

Court Usage Rules

One-Play-Per-Day Rule

The one-play-per-day rule is not really the correct verbiage. It would be more correct to say "One Chelsea Pre-Placed Reservation per Day". If, for example, you are selected to play in a lottery social group at 4 pm, and if you try to submit a normal Chelsea request to play at 10:30 that day, Chelsea will not let you. The person submitting the request will get an error message and be instructed to supply a different name. Your options at that point are to tell the Social Group Leader to change players, or ask the Logo Bldg attendant to intervene and force the name of the affected player into your 10:30 slot.

We do NOT force players to play only once per day. We simply don't allow Chelsea to PRE-PLACE someone multiple times on the same day. Court usage has shown that there are usually many open courts in late afternoon or evening, so this policy can be substantiated for now. As our numbers continue to increase, this fine tuning may need to be more explicit.

In short, you can request a court every day of the week, if you prefer, including the ball machine. However, your total Chelsea points will of course have an effect on whether or not your request becomes a booking.

Difference between Chelsea Points and Lottery Points

Chelsea Points accrue as people's cam # appears in Chelsea's court usage history. Each time your cam # appears in Chelsea placement, you receive one point, and this point total is summed on a rolling 14 day period. So, if you play 4 times per week, you will have 8 points. This point total is used in the Last Placement Ranking to determine WHO gets their REQUEST turned into a BOOKING: people with a lower total are placed first. Since most requests are for four people, the COURT POINT TOTAL is simply the average of each person's Chelsea points. In other words, if your request includes four people who play frequently, they will have a lesser chance of getting a booking at the time requested than a foursome who plays rarely. You get no Chelsea points for playing after 5 pm. Also, since USTA and Intraclub are available to everyone (and CAM #s are not used to reserve these courts) you do NOT get Chelsea points for playing in USTA or Intraclub, just social groups or simple Chelsea requests. **Requests and bookings of this sort have nothing to do with the lottery, and are evaluated outside of that world.**

Lottery points, described on page 18 of the P&P, are used to ensure people using the lottery system do not abuse their privileges, making sure we have a fair number of open courts during the noon to 5:30 time slots. The lottery, or season courts, allows groups to hold down courts each week in what is called "Pre-Placement".

In other words, the group leader puts names into Chelsea each week, as those courts are reserved only for him/her. Clearly it would not be fair to play in 6 social groups, 2 USTA teams, and 2 intraclubs.. for example. The method of control for this is to assign lottery points for each choice, and limit the dot-product (the total number of choices times the weighting factor of each choice) such that no one over-commits, unfairly monopolizing our limited number of courts. Again, this process is reviewed EVERY season as our numbers continue to go in only one direction: UP. For example, the current limit of 2.6 points may need to be adjusted, and other rules may need to be introduced, such as playing on only one intraclub. Currently, people are allowed to spend their limit of 2.6 lottery points any way they would like, for maximum freedom while still providing a reasonable limit of lottery pre-placement. FYI, the limit of 2.6 was recently reduced down from 3.0.

Here is an example of how people can select lottery court commitments:

2 social groups:	0.7 * 2 =	1.4 points (prime time: noon, 2, or 4)
2 intraclubs	0.45 * 2 =	0.9 points
2 USTA teams	0.15 * 2 =	<u>0.3 points</u>

2.6 points, right at the limit.

Another example: 3 lottery groups in prime time = 2.1, leaving only just enough room for intraclub without going over the limit. (2.1 + 0.45 = 2.55).

Every season, it seems, we need to contact a few social group leaders to alter their registration files, as 1 or 2 people in their defined group are over their limit and need to be replaced. The objective here is to make sure that lottery courts are evenly distributed to ALL our members, avoiding any over-commitment.

All this is tracked automatically by software developed for the lottery, so it's not difficult to manage.