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## I. "EXECUTIVE SUMMARY":

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This document is a means of formalizing the "WeeWeekly System" for present players, new participants or other interested parties.

- 1. St. George's[StG's] WeeWeekly[WW] tennis tournaments are meant to provide a "FREE" [except tennis balls] non-discriminatory "half-day" competitive environment OPEN to players of varying skill levels.
- 2. As with most aspects of St. George's, WW's are organized & run by VOLUNTEERS. In general, the guiding DEMOCRATIC principle is:
  "What's best for the GROUP (WW-players AND other members) ??"
  Try to keep things SIMPLE and NOT WASTE court time!
- 3. Except when weather or other (Provincial/etc.) tournaments prevent it, Singles & Doubles alternate every Saturday at 9:00am, following http://www.stgeorgetennis.ca/calendar.php
  To be an "official" WW (with ranking points), there must be a minimum of 6 players for Singles, or 4 teams (8 players) for Doubles, and it must have been "pre-scheduled" on StG's web page.
  "Cut-off" is USUALLY at 9:00am when the "Roll-Call" is done.
- 4. Rankings (based upon the past 52 weeks' performance) are used to determine tournament draws as follows:
  - a. Singles: an "even half" of the top-ranked players are NON-randomly seeded; the non-seeded players are RANDOMLY evenly distributed.
  - b. Doubles: the top-ranked HALF of the players are NON-randomly "seeded"; partners are RANDOMLY drawn from the remaining HALF.
- 5. Except when shortened due to weather &/or huge draws, matches are "Pro-Sets" to 7, with a regular tie-break played at 6-6. Doubles teams are "guaranteed 2 matches": play 1 match (win or lose), then eliminated upon losing a subsequent match. Singles will USUALLY have separate yet "related" SINGLE-ELIMINATION A/B-division draws.
- 6. To facilitate tournament completion by early afternoon, the TD ["Tournament Director"] shall use "best judgment" in FAIRly setting match priorities (detailed instructions found in DrawSheet below). Since 80 to 100% of StG's courts are used for WW's, WW-players should "reasonably" allow other members use of "open" courts.
- 7. Points for ranking/seeding purposes are based upon tournament "results" & participation.
- 8. Disputes/problems/interpretations/etc. should be resolved QUICKLY among the players. In the interest of expediency, the TD shall have final authority in WW-related matters. The "Duty Host" may assist in recording participant names / etc.
- 9. Please realize that WW's are a human enterprise/undertaking that can never be "perfect". Over the years, WW's have been "tweaked" (finetuned) to result in a GREAT activity. Suggestions for improvement are welcome and given serious consideration.

# II. DETAILED WEE-WEEKLY GUIDELINES/"RULES":

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Some ABBREVIATIONS [in case confusion later/below]:

- PD = (Ranking) Points Determiner [Gerry V. until 2009; PL 2010-] updates results then posts them online (usually by Wed.)
- PL = Pat Lee [author of most of this document based on his experiences: 2003- WW player; 2009- WW TD; 2010- WW PD; plus moderate TNS tournament experience]

StG's = St. George's Lawn Tennis Club [StGeorgeTennis.ca]

TD = Tournament Director [mainly PL for 2009-; NOT person on StG's "Board"] creates draw, decides match ordering, etc.

TNS = TennisNovaScotia.ca [formerly NSTA]

WW = StG's WeeWeekly [tournament system]

WW's = WeeWeeklies (plural)

WWd = WW Doubles

WWs = WW Singles (with 2 divisions: WWsA + WWsB)

## 1. a. BRIEF HISTORY:

Krys Dlutek started the WeeWeekly tournaments in 1990. They have been organized and run by WW participants(players) and/or other VOLUNTEERS/staff over the years. Gerry Vrbensky, the "soul" of StG's website, has diligently maintained rankings & other essential WW aspects over the years. Two decades after its "birth", WW's have grown significantly: approx. 50% more players in 2010 than in 2009; by 2012, "evolution" [based on player suggestions/complaints/etc., & JG's SPECIFIC idea] to "WW 2.0" occurred to handle even greater participation. This has resulted in many questions/etc. which this document hopes to address.

## b. TOURNAMENT:

WW's ARE tennis "tournaments" (as contrasted with "Socials") with specific rules/etc. above, beyond, and sometimes different than those found at TennisCanada.com

Personal enjoyment of competition will vary...

## c. "FREE" (except for the tennis balls):

Since there is NO ENTRY FEE for this weekly club tournament, players are expected to provide their own tennis balls. Players SHOULD be able to decide amongst themselves whose/which balls are acceptable for use -- sometimes matching ball #'s with court #'s [Court #5 can be treated as "#1/#2"...], and/or avoiding having IDENTICAL balls as neighboring court(s) may simplify things. For WWsA (& MAYBE WWs when under 17 players), a "historical" WW tradition has been revived: all players must bring a NEW can of "good" (3-4 PRESSURIZED UNOPENED) tennis balls (or \$5 to buy at StG's Clubhouse) for match "wagers" in which the match loser keeps the "just used" match balls, and the winner advances with the UNOPENED can. Balls may/can be re-used for 2+ weeks (until the next WWsA); WWsB & WWd may (like TNS) use used balls. WWsB players should also consider bringing \$5/newBalls in case a VERY RARE (last happened in 2010) "small draw" (WWs < 17) occurs; a VOTE shall determine if new balls are "mandatory" when less than 17 WWs players are present (and a single draw is made). More details about balls & their quality can be found at http://tt.tennis-warehouse.com/showthread.php?t=216927

## d. NON-DISCRIMINATORY:

Men & women compete "evenly", with rankings reflecting such. No special consideration/divisions are made for gender or age variations. However, year-end "recognition" \*DOES\* have "Open", "Ladies", "Masters(55+)", & "Doubles" categories.

## 1. e. DURATION & WAITING:

WW's are an "elimination tournament" in which MOST participants should be done by "around noon", if not earlier. HISTORICALLY, all players were guaranteed two matches: regardless of what happened in the first match, when a player lost a subsequent match, they were eliminated from the tournament. This "guaranteed 2 matches" continues in WWd; however, WWs (due to increasing participation numbers) will USUALLY be SINGLE-ELIMINATION: players must "earn" further matches via victories. Hence, "better" players will play more to advance "deeper" into the tournament. Participants will, out of necessity, have to "take turns" and share the limited number of tennis courts. When there are more participants, the wait time is generally increased, although STEPS [see below] are taken to minimize this for all!

## f. OPEN:

WW's are OPEN to ANY StG's "member" who abides by http://www.stgeorgetennis.ca/rules.php
This includes legal users of Visitor/Guest Passes.

## g. SKILL LEVEL:

Player skills will vary from B[eginner] to A[dvanced]. Competitive/ranked/"promising" juniors are welcome. Although it ranges depending upon the year, the skill level of WW-players roughly approximates players in TNS's MEN's "Class A" to "weak Open" (or Masters 45+).

NTRP Men's ratings of APPROXIMATELY 2.0 to 5.0, mostly 2.5 to 4.5

## 2. a. VOLUNTEERS:

Remember that WW's are a StG's activity run by players for other players -- PLEASE feel free to learn/contribute/etc.! The more players who take an interest in learning to keep things running smoothly, the better it will be for ALL!

## b. DEMOCRATIC GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

When a situation NOT covered by these "rules" arises, handling it in a manner that benefits the "majority", be it WW-players or StG's members in general, seems a wise guideline...

