

RULE BOOK

1. General Rules

Tournament Registration Players must register before the registration deadline for each tournament. Late entries are not accepted unless explicitly permitted by the organizer.

Featured Tournaments Certain tournaments throughout the season are designated as Featured events, in which all points earned are doubled. Featured tournaments are not announced in advance of the season and may be revealed at any time by the organizer.

Minimum Entries to Run a Category Beginner requires at least 4 players (round robin) or 3 teams. All other categories require a minimum of 3 teams. If minimums are not met, the category may be cancelled or merged at the organizer's discretion.

Walk-Over (W.O.) Once a match is called, the absent team has 15 minutes to appear on the court. Failure to appear within this window results in a walk-over loss for the absent team.

Conduct All players are expected to maintain sportsmanlike conduct. The organizer reserves the right to disqualify any player or team for unsportsmanlike behavior.

2. Categories

Beginner For players with no prior competitive tournament experience. Focus on fun, learning, and introducing players to organized competition.

Intermediate Open to unranked players who have some competitive experience but do not yet hold an ITF ranking.

Advanced For players ranked 1001 or lower on the ITF ranking (e.g., 1001, 1500, 2000…).

Open For players ranked in the top 1000 of the ITF ranking.

Mixed Mixed gender teams. All rules and format follow the same structure as the corresponding gender categories.

> **Category Placement:** A player's ITF ranking is checked live before each tournament. Current ranking determines eligibility — not career-high ranking.

Obs.: Players can play higher categories (e.g. someone ranked 1500 itf can play the open)

3. Tournament Formats

3–5 Teams — Round Robin All teams play in a single round robin group. Every team plays against every other team. No knockout stage — final standings are determined by round robin results alone.

6–7 Teams — Group + Final Teams are split into 2 groups. The top 2 teams from each group advance to the final. Applies to all categories.

Seeding & Group Assignment When groups are uneven in size, the seeded team (based on current ranking) is placed in the smaller group.

Tiebreaker (Group Stage) In the event of tied records within a group, tiebreakers are applied in this order: (1) head-to-head result, (2) set difference, (3) game difference, (4) tie break match.

4. Match Rules

Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced & Mixed All matches are played as one standard set. At 6-6, a tie-break is played to determine the set winner.

Open Category Matches are best of 3 sets. The third set, if required, is played as a super tie-break (first to 10 points, win by 2).

Scoring Standard beach tennis scoring rules apply unless modified by the organizer prior to the event.

> **Note:** Match format and rules may be adjusted by the organizer depending on circumstances such as weather, court availability, or time constraints. Any changes will be communicated to players before the tournament begins.

5. Points System

Fixed points apply equally to all categories. Featured tournaments award 2× points. Points are earned based on final placement — not per match win.

Round Robin Format (3–5 teams)

Stage / Result	Regular	Featured (2×)
Participation	10	20
5th place	30	60
3rd and 4th place	50	100
Runner-Up (2nd place)	80	160
Winner (1st place)	120	240

Group + Knockout Format (6–7 teams)

Stage / Result	Regular	Featured (2×)
Participation	10	20
Quarter Final	30	60
Semi Final	50	100
Runner-Up (2nd place)	80	160
Winner (1st place)	120	240

Points are individual. Each player on a team earns the same points independently, which count toward their personal ranking.

6. Season Ranking

Every California Tournament Counts
Every Sand Circuit tournament played in California counts. There is no cap on results.
Individual Ranking - Rankings are tracked per player individually, not per partnership. Changing partners does not reset or affect accumulated points.

7. Promotion & Relegation

Automatic Promotion - A player who wins 4 consecutive tournaments in the same category will be automatically promoted to the next category for their next event.

ITF Ranking Changes - A player whose ITF ranking changes in a way that affects their category eligibility must move to the appropriate category. Ranking is checked live before each tournament.

Sandbagging Policy - Playing in a category below your skill level is not permitted. The organizer reserves the right to move any player to a more appropriate category at any time, regardless of their registered category.

Dual Category Restriction - A player may not sign up for two categories in the same tournament, with the exception of a gender category and the mixed category simultaneously.a