

## Key Changes to Doubles League Play for 2024-2025 Seasons

Many players have asked for changes to the doubles league to ensure that more of their league matches are competitive throughout the season. The PSRA board has spent the last several years analyzing data and considering scenarios for improving and sustaining balance and are ready to move forward with some exciting changes for the 2024-2025 seasons. Please note that all of these changes are for doubles only and that singles league play is not affected.

### High Level Summary of the Changes

- Both doubles league seasons will be organized around skill groups and not age groups as we observed that the age based leagues had the most unbalanced teams and outcomes.
- Skill levels will be structured into 4 tiers, each with around 10 balanced teams which will ensure a more equal number of matches for each team every season.
- Tiers will be restructured at the end of each season such that teams will dynamically move up or down based on their performance further ensuring competitive play throughout the season.

### Details for Fall Season

Fall season age level classifications will be replaced with skill level classifications similar to Winter seasons in the past with further enhancements described below.

The old static classifications of A, Super-B, B, and C will be replaced by dynamic classifications of Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. We are looking to limit each Tier to a maximum of 10 teams. The new classifications are dynamic as teams will have the opportunity to move up to the next higher tier or down to the next lower tier based on their performance.

- Tier 1 will essentially consist of what was the A Doubles league (8 teams this past season, with the capacity to add 2 more).
- Tier 2 will initially comprise the top 10 ranked teams that had played at the Super-B level last year.
- Tier 3 will initially comprise the next lower ranked teams from the Super-B level last year (about 4 teams) and the top ranked teams that had played at the B level (about 6 teams.)
- Tier 4 will initially comprise the lower ranked teams from the B level (about 4 teams) and the rest of the teams from C level.

We say “initially” because we will dynamically adjust the tiers each subsequent season based on each team’s performance in the most recently concluded season.

- The bottom 2 teams from Tier 2 will move to Tier 3.
- The top 2 teams (playoff finalists) from Tier 3 will move to Tier 2.
- The bottom 2 teams from Tier 3 will move to Tier 4.
- The top 2 teams (playoff finalists) from Tier 4 will move to Tier 3.

After these season adjustments, the leagues will again be balanced in skill levels and nearly equal in the number of teams.

In addition, we will continue with the Mixed Doubles League composed of Tier 1 and Tier 2 players; and the Women’s Doubles League.

### **The weekly schedule for the Fall leagues is now as follows:**

<b>Singles</b>	<b>Doubles</b>
Mon <b>3.0; 3.5</b>	<b>Mixed Tier 1/2</b>
Tue <b>4.0</b>	<b>Tier 2; Women’s</b>
Wed <b>5.0; Open</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>
Thu <b>4.5; Women’s 3.0 &amp; 4.0</b>	<b>Tier 1; Tier 4</b>

### **Here are some of the key dates for the upcoming season:**

- Team roster submissions are due **Friday September 6, 2024**
- The annual PSRA meeting for Professionals, Club Representatives and (especially invited this year) Team Captains, is on **Tuesday September 10, 2024** at the Cynwyd Club.
- Schedules will be posted by **Wednesday September 11, 2024**.
- League Play will commence on **Wednesday September 18, 2024** with playoffs (as usual) the first 2 weeks of December.

We know that these are not small changes but we are optimistic that they will better meet the needs and objectives of more players and continue to deliver the great league experience that PSRA members expect and deserve. We are very open to your thoughts and feedback now and throughout the upcoming season.