REMEMBER: "WW-players" \*ARE\* StG's "members"!!

(In general, "majority rules" should work. Of course, [faster]

"TD-judgment" may sometimes be needed!)

## 3. a. SCHEDULE:

WWs alternate every Saturday morning with WWd, according to http://www.stgeorgetennis.ca/calendar.php If one week is cancelled (usually "rained out"), the next week does NOT change to replace the missed WW.

# b. START TIME (& RESERVED SPOTS):

ALL players are expected to be PRESENT by 9:00am which is the WW registration "cutoff time", except when courts are not yet playable. A Duty Host is usually present by 8:30am, which is the earliest "sign-up" time. Players are expected to be present for the 9:00am "Roll-Call" [needed due to HUGE participation #'s].

# c. NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

Singles minimum = 6; Doubles minimum = 8; no known maximum...

In cases of insufficient players, that WW is officially CANCELLED; but, players may still organize and play amongst themselves!

## 3. d. RAIN/DELAY POLICY:

CALL the club to check on the status of courts!

In fairness to all StG's members, if the courts are not playable (i.e., still too wet) by 11:00am, then that week's WW will be considered "rained out". In cases of impending inclement weather, players present may vote to possibly abbreviate matches.

Tournaments unable to reach the "final four" stage (4 Main draw or WWsA AND WWsB Singles semi-finalists, or 2 Main draw Doubles final teams) shall be deemed "washed out" and no points awarded. If play is halted with only 4 or less "Main draw" participants remaining, the players, along with the TD, will decide upon later completion or "splitting the points"...

## 4. a. RANKINGS:

The most current WW rankings, generally updated by Wednesday following each Saturday's WW, as well as the "system" of points distribution and rankings calculations can be found at http://www.stgeorgetennis.ca/weeweekly.php
Seedings are based upon these rankings which are based upon performance and participation in WW's. The WW tradition of seeding based solely on WW-rankings is unbiased. The TD's copy of the rankings should be current and will be used for seeding.

## b. SEEDING & DRAWS:

WWs: seed (# of players)/2, rounding 0.5 such that an EVEN number results.

For example:

22 players: 22/2 = 11.0 --> seed top 11 players 23 players: 23/2 = 11.5 --> seed top 12 players 24 players: 24/2 = 12.0 --> seed top 12 players 25 players: 25/2 = 12.5 --> seed top 12 players 26 players: 26/2 = 13.0 --> seed top 13 players 27 players: 27/2 = 13.5 --> seed top 14 players

Note: the seeding of 50% (as contrasted with the "usual" 25%) of the players, along with the NON-random placement of the "seeds", is simply a "WW tradition" to facilitate simple quick accurate [& "transparent"] draws.

Example draw set-up for 9 players (A-I):

```
Rank Name Seed
1  A #1
3  B #2
6  C #3
10  D #4 [Note: 9/2 = 4.5 --> seed top 4 players]
...
E,F,G,H,I [lower ranks irrelevant since randomized]
```

4. b. R16 QF SF F W R16 = "round of 16" QF = quarter-finals SF = semi-finals (last 4) #1--A--I F = final (last 2) W = winner (champion) |--A--| -bye-| | |----| -----|----| #8----| #5-bye-| -bye-| |--D--| #4--D--| #3--C--|
-bye-|
-----|
-----|
-----| |----| ----| -bye-| | |----| |--B--| #2--B--| BYE = a temporary advancement in the main ("winner's side") draw [given to "highest seeds"]; but, player moves to consolations side (LEFT) if loses 1st match (a seed is said to have been "upset"). Drawsheet size: 16 -(# of players): 97 BYEs - 4[to seeds] = 3 BYEs left Remaining BYEs are evenly "spread out" by simply placing them where "seeds" #5 to 7 would be -- this actually serves to INCREASE the competition for "top seeds"! [in this case, 1 QF is NOT "automatic" & the #1 seed must face/play a "warmed up" (& unlikely tired) "usually BETTER than average" (because WON a match) opponent] THEN randomly place remaining 5 players in 5 positions. For randomizing, there are 16 pre-made "cards" with the "WW Clipboard" [which also has pre-numbered drawsheets]. If over 32 players, then "strips of paper" with numbers on them can be drawn... NOTICE PATTERN: if above "outline" were used for 16+ players, and if seeds win as "expected", SF's sum to 5, QF's to 9, [R16 to 17,...] [ Less applicable given new "WW 2.0": Consolation matches are to the LEFT, and will often include many "holes" cause by BYEs and DEFAULTs. Consolation-side players must often "wait" to see if a seed is "upset"

]

before advancing early on the LEFT side...

4. b. WWd: There MUST be an EVEN number of players. Then the above "seeding pattern" is used to spread out the teams. Non-seeded players then get partnered with the seeds. BYES are "automatic" based upon the resulting draw. ODD # of WWd-players: if still in need of 1 player following the 9am Roll-Call, then either 1 player sits out (LAST to ARRIVE, "needs to leave early", or a "volunteer"), or perhaps the "Duty Host" can be encouraged to "fill in"... "TEAM PRACTICE": in the event that a NON-RANDOM (pre-set) "team" wishes to play a WWd, in order to preserve the integrity of the ranking system, such a team will be "fed" into the Consolation side at the TD's discretion (perhaps to a team benefiting from more byes/defaults?).

Tied Seeds: simply RANDOMLY order any tied seeds -- do NOT use "other" WW rankings since skill can differ & could also be tied.

Printed names on the drawsheet are easier to read and make the PD's task easier... Also, drawsheets are posted!

## 5. a. SCORING & NO-AD:

WW matches consist of Pro-sets that are USUALLY played to 7 games. However if a set gets to a 6-6 tie, a "standard" tie-break to 7-points is played in which the first player to reach 7 points, leading by 2, is the winner.

No-ad scoring (used when over 32 players or agreed to based on weather/other condition), means that at "deuce" (40-40), the RECEIVER chooses which side to receive the serve, with the winner of that point winning the game; for EVERYONE's benefit, it MUST BE ENFORCED! (NoAd scoring helps most in preventing long drawn-out close/competitive matches).

[Advice: those uncomfortable with No-Ad should strive to avoid allowing the score to reach Deuce!]

## b. "WW 2.0":

Based on 2010-2012 WW "data"/experiences, players decided [OVERWHELMINGLY (nearly unanimously!) on 2012-07-21] to evolve WWs to accommodate MORE PLAYERS while reducing waiting times (& defaults), promote more "balanced"/competitive matches [which take LONGER!], and FINISH EARLIER (closer to 1pm [actually 2-3pm]) via

Main Changes [to WWs]:

- When over 16 players [EVERY WWs in 2011-2012],
   2 separate but "related" SINGLE-ELIMINATION
   A/B-division draws made at 9am.
- 2. WWsA get "Main Draw" points, WWsB get "Consolations" ranking points; ALL 1R losers usually get 2-5 pts.
- 3. Top-20/"Top-3rd" ranked WWs players must play "A". "Peer pressure"/etc. so "good" players play WWsA.
- 4. WWsA: bring NEW can of "good" balls (or \$5) for "wager" -- match winner advances with UNOPENED.
- 5. No-Ad if # players (A+B) > 32, or bad weather...

