



KYHSTCA Team Line-up Rules

1. **Exchange of line-up cards.** A minimum of 15 minutes before the start of the match, the coaches shall simultaneously exchange their complete singles and doubles line-ups. Coaches should have their scorebook or all prior match results available for review by the opposing Coach, including the results of any challenge matches.
2. **All physically able players should be listed in the line-up card.** Coaches shall list all players who are able to play in the line-up. Injured, ill, or ineligible who are not cleared to play shall not be listed on the line-up card.
3. **Players must play in order of ability.** The line-up shall always be based on order of ability. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing at the No. 1 position, the second best at No. 2, and so on through all positions. This rule shall also apply to doubles play with the strongest doubles team at No. 1, etc.
 - a. A player or doubles team whose results and record show that the player or team is clearly stronger than the players/team listed below that player/team may not be moved down.
 - b. A player or doubles team whose results and record show that the player/team is clearly stronger than the player/team listed above that player/team the player or team must be moved up a position.
 - c. Players and doubles teams whose results and records show them to be of equal ability may alternate between the adjacent positions.
 - d. A player or doubles team shall **not be moved down** in the line-up because of: i) An injury or illness that has forced the player out of the line-up for less than three weeks (21 days); ii) Disciplinary measures removing from the line-up in prior matches.
4. **Line-up changes in back-to-back dual matches.** In back-to-back dual matches (two consecutive dual matches played regardless of time between matches), the team line-up (as played) may be changed as long as the line-up stays in order of ability. A player or doubles team may be moved one line position from the previous match.

5. **Line-up changes once a match has begun.** In a team match, the official start of play of the match is when the on-court warm-up begins (or the match begins if there is no warm-up) between any of the opponents.
 - a. Once the warm-up begins in any match (on any court), substitutions are not permitted thereafter.

6. **Team that is short on players.** A team appearing with an insufficient number of players shall default matches at the bottom of the line-up (i.e., the team competing with only five players must default at the No. 2 and 3 singles positions or the No. 2 doubles position). If a player is not available to compete all players must move up one position. The minimum number of players for a dual-meet match is three (3) physically able players. A team that does not meet this minimum for any reason must forfeit the match.

7. Protests concerning unfair line-up.

- a. **Protests by coaches participating in match.** If a coach feels that the opponent's line-up as presented is unfair, the coach should notify the opposing coach of the protest to the line-up presented. Both coaches shall try to resolve the issue with the unfair line-up, including reviewing past match results, injury history involving the player(s) in questions and team challenge match results. If any coach feels their protest was unresolved after discussing it with the opposing coach then they may submit a formal match protest, **only after the completion of the match.** The coach protesting the match must complete the KHSTCA Match Protest Form, after completing the Match Protest Form it must be sent to the opposing coach and the KYHSTCA President. This written protest must be made within 48 hours of the start of the protested match.
-
8. **Placement of injured or ill players in line-up.** If a player is injured or ill and has not play for three weeks (21 days) or longer, the coach should use discretion in determining where to place the player in the team line-up upon their return. If the player has played the majority of the matches at one position, the player must be placed within two positions up or down to be within a "range." **Any player not meeting this 3-week threshold shall be placed in their regular position whether or not they are still injured or ill.**