

Welcome to the Team - Tennis Rules

The world according to Captain Bill “Bubba” Bussey

Welcome to the tennis team. I’m excited about this season and where this team can go.

The fact you are on this team speaks volumes to how I feel about you as a person, and a tennis player! I also take it as a complement to me you agreed to play. I want to outline how I like to conduct a team so you and I will be on the same page.

Captain:

I will rule the team with an iron fist! I’ve tried democracies, and they usually end up much like our current government; confused, broke and out of sync.

Seriously, I will seek your input, and then I will make the call based on what is best for the team. Asking for input, then doing something different is not a license to complain. I’ll seek input, make a call, and then ask you to support it 100%. I believe in running a well-organized “tight ship”. The fact you are getting this letter is an example of that.

Communication:

E-mail will be our primary source of communications. I will back it up with an automated calling service (calling post), and from time to time, text as an extra. If you are not hearing from me...check in. I will error to the side of too much communication.

When you get an e-mail, please confirm it, with a quick reply: i.e.: 10-4, or got it.

Goals:

Our goal is simple. 1. Win, 2. Have fun. If 1 is followed 2 will follow. We are a serious or “competitive” team. We want to get to state and win it also. Please check the state dates and locations at www.alabamata.com. Let me know right away if you cannot make the state tournament.

Line-ups:

I will have line-ups to you by Monday, for matches the following Sunday. Sometimes even 2 weeks in advance so you can plan your life also. But keep in mind things happen,

and even if you are not scheduled to play, you may get a last minute call. We will work though it best as possible.

Game Day Operation:

Line-ups will be e-mailed by Monday. On Sunday I or a Captain on the ground (C.O.G.), Will handle line-ups with the other captain and get us on the court and playing on time. They will also handle any problems. I ask you to be there...loose, ready to go by 1:45 PM. Given different warm up routines, please back time accordingly. The COG or I will have the scores posted no later than Monday, hopefully by Sunday night. Remember home team supplies the balls for all courts.

Multiple teams:

I, like some of you play or captain multiple teams. Which is fine. That is why I must be organized and ahead of the curve. Priorities? Well always this team of course. What about State if 2 teams make it? I have found this is pretty rare, and they have a way of working their self out. If it does happen we will decide which and what teams need players, vs. standbys, and make it work the best way possible. But I haven't seen it a problem that much.

Changing or moving matches:

I don't like to move matches at all, either for them or us. Some teams take advantage of this WAY too much. Everyone knows when the matches are when the schedule comes out. So I want to stick to it as close as possible.

BoBo No No's:

These are the things I strongly dislike, so help me avoid these, so my tennis game, and blood pressure will not suffer.

1. *Sunday mornings* "I can't make it call". Things happen...got it. But I've found 11-12 noon can become a monster. I try to attend Church, so I'm asking if at all possible to give me a safe haven zone here.
2. *Sharing team info with others.* We all have friends on other teams. We must be careful to not give out who are in line-ups or are or not playing for a certain week. In a very competitive environment, one court can make a difference. Let's make our opponents earn every point and not give them any info that could effect a court assignment to help them get a better match up. Lose lips sink ships.....
3. *Bad Sportsmanship.* Please conduct yourself on court in a matter than will honor yourself, your family and this team. I understand passion, competition, and stress.... Got it. But bad language, racquet throwing, ect...will not be part of our

team plan. Gator fan or not, think of how Tim Tebow or Kurt Warner carry themselves. Think of them as an example. If we were all as good as we'd like to be..... we would not be playing in this league!!

Thanks for being part of the team! If you every have a problem or question let's handle it early on, and not let it become a problem. Please free to call me any time. Let's have "big" fun!