[Minor simplifications also made to WWd]

## 5. b. SUMMARY CHART of changes for different player # levels:

Min. #		e-Saving Rul	_	/ etc.	
Players	WWd	WWs	WWsA	WWsB	
6	cancel	g2m;7gP	none	none	
8	g2m;7gP				
17		Single-Eli	m. A/B	#WWsB>16,	win=18pts
33	No-Ad	No-Ad	#WWsA>32,	win=65pts	
49	"1-1"	If A+B>48	, "1-1"	"1-1"	
65	"2-2";#WWd	>64, win=45pt	s "2-2"	"2-2"	
100	"PANIC ATTACK"	, or have a	BIG PARTY	instead??	; -)

## Abbreviations:

g2m = "traditional" WW draw with "guaranteed 2 matches".

7gP = 7-game "Pro-Set" (TieBreak at 6-6).

"#-#" = Shorten 7-game NoAd Pro-Set by starting at "#-#" score.

Note: if scoring could be "perfectly" altered("fine-tuned") according to EVERY possible # of players, the actual end times could be kept relatively constant. However, tennis scoring is "chunky", match-ups vary, and large time-saving measures can only be introduced at [arbitrary] points, with "fairness" and simplicity as guides.

Due to "non-linear" time usage with increasing player #'s (e.g., 34 players should be much faster than 32 due to "No-Ad"), the actual "graph" of duration vs. #players should have a "saw-tooth" pattern instead of a smooth line.

# c. WWs ["2.0"]:

- WWsA & WWsB are "related" by playing under SAME "scoring rules" and a unified ranking points system [details below in 7.a.]
- Approx. 50% extra ranking points are awarded for particularly large draws, when additional drawsheets are needed [an illogical alternative: more players --> LESS points!]
- During pre-9am sign-up, players must indicate a "preliminary" A/B choice; rough draw sizes (with possible point increases) are then announced. During the 9am "roll call" (based on current WWs rankings sheet), players [outside of the Top-20/"Top-Third" ranked] will be asked to CONFIRM (with opportunity to change?) their CHOICE of playing A[dvanced] vs. B[eginner] divisions.
  - Essentially, by "self-selecting", players are playing a traditional 1R match "in their mind"...
    - If "pressed for time", some weaker players MAY choose to play  ${\tt UP}/{\tt "A"}$  ("1 & done") to avoid default...
  - Participants will have an opportunity to "peer-pressure" (or even VOTE if sufficiently "outraged") "good" players into playing A; theoretically, accumulated player points will eventually make this less necessary...
    - "Intermediate" players (roughly NTRP 3.0) may have more difficulty deciding, unless already ranked "too high"...
  - Players completely UNKNOWN (to WW group) MUST play "A" [Why? Maximum 2 complaints vs. possibly entire WWsB draw!]
  - The draw [made "as usual" with half-seeded/half-random] with MORE PLAYERS is made FIRST, with 1R matches sent out while "other draw" [who necessarily have SHORT "break time"] is made; if tied, "B" drawn 1st (since "A"-players are more experienced with waiting (given history of "byes"), and to facilitate a WWsA-playing TD's "job"... [see FAQ])

## 5. d. TWO MATCHES & WARM-UP:

WWd are NOT "double-elimination" where one must LOSE TWO MATCHES to be eliminated; 2 matches are "guaranteed", except in the rare case where all subsequent opponents elect to default themselves. Players must "earn" a 2nd WWs match (unless <17 players). Please be courteous to other waiting players/members and limit pre-match warm-ups to 5 minutes. Players are encouraged to arrive well before 9am to "warm-up" -- OPEN to all!

#### e. SCORES:

Although it is generally considered the winner's responsibility to report match results/scores, it is helpful to all if \*someone\* can report/record results, including tie-break scores, ASAP.

## f. DEFAULTS:

Players SHOULD arrange to be and stay at the courts until approximately 12 noon if they choose to participate. In fairness and as a courtesy to other waiting players, when unable to play a match on time, it is better to default oneself ASAP rather than hold up the tournament! PLEASE let the TD know ASAP, or ensure that your intentions are clearly indicated on the drawsheet, when intending to default. Defaults in Doubles hurt your partner so please try to avoid them! Substitutions, in VERY RARE occasions, may be authorized by TD, IF agreed to by "Main Draw" opponent(s). In Singles, defaults WERE [prior to "WW 2.0"] common and WERE more acceptable in the consolations, generally from "weaker" players who quickly lost their first match then did not wish to wait around [for 1-2 hrs] for their next match. For main draw matches, please do not allow the losing player to advance through a default. For consistent points/ranking, it is better to play your match, THEN elect to default upon reporting the score. Allowing a "weaker" player to advance & then get "undeserved points" only serves to reduce the integrity of the rankings. If a player is unable to commit to playing until approx. 12 noon, it is better to not sign-up to play.

## 6. a. COMPLETION TIME:

As this is a TOURNAMENT with matches, the precise ending time can NOT be predicted. However, most players are eliminated by "noon", which is also the approx. time that some courts may become "free". Doubles usually ends around 1-2pm, Singles around 2-3pm.

## b. MATCH PRIORITIZATION:

- Details found in DrawSheet [see Appendix below]
- formerly emphasized "LONG MATCHES 1ST" [but hard to achieve with unknown/new plyrs; NoAd helps], & "MAIN DRAW PRIORITY" [but some wasted court time when back-to-back matches interrupted by rest/washroom break/etc.], BUT now follow a simple "vertical" scheme.
- Towards the end of the tournament, one "half" ("top" or "bottom") often gets "ahead" and must wait for others to "catch up". In such cases, players may elect to "rest"/wait (when such actions will NOT delay overall tournament completion) and "free up" courts for Consolation/etc. matches.

## c. OPEN COURTS:

Since WW's as a "scheduled priority" utilize all 5 courts (WWs) or Courts #1-4 (WWd) virtually every Saturday morning, and sometimes later into the afternoon depending on participation numbers & weather conditions, DO NOT WASTE COURT TIME! Some courts should become "open" [no longer needed for WW tournament matches] around "noon" and should be "shared" in the following SUGGESTED order:

- 6. c. 1. WW tournament matches [by definition, not really "open"]
  - 2. Non WW-players seeking a court [this allows them to possibly see the fun/skill level of WW-players!]
  - 3. Eliminated (that day) WW-players
  - 4. WW-players still in tournament CANNOT book a court while STILL \*IN\* the draw!

Of course if eliminated after 2 doubles matches and you wish to utilize Court #5 and those players have already played an hour, then feel free to "bump" them using normal booking procedures...

# 7. a. POINTS (for ranking/seeding purposes):

If the PD is NOT present at the WW, then the TD should get the drawsheet (or a scanned copy) to the PD by Monday or ASAP. Points are assigned to WW participants by the PD based upon their accomplishments after each WW tournament -- the further one advances in a tournament draw (generally by successfully winning more "matches"), the more points:

Ι	_	I N G L E S Consolation	TOURNAMENT Draw / Round	-	U B L E S Consolation
	45	12	Winner	30	12
	30	8	Finalist	20	8
	20	5	Semi-Finals	14	5
	14	3	Quarter-Finals	10	3
	10	2	Round-of-16	7	2

Note that points are awarded to players based upon where in the draw they are eliminated (or choose to default themselves). If no ATTEMPT is made to play a subsequent match, extra points are NOT awarded for defaults/byes. [default = match in which 1 player /team fails to participate; bye = there is NO player/team to play a specific match]

Also, points are not really proportional to Draw sizes

- except for approx. +50% pts for winners of HUGE draws ("WW 2.0")
- this is an IMPERFECT system, but "works"...
- if points "proportional" to #OfPlayers, then kinda penalizing players who "show up" when others don't...
- Less players: less "work" for pts; more players = more "work"!

