



November 20, 2020

Tri-City Fitness is proud to announce the winter season of our in-house UTR league! The season will begin play on January 4th and run through the end of February. We'd like to invite you to become a captain of one of the teams!

About this League:

We will once again be running two separate divisions: one for 3.0-3.5 players which will play on Mondays evenings at 7:00, and one for 3.5-4.0 players which will play on Saturday mornings. Each division will be limited to 4 teams, with 8-12 players per team. Players can be mixed between men and women, and players can be of any age. All that matters is that they're the right level, which will produce good, fun matches! Each match will consist of three courts of doubles, with the team winning at least 2 of the 3 courts deemed the winner of the match. Each individual court will play a two out of three set match, with a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of the third set. To prevent stacking, or fixing the lineups to underhandedly gain an overall advantage, we will be using an innovative format. For each match, the "visiting" team will announce their three doubles pairings, and then the "home" team will choose how to match their team up against the opponents. This will limit some of the common arguments, as well as add a layer of strategy that will keep the league fresh. On top of that, all the results will be counted towards UTR!

Our goal for the upcoming season is to get more players involved in matches, and to that extent, we will be limiting team sizes to 12 players initially. Once we get 4 teams registered, this limit may increase to accommodate extra players.

About UTR (Universal Tennis Ratings):

This international rating system has been around for a little while, and has been gaining traction in the United States because of it's accurate rating system, as well as it's flexibility. All players, from men to women, kids to adults, pros to amateurs, are on the same scale; any two players with a similar rating can expect to have a competitive match. On top of that, UTR results can come from any sanctioned match, whether it's a league match, tournament, ladder match, or even non-sanctioned matches such as a friendly pickup game (as long as both players verify the result). More information on UTR can be found on their website:

www.myUTR.com

For now, our league will be using the NTRP ratings to split players into divisions. Once more players get results into the UTR system through leagues such as this, we'll be able to use UTR ratings instead. This will ensure quality matches in this league, as well as in many other situations!

Covid Concerns:

We know that many players are concerned that other leagues may be cancelled, either before the season starts or at any point during the season, due to health and safety concerns. This is a valid concern, and hesitancy to sign up for other leagues is understandable. However, with a local league such as this UTR league, the risk is much less. We will be able to use local conditions to make a local decision, rather than statewide conditions dictating the viability of a local league. Since this league is non-advancing, if the season gets interrupted, we will be able to resume at a later date rather than scrapping the season entirely. We don't anticipate this happening, but we are prepared.

So far, every one of Tri-City's players this season has been abiding by our safety protocols, respecting everyone's space, been self-aware enough to stay home when not feeling well, and Tri-City thanks you all for it! We will continue to be diligent, so we can keep this outlet of tennis alive and well for everyone throughout the winter!

Benefits of our UTR League vs. a typical USTA League:

	UTR League:	USTA League:
Player Registration Fee:	\$20 (\$10 for UTR Power Subscribers)	approximately \$25
Annual Membership:	free	\$44
Match Fees:	\$25 per person	\$25 per person
Winners Receive:	A Perpetual Trophy, proudly displayed at Tri-City with each player's name etched on it	The right to pay hundreds of dollars more to travel to sectionals for an entire weekend
Rating System:	Generally accepted as the standard for accurate ratings	Generally thought of as arbitrary and of questionable accuracy
Varied Player Pool:	With men and women of any ages competing against each other, the player pool is as extensive as possible	Especially in this area, players play the same people that they have played for years
League Run By:	Tri-City Fitness, a local club which is in tune with local players' needs	A main office which isn't always able to factor the local tennis climate into their decisions
Process to determine matchups:	Innovative format will encourage varied play and more strategy, while keeping the competitiveness high	Leads to many questions as to whether teams are sent out in the proper order of ability levels
Captains Receive:	Free league registration, and unlimited free court time at Tri-City next summer!	Nothing of value

For anyone who is interested in being a captain for a team this season, we are offering *unlimited free play at Tri-City Fitness for the entirety of next summer* (June, July, and August 2021)! We will also be offering a free league registration for you, as well as a complimentary UTR Power Subscription for the duration of the season! For the winter season, we are limiting the league to 4 teams in each division, so if you're interested in putting a team together, please contact me ASAP. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Andy Schechter
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