

MIAA Rule 80.1.3 ---Tennis Line-Up Rule

RULE 80.1.3 APPLICATION:

- The first task is to determine, by legitimate documented singles ladder challenge matches (defined in the rule above) conducted between ALL individuals on the roster, who the two best players on the team are.
- Those 2 players are automatically slotted into the 1st and 2nd singles positions
- The 3rd singles player may be ANYONE (a.k.a. “representative”) other than the top 2 players. (It COULD be, but does NOT HAVE TO BE the 3rd best player on the team).
- The next task is to determine the best doubles teams, again by legitimate documented DOUBLES ladder challenges between various configurations of remaining players (other than the 2 players already designated as #1 singles and #2 singles).

The line-up has now been set, with all conditions of Rule 80.1.3 satisfied:

- The best player as determined by legitimate (recorded/documented) singles ladder challenges is playing #1 singles
- The 2nd best player as determined by legitimate (recorded/documented) singles ladder challenges is playing #2 singles
- The #1 doubles team has “earned” that position in the line-up by a legitimate (recorded/documented) challenge match over the team listed as the 2nd doubles team.
- The player in the #3 singles is “representative” (a.k.a. any otherwise eligible team member with a uniform and a racquet.)

DISCUSSION POINT 1:

In attempting to identify what appears to be a fundamental misconception, it is the misconception that the doubles teams are determined automatically by the individual’s position on a singles ladder. The misconception is that the #3 and #4 best players as determined by a singles ladder challenge MUST automatically be identified as the 1st doubles team. That is NOT the correct interpretation of the rule. There is a significantly different skill set for successful doubles teams. The #3 and #4 ranked singles players may be a dysfunctional doubles team (not have complementary skills). The rule states that the doubles teams MUST also be played in the order of their ability. There is no other way to determine that unless they play each other in a legitimate documented ladder challenge match.

DISCUSSION POINT 2:

As long as the #1 and #2 singles players are the best two **that are participating in the match**, then the singles line-up is set. The third singles can be anybody. The #1 doubles team needs to be your **best doubles team that is participating in the match**. It does not need to be your #3 and #4 singles players as they might not be a good doubles team. If the #1 and/or #2 singles player(s) are not participating in a given match, then those slots must be filled by the next best (#3 and/or #4) players as determined by your ladder challenges, **which may result in having to break up an established doubles team for that match**.

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FAQ 1:

Does the 3rd singles player just have to be “representative” (anybody who has a uniform and a racquet after the top 2), OR does the 3rd singles slot only get filled AFTER the remaining players on the singles ladder (after #1-#2) get configured/slotted into a 1st and 2nd doubles team?

ANSWER: 3rd singles can be filled anytime, with any eligible team member who has a uniform and a racquet, who has not been identified as either the first or second best player participating in the match that day.

FAQ 2:

Can a player completely “opt out” of the singles ladder challenges, and declare him/herself just a doubles player?

ANSWER: All players must participate in the singles ladder challenges for the purpose of determining who the 2 best individual players on the team ARE and who the 2 best players ARE NOT. If they “opt out” of the singles ladder challenges, it leads to the possibility that you have a player who is the best player of the team not being properly designated as, and playing in the #1 (or #2) singles position.