# "WW 2.5":

- ALL 1R losers receive roughly the SAME points
  - = "risk" of "playing up"/A; and to help "weed out" some "ranked higher than expected" [usually due to "lucky draws"] players
- players with a "bye" receive slightly more points [due to luck/"match difficulty"], based on "traditional" points distribution for that size of \*WWsB\* draw:

# WWsB	1st match	losers' Pts:	Comments:
players:	WWsB	WWsA	More Pts IF get Bye
0-2	0	7	"Merged" if < 6/2 in WWsB
3	5/8	5/8	
4	5	5/7	5 pts if WWsA = PowerOf2
5-7	3/5	3/5	
8	3	3/4	<pre>3 pts if WWsA = PowerOf2</pre>
9-15	2/3	2/3	
16	2	2/3	Matched "above & below"
17-	2/3	2/3	Winner gets 12+50%=18pts

If WWsA's DrawSize is a "Power of 2" [= no byes], then WWsA
1R losers get AVG(mean, rounded DOWN) of WWsB 1R loser pts.
["rounded DOWN" else \*ALL\* (usually just some) 1R WWsA
losers would UNFAIRLY get SAME pts as some WWsB 1R WINNERs!]

- since points are used for RANKING, if EVERYONE get's LOTS of POINTS, \*RANKINGS\* will be largely unaffected!! ;-)

## 7. b. RANKING FORMULA:

Players are ranked (with a separate ranking maintained for Singles and Doubles[team play]) in descending order based on the number of "Ranking Points" they have, calculated as follows based on the past 52 weeks (= 1 year = 12 months):

Tm = number of WWs or WWd tournaments played in the past year  $TTL_Pts = total$  points based on adding up accumulated WW points CD = Current Division Factor = (Tm \* 0.5) + 1.5 [ \* = multiplication ] RnkPts = Ranking Points = TTL Pts / CD [ / = division ]

Although rankings are based upon performance during the past 52 weeks, only the CURRENT year's results are used for final year-end "awards" (e.g., names on Clubhouse plaques).

Note also that from a strict mathematically correct standpoint,

"Ranking Points" ONLY equals "Average Points" [= "mean"] for

## 8. a. DISPUTES/ETC.:

EXACTLY Tm=3.

Since court time is "precious", and WW's are a tournament run BY players FOR players, players should try to QUICKLY resolve problems/etc. among themselves (maybe with TD "guidance"/advice). The TD will handle "unresolved problems" in a decisive & final manner.

Unsatisfied members may "escalate" complaints [see below].

## b. DUTY HOSTS:

Unless given addition "duties" by the StG's "Board", Duty Hosts are asked simply to LEGIBLY record the names (first and at least initial of last name) AND "WWS A/B preference" of ALL players seeking to play (either already present at StG's or "called in"). In addition, a Duty Host \*MAY\* sometimes help prevent member disappointment by playing when an there are an ODD # of players at a WWd.

## 9. a. QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS/COMPLAINTS/CONCERNS/ETC.:

If after reading the above "WW Rules" + "FAQ" below, you have ANY complaints, suggestions, questions, or concerns, please send them

Email: WeeWeekly@StGeorgeTennis.ca

Web: http://www.StGeorgeTennis.ca/suggestion-poll.php Submissions may be anonymous and hopefully will be directed to the appropriate person(s).

Responses [possibly edited] will be posted below...

b. NEW situations/etc. that arise shall be added to this evolving document [usually appended to the end of III. FAQ].

# III. "WEE WEEKLY FAQ":

- Q: What's this FAQ?
- A: This is a collection of questions/complaints/comments/suggestions/concerns/musings/etc. that COULD BE "frequently asked", or perhaps just imagined/muttered.
- Q: Why has PL gone into so much "nauseating" detail here??
- A: Since 2009, PL has been trying to prevent a few complainers from ruining something which the "silent majority" seems to quietly enjoy. This is in response a few "complaints"/etc. made about the WW's... Also, others can take over the running of WW's when PL is unavailable yet maintain consistency (with points/etc.).

NOTE: this document in NOT meant to discourage players or make WW's less enjoyable! It is a response to a "few people" (with limited or no WW experience, who may have either not known about or understood the StG's website) whose questions/complaints/etc. were directed to others without WW experience (&/or maybe also had difficulty understanding/accessing the StG's website), and as a means of formalizing the "WW System" for future players &/or new participants.

Believe it or not, this is PL's idea of SIMPLICITY!

- Q: I like to have long breaks (hours to rest/recover/etc.) between matches.
- A: Either lose 1st match then long wait until 1st consolations match, or play TNS tournaments (where matches are spread out over DAYs...) [LESS applicable with current "WW 2.0"]
- Q: PL wins too often and easily! The draw must be "rigged"!
- A: Please feel free to learn & participate in the making of these "half random" draws [since half seeded = "half fixed"].
- Q: I keep losing before I get to play anyone "good".
- A: Practice to get better...YouTube.com has MANY fine FREE instructional videos!
- Q: I only want to play against "hard hitting" players. PL wins too easily and makes me play bad!
- A: Roger Federer's slice backhand is NOT considered a "power shot"! Andy Murray wins using variety.
- Q: I only want to play against "advanced" players.
  I get bored playing "weak players".
- A: For 2010, there was only one (1) StG's member who was capable of EASILY winning every WWs. Even this "Open Class" player faced weaker opponents in many TNS tournaments (winning one final 6-0,6-0). There were an additional 2 other StG's members who, based on TNS results, were capable of winning SOME WWs tournaments in 2010. WW's always include players who also have had some (limited) success competing at a provincial level. ["Elitism" already failed with 2010's attempted "Advanced Doubles"]
- Q: PL is a dictator and ignores my suggestions, especially when when trying to quickly create a proper fair draw with integrity while 20+ players are waiting to start!
- A: Yes.

  Please feel free to discuss matters with the TD/others during the quiet "waiting for matches to finish" time, and/or email your concerns to WeeWeekly@StGeorgeTennis.ca

- Q: I don't have fun at WW's! I don't like the VOLUNTEERS running them!
- A: As with most aspects of St. George's, WW's are organized & run by VOLUNTEERS; in this case, WW's are run BY more experienced fellow players FOR other players -- please feel free to learn then help out! As a COMPETITIVE tournament, "fun" can NOT be guaranteed as individual responses to losing can vary unpredictably.
- Q: Can I pay some \$ at WW's? The prizes "suck"!
- A: Prizes are proportional to entry fees. Currently, no fees are taken in, either for purchase of balls or for "prizes"... [but WWsA...] Tips for the TD/PD are appreciated, but, will NOT result in favoritism! ;-)
- Q: Why can't I call in days/weeks ahead of time and "book" my place?
- A: A "first come, first served" system (which is StG's "tradition") simplifies things while maximizing fairness to MOST (maybe not ALL), without allowing "early bookings" (with potential "no shows" common to pre-booked FREE events) RUINing the Majority's "fun"!
- Q: What if I PAY a fee/penalty to reserve my spot?
- A: If a PRE-PAID \$5-10 "fee" (or "penalty" for "no shows") is collected by the Duty Host, then the \$ could be used for prizes/snacks/etc. Hmmm...
- Q: Why is there a limit to the number of players who can play? [mostly no longer valid given "WW 2.0" (2012) changes!]
- A: WW's are intended to be a "half-day" QUICK tournament. More players takes longer, unless matches are shortened (which MOST players generally OPPOSE!). The "minimum" number of players is meant to promote validity of the rankings.

