

Sun City Tennis Association (SCTA)

How to enhance your chances of turning a REQUEST into a BOOKING

Everyday Chelsea reviews the list of players requesting courts and runs a program to determine which requests are turned into bookings.

For example, there may be as many as 30 requests for a particular time slot, and only 10 courts available to fill those requests. A process is run to determine the 10 bookings. The others are tagged as overflow. This process is internal, and not easily understood. The basics are below.

To enhance your chances of having your request turned into a booking:

- 1) Ensure the time interval on your request is as wide as possible. Avoid simply saying "11:30", for example. Use a span of 2 to 6 time slots.
- 2) Do not limit your court location to only the North or South sides.
- 3) Residents have priority over guests. Listing "guest" will diminish your chances during busy periods.
- 4) Play later in the day. Avoid trying to play in the morning every time. Courts are significantly more available later in the day, or under the lights till 10pm.
- 5) Avoid playing with the same people every day, especially at the same time.

To understand this last point, you need to have a little understanding of the complicated arithmetic algorithm used by the Chelsea program in automatically determining how courts are awarded.

Chelsea awards courts to two or four listed players via a 14-day rolling average point system that is calculated for each request, based on the number of points each player has accrued. If a player plays 4 times per week via a Chelsea request, that player could have as many as 8 points. So if we consider 4 players with 4, 3, 3, and 2 points, that's a total of 12 points. The court score is this total, divided by the number of players listed (4), or 3.0. A group with a court score of 2.8 would be placed BEFORE this group. In other words, playing with friends who play less frequently than others is a good way to boost your chances of getting a booking.

It should go without saying that the Community Association & SCTA BOD expects members to enter the actual player names into Chelsea who will actually be those playing. It is understood that there are occasional last minute subs or injuries. However, if there is evidence of **repeated** "gaming" the system with player names not actually playing, Lifestyles (H&W), and the tennis BOD will be forced to play police officer, with all the associated un-pleasantries, so let's not go there. If needed, review the rules for social groups in the policy and procedures manual.

As our community and our first-rate tennis program continues to grow, there is a greater and greater demand for court time, on a fixed number of courts. Fairly distributing courts to all residents is a noble objective, but as you may have guessed, we also need to document court usage and do our best to convince Sun City officials to recognize the need to keep the "court to resident ratio" competitive with other communities. Following the rules regarding proper accounting of individual court time, along with appropriate communication - is the best way to justify our need for more courts as our community grows. If you have not yet joined SCTA, please consider doing so. Contact the SCTA BOD for more info, or see our web page: www.sctatennis.com.