, and this includes standing to the left of the "center service mark" (if a player is serving to the court on the left) or to the right of the "center service mark" (if a player is serving to the right). These are called "foot faults" and are the same as a fault.

## RETURNING SERVE IN DOUBLES:

Players must decide who will return serve from each side, and that will be where the players return serve for the entire set.

## LINE CALLS:

No point should be replayed because a player is not sure whether a ball was in or out.

A player should not enlist the aid of a spectator in making a call.

The ball must land for a call to be made, even if the player is outside the court. A player must be able to see a space between the ball and the line to call a ball out.

If a player is unsure of the call, she may ask her opponents whether or not they saw if it was in or out. If no one is sure, the player who hit the ball receives the point.

If a player sees that her shot lands out, it is her responsibility to call it out, even if her opponent plays it. The only time a player is not allowed to call her own ball out is on the 1st serve. This is so players don't penalize their opponents who might have hit a return of serve winner.

In doubles the player at the service line should call the service line and the player returning serve should call the

center service line and singles sideline, when their opponents are serving. Once the ball is in play, the player closest to the ball, or the player who can look "down a line", should make the call.

If a player(s) calls "fault" at the same time that the serve is returned, the opponent(s) fail to play it, and subsequently the player(s) realize that the serve was good, a "let" is played, and the server receives 2 serves. If the server played and won the point, the point counts.

### WHAT'S MY JOB?

Knowing what your initial job is, BEFORE the point begins makes all the difference in the world when playing doubles. Here are the basic doubles positions and what your job is:

#### Server:

The server stands halfway between the center service mark and the singles sideline. The server shouldn't feel rush, and should serve when ready. The serve can go down the center service line, wide, or at the player; but serving at the player will keep the returner from having any angles. After the serve goes in, the server needs to concentrate on keeping the ball cross court, at the feet of his or her opponent, away from the closer player.

### Server's Partner:

The server's partner stands in the middle of the service box, halfway between the net and the service line. This player watches the racquet of the returner. If the racquet goes outside, toward the alley, the server's partner should move toward the alley. If the racquet goes inside toward the center of the court, the server's partner should stay put. Any ball hit to the server's partner, inside or outside, should be volleyed to the service line "T".

### Returner:

The returner stands behind the baseline, adjacent to the singles sideline. The return of server should be hit cross court, away from the net player, in the direction of the server, as far as the server's feet. Wide returns by the returner may result in a wide return, and potential winner, by the server.

### Returner's Partner:

This is the "Hot Seat" player, and the most important player on the court. He or she stands 3' inside the service line and 3' from the center service line, facing the server's partner.

If the returner makes a mistake and returns the ball to the partner of the server, and that player hits the ball at the "Hot Seat" player (HSP), the HSP volleys into the open court, toward the server.

If the returner hits cross-court toward the server, the HSP moves toward the singles sideline, following the ball, and again, if the ball is hit to the HSP, the volley should be hit to the service line "T".

Throughout the point, the HSP slides toward the center of the court, if the ball is hit to his or her partner, or to the sideline, if the ball is hit to the server.

### BAD LINE CALLS:

Here are some ideas for dealing with "bad calls":

- 1st time: A player should say nothing. Everyone makes mistakes, and there is an initial presumption of honesty.
- 2nd time: A player should say, "Are you sure of your call?"
- 3rd time: A player should say, "I believe my shot was in, would you please show me the mark where the ball landed?"
- 4th time: Gun play.

## SINGLES POSITIONING:

Serving: The player stands 3' to the right or left of the "center service mark".

Receiving: The player stands behind the baseline to return serve, and just inside the singles sideline.

## DOUBLES POSITIONING:

Serving: The player stands  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between the "center service mark" and the singles sideline.

Receiving: The player stands behind the baseline, and just outside the singles sideline.

Ser. Partner: The player stands  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between the net and the Service line, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between the singles sideline and the center service line.

Ret. Partner: The player stands 3' from the intersection of the Service line and the center Service line. This is referred to as the "hot seat".

## ODDITIES:

- \* Players may not reach over the net to hit a volley. However, a player may follow through over the net, providing she doesn't touch the net with her racquet or body.
- \* If a ball is hit very wide to a player, she may hit around the net, and the ball doesn't have to go as high as the net.
- \* If the ball lands in a player's court, and bounces up and hits a lighting fixture, the ball is dead, and the player's opponent(s) win the point.
- \* If a ball lands in a player's court, and due to excessive backspin it goes back over to the other side, the player's opponent(s) win the point. However, this is the one time a player is allowed to reach over the net, providing she doesn't touch the net, and hit the ball.
- \* "Double hits" and "carries" are legal providing the player makes only one attempt to strike the ball.
- \* The decision as to whether a ball was hit after the 1st or 2nd bounce is solely that of the person hitting the ball. A player may question but not make the call.

- \* If a player is hit by a ball, on the fly, regardless of whether the player is standing in the court, out of the court, or in Ohio, it is the other player(s) point.
- \* If a serve, on the fly, regardless of where a player is standing hits a player, it is the other player's point.
- \* Any player may call a "let" if a ball rolls across the court during the point, if the player feels that it is a physical or visual distraction.
- \* There is, however, an "imminent winner" rule, which means that "lets" shouldn't be called if a player is preparing to hit what is perceived by all players on the court to be a winning overhead.
- \* Touching the net with the body or racquet, when the ball is in play, constitutes the loss of the point, and the player must call it on herself.
- \* In women's tennis, a 10-minute rest period is allowed between the 2nd and 3rd sets. Players in a team match may only be coached during that time.