  In 2010 (with 85 unique WW-players), the most players was 29 for WWs, 30 for WWd. Doubles is limited to 24 teams due to 20% less
  - WWs, 30 for WWd. Doubles is limited to 24 teams due to 20% less courts plus generally longer match times due to coordination of more people and more "parity" (random partners --> closer scores). In cases of insufficient players, that WW is officially CANCELLED, but, players may still organize and play amongst themselves! If WW's grow further still, serious considerations will be needed to perhaps significantly change some aspects, such as limits, scoring, &/or perhaps having a preliminary "B draw" Saturday morning, that "feeds" into a stronger Sunday morning "A Draw"... [a "radical" 2009 idea then impractical due to much smaller draws]
- Q: Why wasn't I seeded? I can beat # !!
- A: Rather than use "judgment" (which frequently differs among players/ professionals), "strong" players can "prove" that they "deserve" a high[er] seeding by simply WINNING MORE WW MATCHES to improve their ranking (rather than "complaining about being under-seeded"!) While NO "seeding" system can EVER be perfect (see en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_French\_Open\_men's\_singles\_champions), the WW's can NOT be accused of "favoritism". (BTW, in 2008, the most competitively skilled club member StG's has had in MANY years simply [easily] won enough WWs tournaments to claim #1...).
- Q: What is "seeding"? Why is the #1 seed considered "higher" than #2?
- A: This is a terminology/usage convention: although the number "1" is smaller than "2", a "#1" ranking is considered "higher" than "#2"; seeding is a way of separating "highly ranked" players so that they ("seeds") do not play against each other until later in the draw.
- Q: Why isn't there a PRECISE ending time for WW's?
- A: In contrast to "Social" events that can play for a set time [which can NOT work in a tournament setting due to "stalling"], the precise ending time can NOT be predicted (cf., Wimbledon 2010).

- Q: Why are "longer" matches given court priority?
  [Further experience had led to a de-emphasis of this in "WW 2.0", since "hassle" outweighs UNLIKELY scenario described below]
- A: The rationale for the TD starting "longer" (more competitive [based upon TD's/others' experience/advice]) matches first is: Essentially, if one wanted to "drag out" (lengthen) an activity (tournament/project/etc.) as for as long possible, one can imagine trying to schedule the lengthiest activities (upon which LATER activities are DEPENDENT) as late as possible. So, by doing LONG DEPENDENT activities FIRST, the potential for the "worst case scenario" is minimized! Basically, try to avoid having LONG matches "hold up" the entire tournament... [More info at http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical path method] From experience, proper choice of the first 4-5 matches (e.g., having 2 "beginners" [who at least know how to keep track of tennis scores] (or 2 "pushers" [defensive players who prefer to patiently wait for an unforced error from their opponent]) play each other ASAP can (along with priority given to Main draw matches) DRASTICALLY (1-2 hrs) reduce tournament completion time. Also, hopefully players can reach QF/SF/F approx. "together".
- Q: Why is there sometimes such a long wait between matches? [Again, "WW 2.0" seeks to significantly reduce this...]
- A: In general, more players than courts results in waiting.

  Higher seeded players usually get 1R byes and often must wait 1-2
  hours before playing their first match! Players who play almost
  immediately after the draw is made but lose their first match, can
  anticipate waiting 1-2 hrs for their 1st "Consolations" match to
  begin (assuming relatively large numbers of players, "winner's side"
  matches are given priority). Also, defaults can sometimes further
  increase wait time.
- Q: Tell me more about the ranking system.
- A: Professional tennis seems to use a MORE COMPLEX system that includes some notion of "best n of m results".

  This current WW divisor system yields CD's of (2,2.5,3,3.5,4,...) which has been shown to DRAMATICALLY improve the "realism" of player rankings as compared with the pre-2010 system (similar to old TNS's) with divisors of (3,3,3,4,4.5,...). The old CD's encouraged "sitting on points" [protecting one's point average by only playing 3 WW's, especially in Doubles where LUCK-OF-THE-DRAW often plays a large role!], while the new (2010-) CD system more accurately ranks infrequent strong players yet rewards participation.
- Q: Why should the TD help resolve disputes/etc.?
- A: Since the TD has enough experience/etc. to be capable of creating a proper draw then setting out match order, the TD SHOULD also be "wise" enough to handle "problems" (with assistance from others if absolutely needed...) in a DECISIVE (quick & final) manner. This should help avoid "gridlock" caused by a single "unhappy" player.
- Q: Why are WW's so "awesome"??
- A: For any players who have PAID \$\$ to then endure protracted waits (from rain delays, long matches, etc.) at TNS or other tennis tournaments, the experience of WW's \*SHOULD\* be a dramatic improvement!! This may be reflected by the observation that WW's have FAR MORE PARTICIPANTS than most TNS tournaments!

  Any changes to WW's are likely to be incremental/small and must be well thought out so as not to "hurt" something already GREAT!

  I.e, don't "break" something VERY good while trying to "fix" it!
  Thus, ANY changes [suggestions ARE welcome] are UNLIKELY to be a potential improvement, and change is likely to be SLOW!

  [But, player VOTES led to rapid major evolution to "WW 2.0"...]

- Q: [paraphrased from FIRST/only(?) Nov. 2010 "feedback" <-- Thank-you!!] Is there some [easy & fair] way of preventing "OBVIOUSLY [too] strong" WWd pairings ("stacked teams") who are likely to win easily?
- A: [again, from PL -- his "opinions"/etc...]

  Short Answer = NO!

Longer "Maybe" Answer (to this "good Q") in 4[5] parts below:

- 1. Why "judgment" of players' "skill" is imperfectly biased & etc.:
  - a. WHY/HOW can such a "stacked team" occur?

This is INEVITABLE in RANDOM situations -- it WILL happen occasionally! Sometimes called "luck of the draw".

Conversely, sometimes "painfully weak" teams (which few will notice) are also produced. Obviously, the "WWd System" [see I./II. 4. b. above] is meant to minimize BOTH situations and strive for "as much PARITY as is reasonably possible"!

[NOTE: although multiple lotto winners are SUSPICIOUS: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/story/2009/10/

26/lottery-dispute-court-super7-ndabene-calgary.html WW draws (since at least 2009) HAVE BEEN [half-]RANDOM!!]

- b. Basically, this gets back to issue of "judging" players' "skill" as opposed to using an unbiased evaluation system (like rankings) [see also II. 4. b. above].
  Due to injuries, "upsets", etc., even "elite" players can't always agree amongst themselves how they'd "seed" each other!! This problem of 2 "strong players" being "matched" is similar in WWs & WWd, except the outcomes are opposite! In WWs, 1 of the 2 MUST lose and thus get "abnormally low" points -- thus if the unseeded "strong player" loses, they will likely be a "dangerous (unseeded) floater" AGAIN next WWs! In WWd, the unseeded "strong player" is likely to gain enough points that they will be seeded NEXT WWd! (If not, they might be a "dangerous floater" again next WW...). So, by using a random system (though "imperfect" like ALL OTHER SYSTEMS), "self-corrections" SHOULD occur eventually...
  - The above [I./II.] "system" \*IS\* a significant improvement over the pre-2010 set-up where some "decent" ("3.5" [see below]) players were able to finish #1 at year's end by getting lucky with 2 or 3 good partners then "protecting their points"... Getting 2 or 3 good partners could almost "guarantee" #1 in years past, but, this current system encourages PARTICIPATION to "prove" one's [more realistic] ranking!

