

ROUND ROBIN PLUS SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION: The “plus” system is a pilot project intended to promote greater parity in our round robins. This division is only within a round robin. At every level of play here in PebbleCreek, a common complaint is that round robins have players of vastly different skills. This system attempts to address that complaint by breaking each rating into sections.

Each rating will be divided into two sections, “regular” and “plus”. According to CAC guidelines a minimum of 2 courts must be filled to be considered a round robin. To best meet that requirement both the regular and/or plus group would need at least 10 players identified at that level.

Due to having fewer players available, there will not be a plus system for the summer season.

Participation in the “plus” category is purely optional and based on merit. The number of plus players will be determined by 1) the size of the original round robin, and 2) The number of players who wish to play in the plus category. Players who qualify must commit to playing round robins for this system to work.

QUALIFICATION PROCESS: All players are welcome to try out for the plus category. Players may choose not to compete and remain in the regular category of their round robin. It is recommended that a player competes for a plus category only if they feel they are in the top 1/3 of their past round robins.

There are two ways a player can move into the plus category of their round robin:

Ladder play: Where appropriate, a small number of players at the top of their rating in ladder may be offered spots in the plus without the need for further qualification.

Ghost doubles: The remaining spots will be determined through a ghost doubles competition. Players competing will play in a mini tournament. See the club website for information about ghost doubles. Players will play up to 8 games, using rally scoring to 11 with matches determined by random draw. The top records will fill the available spots.

Sample scenario:

In women’s 3.0 there are normally 60 players who play round robins. If 4 players from ladder are offered the first 4 plus spots, and 20 players enter the qualification tournament, there would be at least 6 spots available in the plus section. Each player would play against 8 randomly drawn opponents to determine the remaining plus players.

Qualification Dates: Qualification takes place 2 times per year, early November, and late January, halfway through the winter season. Players who qualify in January will be additions; November players do not need to requalify at that time; however, each fall the process begins again with all players needing to qualify.

FAQ

Q: Does this affect my rating?

A: No, a 3.0 before will still be a 3.0. The plus is only used for round robins. However, round robin players looking to increase their club rating should be in the plus part of their round robin if they want to try advancing using the Pebblecreek Club Rating System.

Q: What if I don't like playing ghost doubles?

A: You can always choose to stay in the regular round robin at your level. Alternatively, if you play ladder and advance to the top in relation to others of your rating, you have the possibility of getting into the plus group that way.

Q: Why do I have to apply every year?

A: To keep the plus group as strong as possible, we recognize that players may, due to age or injury, lose some of their skills. Qualifying each year enables the plus group to start fresh every season thus preserving parity.

Q: Why is ghost double being used rather than doubles play or observation.

A: Although not exactly doubles play, ghost doubles is an entirely objective measure of rank ordering players in a competitive environment. Playing doubles or trusting observers inherently leads to complaints of subjectivity or bad luck.

Q: Why are you asking players to "commit" to playing in the plus system?

A: Depending on the size of the group, there may only be 10 players identified. If less than 8 sign up in any given week, then the round robin cannot be held.

Q: What if the plus system takes away too many players from the regular round robin.

A: This will not be an issue in those robins that are already large. For the smaller round robins we will simply revert back to the regular only system if either group is too small. We do not want to negatively impact our regular round robins in favor of a plus system.