Rules Committee Meeting - Mercantile Atrium

4/21/17

Present: Tisa Dorsa (Chairperson), Sarah Sklar C Team, Kelly Buhlmann (F), Dorothy Rodegerdts (G Green), Julie Matthews (G Blue), Diane McDonald (H) and Karen Beshears (I).

Absent: Marlaine Bartel (J).

Notes:

1. Meeting was called to discuss the following LOTC City League Rule: If a player changes teams, normal procedure is to move a player up/down one team. Exceptions may occur and they will be addressed by the Team Review Committee individually. Players must accept team placement; however they do have the right to appeal the Team Review Committee's decision by contacting the Resolution Committee within one week of that decision. A final decision will be made by the Resolution Committee within one week of receiving the appeal.
2. The LOTC City League Board is proposing to the Rules Committee to amend above rule to read as follows: If a player changes teams, normal procedure is to move a player up/down one team. Exceptions may occur and they will be addressed by the Team Review Committee individually. Players have the right to appeal the Team Review Committee’s decision by contacting the Resolution Committee within one week of that decision. A final decision will be made by the Resolution Committee within one week of receiving the appeal.
3. The reason for the new recommendation to change the rule was stated as: The rule has been very difficult to enforce and if a rule isn’t being enforced, we shouldn’t have it

Discussion:

Kelly and Eloise as participants in the original discussions and passage of the rule in question gave extensive background information about why the rule was instituted.

1. The underlying goal is to have guidelines which benefit the LOTC City League which will stand the test of time and will have a positive impact on the LO League as a whole.
2. Individual challenges and difficulties with one or a small group of players should not give cause to change a ruling to accommodate a small group which could ultimately hamper the league in total
3. The rule was passed to help insure that players on teams would represent the skill level of each team and there would not be a wide array of skill differences on a team.
4. The rule would help keep blocks of players from choosing to remain on a lower ranked team, while less skilled players are moved to a higher level where they would have less of an opportunity to enjoy success.
5. The importance of the Captain’s responsibility in representing the best interests of each of her players in end of year meetings was discussed extensively. It is the Captain’s responsibility to do this for EACH player and to also fully inform and explain to all players the Appeal Process which is in place to question her placement on a team which is the result of the Captains’ Meetings.

Also, it was noted that an error on the 2016 May form which team members signed to “re-up” for the next year was most likely the reason why the committee found it difficult to enforce the rule. "Do you want to be considered for movement?". This question was not intended to be on the form. The Appeals Process (if well understood and explained) should take care of addressing a players belief or desire for movement if it differs from where they were placed at the Team Review Committee.

Other Discussion:

The purposes of City League were discussed: To enjoy tennis in a competitive environment and to build and maintain friendships

Concerns were expressed about players who are asked to move down a level and the emotional impact that creates.

Concerns were expressed that individuals or partnerships may choose to leave City League rather than accept being moved to another team.

A vote was taken on the proposed rule change.

The Rules Committee unanimously voted to NOT accept the rule change, but to keep it as originally written, but emphasize to all Captains that players must be given complete information about the Appeals Process and the Committee’s willingness to hear concerns and engage in the process. The Committee would also like to see if the revision of the Sign up sheet (removal of the question regarding movement) will make a difference.

Dorothy Rodegerdts

Note Taker