The problem of "judging" players (along with trying to

- "improve" GOOD/GREAT SYSTEMS) was brought to light in 2009 when the WWs were ALMOST "ruined" by an ill-advised IGNORANT "decree" to split WW's into "A" & "B" divisions. Besides disagreements (even among experienced players) regarding who were the "[A]dvanced" players, any actual attempt at implementing a NOT-COMPLETELY-THOUGHT-OUT-SYSTEM [unlike THIS document which reflects PL's attempt at creating a sufficiently detailed "manual"/guide to running "optimally efficient fair streamlined" WW's based also on valuable EXPERIENCE], would have been simply comically disastrous!
- [BTW, "Doubles proficiency" seems much harder to evaluate since partner "chemistry" can be a significant factor...]
  But, since "judging others" can be "fun"...
- c. Based on the FINAL 2010 WW rankings, and PL's "estimation"... Of 64 listed WWs players, approx. 7 in Top-10 are "4.0+" [www.USTA.com/Play-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/ratings/] MEN'S SINGLES players and there are approx. 6 others (including one woman) who are "under-ranked" [mostly due to infrequent play]; of these 13, PL would consider approx. 10 to also be "4.0+" in DOUBLES, with approx. 2-3 others being 4.0 DOUBLES but 3.5 SINGLES due to limited mobility/etc. Of the 69 listed WWd players, approx. 5 in Top-10 are "4.0+"

- 1. c. DOUBLES, with approx. 5 other "4.0+"s being "under-ranked"... Assuming we define a "stacked team" as 2 "4.0+" DOUBLES players teamed together, such occurrences should be fairly rare, and arguably only resulted in approx. 2 such "easy wins" in the 10 2010 WWd played.
  - d. SINGLES ranking does NOT guarantee DOUBLES proficiency! http://www.cbc.ca/sports/story/2010/08/09/sp-rogers-cup.html http://www.rogerscup.com/men/pdf/SMD\_aug\_15\_10\_revised.pdf http://www.rogerscup.com/men/pdf/MDD\_aug\_15\_10\_revised.pdf tells the story of the #1 & #2 WORLD-RANKED SINGLES players playing DOUBLES together at the 2010 Rogers Cup yet losing to a Canadian "Wild Card" [ranked too low to qualify for the draw without "special help"] team! [RN/ND appeared to have had enough success for "direct entry" into the DOUBLES draw(?)...]
  - e. While judgment \*is\*/[was] used for scheduling match priorities [see I./II. 6. above], doing so generally has a MINIMAL effect upon the final MATCH results.
  - f. Misc. issues:
    - If "strongest team" broken up, shouldn't "weakest team" also? Some players \*WANT\* the challenge of playing "good" opponents and may wish to use the opportunity to "prove their skill"!
- 2. A POSSIBLE [time-consuming?] UNTRIED "system" of MAYBE FAIRLY(?) breaking up a LUCKY random "stacked team" [conceived 2010-11-06]:
  - a. There can be only ONE "overwhelmingly strong" team of "elite"/
     "[A]dvanced"/"4.0+" DOUBLES players. (If there are 2, only 1
     can "easily(?!) win"!)
  - b. The "complainers" (players unhappy with the pairing; CAN include the 2 "elite players") MUST:
    - i. "shame" the "strong pairing" to agree to a possible split,
    - ii. convince the "weaker team(s)" [there could be a BYE
       involved and some players enjoy "playing up"] to also
       agree to a possible split,
    - iii. gather enough players for MULTIPLE votes where "clearly"
       a majority of those present voting can off-set the "I
       don't care and would rather continue warming up" = "No I
       do NOT want to waste valuable court time voting" = "NO!"
       votes who are "voting NO with their feet". The votes
       ("majority rules") would be (in order):
      - "Is this team TOO STRONG?" [remember: players unwilling to "come in" to vote are essentially saying "NO!"]
      - with input from TD/rankings/players/etc., multiple votes
        until majority (PRESENT AT VOTING since only their
        opinion matters at this point...) agrees upon a DOUBLES
        SKILL RANKING of 4 or 6 [if BYE involved] players.
        (Note that this requires PUBLICally identifying the
        "worst player of a [small] group" and COULD be
        embarrassing. Also, the "seeding #"s of the 2 or 3
        players [remember that ALL WWd teams are "seeded"] can
        serve as an "aid", but, "relying" upon them solely kinda
        seems silly since that's what \*this\* "process" is trying
        to "enhance"...).
      - iv. NOTE: failure at ANY point above suggests that the
         "majority" wish this [unfair?] "process" to end
         immediately so matches can begin!
      - v. Create 2 or 3 NEW "as equitable as possible" teams by pairing the "strongest" with the "weakest" -- the "middle" team should be most "balanced".
    - vi. If 3 teams, MAYBE decide (more voting) if team with seeded player truly is [still] "deserving" of the 1R BYE...
    - vii. LEGIBLY print names of NEW teams on drawsheet.
  - c. Start 1R matches ASAP!
  - d. If ANYONE can propose a well-thought out & explained "better" system, please do!

- 3. IF above "system" had been "thought up" (& "accepted") by 2010-08-21 [date of the "unfair" WWd mentioned by original suggestion -- see 4. below]:
  - a. [Note: name abbreviations used to "protect"...]
    #2seeds\_PL/SN DID win the WWd "quite easily" (from their
    perspective...) [also, strongest WWd team of 2010?]
  - b. i. no "shaming needed" -- would gladly have split up!
    - ii. assume #15seeds MD/BS agreed to split also.
    - iii. assume "majority" also wanted PL/SN to be split up.
      - v. new MUCH more "balanced" teams: PL/BS vs. SN/MD (1R) [based on BOTH 2010-08-21 WWs + WWd rankings...]
  - c. Even if PL/BS lost 2 straight matches, PL would almost certainly have still finished #1 at year's end... If SN lost his first match, he'd most likely still be an unseeded "dangerous floater" AGAIN at his NEXT WWd!
- 4. SPECIFIC RESPONSES to ORIGINAL SUGGESTION [broken up]:
  - a. "There should be a "rule" in place that does not allow two highly ranked players to be teamed."

Actually, only PL was ranked high enough to be seeded for the 2010-08-21 WWd in question. The WWd system CLEARLY prevents "two highly ranked players [from being] teamed"!

b. "In this case one of the players (SN[edited to initials only]) had been out for the better part of a year and came back. Paired with [PL] who was ranked no 1."

Actually, on 2010-08-21, PL was ranked #3 in WWd [#1 in WWs] and seeded #2 for that WWd. SN was ranked #11 in WWs & a low #43 in WWd (due to a very poor late-2009 result combined with 2 poor results in the 1st 2 2010 WWd; skipping the next 4). So, SN had a "legitimate" (albeit abnormally low for him] WWd ranking, as contrasted with "NEW" players who ALWAYS start off as "dangerous (unseeded) floaters"; again, it is usually IMPOSSIBLE to "insert" someone into the seedings...even professionals get "upset" [lose earlier that predicted based on rankings/judgment/etc.]!