## ETIQUETTE:

- \* When claiming a court, a player should enter quietly, by the nearest gate. A player should enter only after the point being played has been completed. A player should always close a gate after she enters or exits a court.
- \* If a ball rolls onto a player's court from an adjoining court, the player should wait until the players on that court have finished their point, and the player should tell them she's sending the ball back, and hit it so that they can catch it on 1 or 2 bounces.
- \* If a player hits a ball onto an adjoining court, she should wait until the players on that court have finished their point, and then ask for the ball back.
- \* Players should keep their voices low and full court conversations to a minimum.
- \* Players should never yell across one or more courts to call to a friend. Please walk around.
- \* Players should refrain from abusive language, racquet throwing, or behavior that will distract other players or damage the facility.

## THE BALL:

What's a good ball? If a ball is "good", you can drop the ball from shoulder height, and it will bounce up to your waist. Play with good balls and you'll have more fun, and play better.

"Regular Felt" balls should be used on Har-Tru (clay) and on cushion courts. "Heavy Duty" balls should only be used on non-cushioned "hard" courts.

## **Top Ten Doubles Tactics**

By Brian Tennery

Singles is checkers and doubles is chess. Doubles tactics are unique, and the shots necessary to succeed using those tactics are specific to doubles, not the game of tennis. The largest encumbrance to succeeding in doubles is being forced out of one's comfort zone. Most players would prefer to be comfortable losing, rather than uncomfortable winning.

If you're consistently winning the majority of your matches, and moving up to higher level teams every season or two, you may want to stop reading right now. But...if you've reached a plateau, and the difference in winning or losing a match has evolved into who is better or worse on a given day, then it may be time for a fresh approach to the game of doubles.

## **10. Know your area of responsibility!**

Each player is responsible for ½ a court, from the net to the baseline, and from the center serviceline to the doubles sideline. Each player decides if he or she is hitting the shot on his or her side, and if not, tells his or her partner to take it. Don't expect your partner to be psychic.

## **9. Know your job!**

Before the point begins, know your job: The *server* should serve at the returner. The *returner* should chip or punch the return to the server's feet. The *server's partner* should watch the returner's racquet, and if it goes outside, move outside to cover the alley; but if the racquet goes inside, stay where he or she is, and look to poach. The *returner's partner (Hot Seat)* should initially face the net player, and move side to side, following the ball, changing who he or she is defending against.

## **8. The Hot Seat is huge!**

As the partner of the returner, you stand 3' inside the serviceline and 3' away from the center serviceline, facing the net player. Defend against the server's net player first, then, assuming that your partner returns cross-court, slide over in front of the server. Move side to side following the ball.

**7. Step outside the hitter and you'll know who covers the middle!**

If the hitter is in front of you, step outside of the hitter before he or she hits the ball, and you won't be passed outside, and you'll pull your partner to the middle.

**6. Inside balls inside!**

Whether a volley or a groundstroke, balls hit between you and your partner should be hit between your opponents. Outside balls may be hit outside or inside.

**5. Make your first volley in every point!**

Calm yourself and concentrate. Be ready to volley before the point begins. Move through the ball, not to the ball.

**4. Get your first serve in!**

The first serve is always more impressive, and makes the returner more tentative. Don't worry about forcing an error by your opponent. Serve at the returner, and force a weak return, allowing yourself an easy trip to the net.

**3. Get your return of serve in the court, cross-court, at your opponent's feet.**

Step and split before the serve, and punch the return. The game is won at the net, not on a big swinging return. Powerful returns produce high balls, which are easily volleyed.

**2. “Get there firstest with the mostest!”  
Bedford Forrest.**

A few points may be accumulated at the baseline, but points are won at the net. Follow your serve and your return to the net, and be the team that's there first.

**1. SPLIT STEP!**

Whether you're in route to the net, or already there, split step as your opponent starts his or her swing. It's the single most important tactic in the game; and it gets you on the balls of your feet, your racquet up, ready to move through the next shot, and your head in the game! Try to imagine that you are using a springboard from gymnastics, where you split and spring forward through the next shot.

## Why Play Tennis?

By Brian Tennery

- #10: Tennis players wear waaaay cooler apparel than golfers.
- #9: You can get a great workout in an hour.
- #8: 3 balls, a racquet, a pair of shorts, a T-shirt, and a pair of shoes and you're ready to go.
- #7: Tennis players run. Golfers ride.
- #6: Tennis is dynamic sport that challenges player vs. player as well as player vs. self.
- #5: Lots of options: Singles, doubles, triples; men's, women's, mixed; social or competitive.
- #4: Tennis players are generally smarter and more well rounded.
- #3: You can play indoors/outdoors, on many surfaces, 12 months a year.
- #2: Children who play tennis get better grades, are better behaved, and have college aspirations.
- #1: Tennis players are more charming, witty, and appealing to members of the opposite sex!