

What is the “Lottery”?

Every tennis facility has some sort of program to provide “season courts” to their members. It usually involves some kind of fee, and it set up such that 1, 2, or 3 courts are reserved for a group of people for a given duration. Sun City Tennis Association (SCTA) provides this service to members with no additional fee. Season courts (also known as *Social Groups*) are available to members for each of the three seasons that we manage:

	Spring	Summer	Fall
Approx Season Dates	Jan 13 – May 25	May 26 – Sep 14	Sep 15 – Jan 11
Approx Lottery Date (see calendar)	Jan 9	May 8	Sep 10

However, given nearly 21,000 residents on site, and approx 730 members of SCTA, we have to limit the number of courts people can reserve for their groups each week. We attempt to fairly distribute our limited courts for members to reserve in advance, such that there will always be sufficient courts available for everyone, including leagues as well as just getting courts through Chelsea.

SCTA has been given permission to reserve season courts for our members, but only in the afternoons. We set up a “Lottery” to help ensure courts are distributed as evenly as possible, limiting people to a certain number of “pre-placement” opportunities per week. “Pre-placement” refers to getting courts assigned to people PRIOR to Chelsea determining placement with its own prioritization algorithm. Therefore, separate controls are required for these pre-placed (lottery) courts.

The controls we use include running a meeting called the ‘Seasonal Lottery’ for all those wanting season courts. It is scheduled a few weeks before the start of each season. At this meeting, each group leader receives a ticket and when his/her number is called, indicates the day, time, and courts desired for their season courts.

Rules for the lottery are published on our web page (www.sctatennis.com) several months before each season. They include special rules such as limiting 3-court groups to 4 pm or later on weekdays in spring and fall, and a discussion regarding “lottery points” accumulated for each member of a group or league. Like routine Chelsea limitations

designed to prevent over-use, this system allows us to evenly distribute our limited number of “pre-placement” courts to an ever-expanding membership.

The “Lottery” meeting involves only Social Groups, as leagues are placed on the schedule before anyone picks their season courts. However, any kind of “pre-placement” involves “lottery points”, with limits applied and managed by a season setup and scheduling committee such that we can ensure fair distribution.