Although he played no more in 2010, SN did gain sufficient points to become a "low seed" for subsequent WWd...

- c. "No competition for the rest of the season." Not sure about above meaning, but, the #1 season-ending WWd ranking was NOT YET SECURED at that point since there were 3 more scheduled WWd still to come. However, PL did agree at the time that this "lucky draw" [it \*WAS\* TRULY RANDOM unlike some past StG's draws NOT "overseen" by PL or others with INTEGRITY] was unnecessary since PL believed it was HIGHLY UNLIKELY that ANYONE would be able to "defend"/win enough WWd points to finish ahead of PL for 2010.
- d. "Seen as NOT FAIR"

SOME players, who do not understand or believe in lucky draws [understandable given StG's UNFORTUNATE "tradition" of NON-random pairings/draws/etc. (which PL has tried to ELIMINATE COMPLETELY from WW's!)], would understandably have such a misperception. However, it seems clear from the last 3 2010 WWd that PL did NOT need an "elite" partner to win...

- e. Again, THANK-YOU for your FEEDBACK!!

  BTW, if the above is not a satisfactory answer, PLEASE provide
  "constructive criticism"!
- 5. Another Possible Solution to "Stacked Teams":
  - a. This involves "preventing" "stacked teams" from forming in the first place (BEFORE/while the draw in made up).
  - b. "Complainers" must be AWARE of unseeded/underseeded "strong DOUBLES players" ASAP, then identify GROUP of "elite players" who should NOT be paired together.
  - c. "Complainers" must gather "majority" of players to multi-VOTE on who "belongs" in such an "[A]dvanced group".

- 5. d. If MAJORITY agree on "group too strong to be partners with each other", then draw will be made randomly, except that such "illegal pairings" are "re-drawn". MUST BE CAREFUL TO ENSURE REMAINING DRAW \*STILL\* "RANDOM"!
  - e. Sub-Q: Why not simply ask the TD to do all without "votes"? Sub-A: PL does NOT consider "Stacked Teams" a problem in the first place [i.e., would ignore BOTH of his solutions], AND asking the TD (who is also playing) to NON-randomly form certain teams would cause even more accusations!
- Q: Can I change the WW point system?
- A: The above points distribution has been successfully used for MANY YEARS and there do NOT seem to be any compelling reasons for change. [But, some changes for "WW 2.0"...]
- Q: Why is "No-Ad" sometimes used? Are there alternatives/options?
- A: No-Ad scoring [details in II.5.a. above] has been used sporadically in the past to "speed up" WW's (either when there were a LOT of players &/or "rain coming soon"). Since the vast majority of players present historically voted to "finish sooner", it was "officially" implemented in 2010. Finishing "sooner" has the following benefits: 1. Less defaults from "I gotta go to do..."
  - 2. Less complaints from other members showing up "around noon"...
  - 3. A good "mental test" & experience for players interested in other (e.g., TNS) competitions. TNS often uses "No-Ad Pro-Sets" for Consolations matches! For those uncomfortable with such "pressure", simply do NOT allow the score to get to Deuce! ;-) For benefit/fairness of ALL, No-Ad must be used at least until Main Draw SF's and Consolations F[inal]; at such point, at most 3 courts are needed and "regular/full-Ad" can be used IF BOTH PLAYERS AGREE. [WW 2.0: matches shortened to "6"-game NoAd ProSets when >48 players]
- Q: "2010 Survey" WW Comments (from "Page 4. ... [Question] 8. ..."
- A: a. ALL already fully addressed above in this document!
  - b. Some elaborations to specific comment(s):
    - # 1. ANY [well-thought out/through] "improvement" MUST be EASY to understand/implement/maintain/etc. YET still be "FAIR"...
    - #2,4. WW's are "open" to ALL members & guests. Individuals will
      vary with regards to their experience/perception of WW's as
      being primarily "social" vs. "competitive". However, the WW
      "format" will NOT become more like the [Sun./Tue./Wed./Fri.]
      "social events", unless players WANT to bring snacks... ;-)
      BTW, WW's are NOT meant to be "Saturday morning day-care".
      - #12. Inevitable waiting explained above.
         Besides necessitating(?) a name change to the "less poetic"
         "WeeTwiceWeekly" (or even worse "WeeSemiWeekly"),
         [note that the ambiguous "(Wee)BiWeekly" only works in UK]
         setting aside additional court time is a "big deal" (see rest
         of Survey...).

      - #23. "~6hrs"?? You must be a "Top-5" Singles player at StG's! ;-)

- Q: Why have changes to the "nearly perfect" "WW System" been made? How much time can be saved? Who authorized such drastic changes?
- A: The first three 2012 WWs [May-July, 2012] had relatively large draws and finished after 3pm under "beach heat" conditions with multiple defaults. In addition, 2 players ["present by 9am"] once graciously withdraw due to >32.

(Complaints [none reported] from non-WW-players had no influence.) In a standard ["traditional WWs"] draw of 32, there are 16 1R matches plus 8+4+2+1=15 additional matches on each side of the draw. So, "WW 2.0" eliminates approx.  $16/(16+15*2) = 35\% = \sim 1/3$  of the matches, or (based on  $\sim 0:40$  Pro-Sets) an estimated 2 hours (of wait time). At 2012-07-21's WWd, players present, most of whom also play WWs, voted OVERWHELMINGLY (nearly unanimously) to "evolve" WW's to allow unlimited participation while finishing earlier (via shortened sets as needed), and hopefully have more "balanced/competitive" matches. [Due to poor weather, Consolations have OFTEN been omitted from StG's Open/A (a large TNS sanctioned tournament); also Pro's play single-elimination...]

Additional improvements (in the same "spirit") were made by PL. Future improvements shall be made in a similar manner, unless possibly requiring "Board Approval" (such as time/etc. changes).

- Q: How might "ranking points distributions" change with "WW 2.0"?
- A: In general, approx. 50% more points are awarded "winners" when a HUGE draw (requiring an extra drawsheet) occurs. WWd: BOTH winners earn more points if #Players > 64. WWsA: 65["rounded" DOWN from 45\*1.5] pts to winner when #WWsA > 32. WWsB: 18 points to winner when #WWsB > 16.

HOWEVER, "10 pts" "easy wins" from "Intermediate" players luckily drawing a B[eginner] for 1R wins will be much less frequent, replaced instead with "low pts" from more challenging A[dvanced] opposition.

