

Courts & Cocktails FAQ & League Guidelines (Q&A)

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• **Q: How does Courts & Cocktails differ from traditional leagues like Suncoast Tennis League or USTA?**

• **A:** We prioritize social connection, neighborhood camaraderie, and low-stress play over rigid tournament pressure. Matches feature timed round-robin play, built-in post-match social time (Captains receive a \$50 cocktail gift card each season), VIP mixers, a mobile app hub, and charity integration.

• **Q: How do team ratings and player eligibility work?**

• **A:** Players self-rate using our official Player Ratings & Substitute Eligibility Guide(<https://www.courts-and-cocktails.com/rules-by-law-documents>), referencing standard NTRP guidelines (e.g., 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+). Teams are formed within compatible skill tiers to maintain balanced, competitive, and fun matches across subdivisions.

• **Q: What is the roster size requirement for a neighborhood team?**

• **A:** Each subdivision team roster requires a minimum of 8 players (typically 8–12 players recommended to accommodate travel and schedule flexibility).

• **Q: Can I join if my neighborhood does not have a full team?**

• **A:** Yes! Players without a full community roster can register as Free Agents through our Become A Member(<https://www.courts-and-cocktails.com/become-a-member>) portal. We match free agents with neighboring subdivisions needing additional players or substitutes.

• **Q: How do substitutions and sub eligibility work for matches?**

• **A:** Registered team substitutes must hold an active Social & Serve Membership and meet the rating criteria for that match flight to ensure fair play. Complete substitute rules are outlined in our downloadable eligibility guide.

• **Q: Where are matches played, and how are courts secured?**

• **A:** Matches are hosted at neighborhood subdivision courts and local tennis facilities across

Lakewood Ranch and surrounding areas. Team Captains submit an online Host Facility & COI Request(<https://www.courts-and-cocktails.com/rules-bylaw-documents>) so the league can provide an official Certificate of Insurance directly to the HOA/facility board.

• **Q: What happens in the event of rain or inclement weather?**

• **A:** Captains coordinate weather calls via the Courts & Cocktails Mobile App. Rain-out matches can be rescheduled during designated league makeup windows agreed upon by both team captains.

• **Q: What is included with the \$135/month Social & Serve Membership?**

• **A:** Full 6-month season match play, official welcome swag bag (koozie & car magnet), mobile app & website portal access, \$50 team drink tab credit for Captains, entry to 4 annual hangout parties, free entry to our annual Tennis Charity Event, end-of-season Championship Gala access, and member store/local merchant discounts.

• **Q: What is the match format and how long do matches last?**

• **A:** Matches run for a fast-paced, timed 1.5-hour round-robin format designed to maximize playing time while keeping schedules predictable for post-match socializing.

• **Q: How are match scores recorded and leaderboards updated?**

• **A:** Team Captains submit official match scores directly through the Courts & Cocktails Mobile App or the online Member Clubhouse Portal immediately following the match. Standings update live on the club leaderboard.

• **Q: What should I bring to match days?**

• **A:** Bring your racquet, tennis attire/shoes, water bottle, and your mobile device with your digital membership card ready. Host subdivisions provide match tennis balls and coordinate post-match cocktail/refreshment social time.

• **Q: Can non-playing spouses or friends attend social events and watch parties?**

• **A:** Yes! While league court play is reserved for active Social & Serve Members, guests and spouses are always welcome to cheer at matches, join watch parties, and purchase guest tickets for our End-of-Season Gala and charity tournaments.

- **Q: How does the Courts & Cocktails Referral Program work?**

- **A:** Refer a new Neighborhood Team Captain who registers an active 8-player roster, and you'll receive one full month of your membership completely free!

- **Q: How do I access local merchant discounts and member store savings?**

- **A:** Simply show your digital Social & Serve Membership Card in the Courts & Cocktails Mobile App at participating local partners to unlock 10% savings, or log into the Member Portal to automatically receive 5% off online store gear and exclusive monthly raffle entries.