- Q: Why not similar (A/B-division) changes for WWd?
- A: Since Doubles tends to be more "sociable", players seem less annoyed by waiting. Also, the current system already seeks to (randomly) "balance" teams. In addition, PL can't imagine a "GOOD" (simple, easy, less headaches, etc.) way to do it! [If it ain't broke...]
- Q: I'm injured/etc.; may I "play down" (below my ranking) in WWsB? A: Generally NO, but, can request "group vote" during "Roll-Call"...
- Q: I don't play tennis well enough to "earn" a "2nd match" (in WWsB). I prefer the old WWs system where 2 players "had" to play with me!
- A: StG's host MANY "social tennis" events; consult a Duty Host &/or http://stgeorgetennis.ca/calendar.php Also, there are great FREE learning resources online...
- Q: Why are rankings not PERFECT? Absolutely "perfect" assessments of ALL players would lead to "perfect seedings" and PERFECTLY EQUAL WWd teams! AND, actual matches would NEVER need to be played!! ;-)
- A: Besides the difficulty in assessing ANY person/player, especially if they are new/unknown/injured/intoxicated/distracted/depressed/happy/ injured/healthy/hungry/hot/cold/wearingSunscreen/thirsty/sick/smelly/ HatesSunInTheEyes/PlaysWellInWind/sleepy/hungOver/nice/mean/itchy/ unmotivated/bored/horny/curious/constipated/etc., there's still issues of "chemistry" between partners/opponents/etc. The WWd "system" is SPECIFICALLY designed to utilize FAIR RANKINGS to minimize the CHANCES of unusually strong/weak teams from being REPEATEDLY formed.

- Q: Might 2(or 3)-year rankings be more accurate? Head-to-head/etc.?
- A: Not sure "optimal" length for rankings. Perhaps a "non-linear" system in which current results are more highly weighted might be better, but, in the spirit of simplicity, "the pro's use 1 year"... Rankings based on "who you beat" are what the "Rogers Rankings" [a dismal failure in NS] are based on. SIMPLE rankings (like WW's) are TRANSPARENT! Thus "Repechage" also likely too complex...
- Q: Why are there always some people unhappy/unsatisfied with various aspects of WW's (& life/world) ?
- A: This could require some deep philosophical analysis; perhaps Google can assist in non-WW-specific ponderings...

  However, with regards to WW's [even for those who do/not believe that "Tennis \*IS\* life!!"], it seems that the majority of complaints fall into 2 categories (with further sub-divisions):
  - 1. Waiting makes me unhappy!
    - Well, well-organized societies/groups can often function more efficiently than individuals, but, often requires a degree of sharing. Likewise, there are generally more tennis players than courts available (globally, and specifically at WW's). In fact, even if we had more tennis courts than needed (e.g., minimum 6 WWs players using 5 courts), matches would still finish at differing times... [see above for problems with pre-set match durations] Unless computerized (e.g., with a [weather-proofed?] iPad), it does take time (around 10 minutes) following verification of player entries/etc. to create RANDOM draws.

Perhaps therapy/reflection can help??

- 2. I only wish to play with better or worse players than myself, depending upon my mood/situation/Astrological forecast/etc...
  - a. I only wish to play with players "my level" or better:

    This is frequently heard from [self-assessed?] "good"

    players, especially regarding WWs. This seems to reflect a

    desire to hit against "good balls", combined with a personal
    acknowledgment of NOT being "the best".

The A/B-divisions of "WW 2.0" should help with this concern. However, just as in provincial(TNS) [or even national] "Open" tournaments, there will always be some "weak" players willing to "pay" for the opportunity to "play up"; WWsA players pay via "ball usage" [of their NEW can of balls].

Since most players will likely prefer "playing up" (rather than "down"), "pride" will hopefully compel "strong" unknown/new players into WWsA.

- b. I only wish to play with players/teams "my level" or worse: This is frequently heard from [self-assessed?] "good" players, especially regarding WWd. It seems that for Doubles, PERFECTLY EQUAL teams [IMPOSSIBLE, see above...] are expected, except for those happy to be on a strong team likely to win...
- c. I don't know what I want, but, StG's/TD should make me happy!
   Perhaps therapy/reflection can help??
- Q: Why doesn't the TD "fix" draws so that they "appear balanced"?
- A: Besides the fact that this is "cheating" [which \*IS\* okay if majority votes to "change the rules/law"], seeking short-term "balance" with http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Random\_variable reflects a common misunderstanding regarding probability. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gambler's fallacy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthday problem

Basically, "strange pairings" WILL occur given multiple random draws; it would seem suspicious if they NEVER occurred!!

RANDOM WW's [a "dynamic (self-correcting) system"] tends to "balance out" in the  $^*LONG^*$  RUN...

BTW, although "complaints" sometimes occur regarding "stacked teams", [see above], rarely/never is "that pairing is unfairly WEAK" heard!!

- Q: Why were player levels for triggering "No-Ad" changed with "WW 2.0"?
- A: Based on prior "stats", along with other significant changes, and a desire to SIMPLIFY things, 16/32/48 were chosen for No-Ad/etc.... BTW, "No-Ad" preferred/chosen over "shortened set" to allow more serving, and to maintain "traditional WW scores".
- Q: Why are there not separate divisions based upon gender and age? Might that be helpful?
- A: Besides being more "work" to keep track of & manage, such divisions would run counter to StG's "non-discriminatory" nature. At the "Beginner" level, young males can use their superior speed & strength to pre-emptively hit balls "firmly" into the net/fencing! ;-) Thus, old women \*can\* defeat young males, especially in Doubles! In 2012, the introduction of A[dvanced]/B[eginner] WWs divisions serves the same general purpose of dividing by SKILL (instead).
- Q: How much "rest" is "reasonably" allowed between matches?
- A: This has generally NOT been an issue since the TD tries to "space out" matches, match winners are often happy to "stay on" to play another set, and most players are generally "nice" to each other. However, towards the END of tournaments, matches tend to follow quickly. Based on TennisCanada.com "rules", which allow a 10 minute rest before a 3rd set in 60+ yrs old matches, it seems that a similar 15 minute break (for the LATER match finisher), SHOULD be sufficient.
- Q: Why "NEW balls"? For WWsA only?
- A: Using new balls better simulates TNS tournament conditions. In the past, some players somewhat unfairly ended up frequently supplying balls since opponents had poor/none...

  Players playing WWsA are more likely to play TNS tournaments and be "pickier" about balls used.

  TNS often uses "recently used" balls for Consolations & Doubles.

  Anyways, while the WWsA tournament winner leaves with UNOPENED balls, all other participants can [re-]use their balls for 2+ weeks (until the next WWsA); costing Max. \$10/month, (perhaps less if "thrifty").

  ["NEW balls" re-confirmed by UNANIMOUS vote at 2012-08-18 WWs; followed IMMEDIATELY by some players NOT bringing new balls! :-( ]
- Q: Please elaborate on some NS/Canadian tennis "rule quirks":
- A: TennisCanada.com [TC] (at least for 2012, based on email correspondence) does/did not follow "seemingly more up-to-date" USTA.ca "rules", preferring instead that Canadians follow the current "Rules of the Court". [available free online!] However, Britain & Australia also do NOT follow the American "The Code"; ALL \*do\* follow actual Official ITF rules.

  TNS (in 2012) used Wilson "US Open" Extra Duty balls (generally considered "Hard Court" balls) for ALL tournaments. In the past, TNS/NSTA \*has\* used [proper?] "All Court" balls on Har-Tru...

  In reality, such minor differences really should NOT "significantly" affect match outcomes...except perhaps "mentally"! ;-)
- Q: Why does PL (when acting as TD) seem to always delay playing his [first] match[es] until "last up"? (as reflected in match orderings)
- A: To minimize disruptions to TD-playing matches (both mentally and for opponents), ensuring that as many matches as possible have completed "smoothly" PRIOR to allowing others to [hopefully] "take over" seems wise. Thankfully, there are USUALLY helpful competent "assistants" able to PROPERLY "not waste court time"! As there are more players present EARLY, "issues" with "less experienced" participants will also tend to come up early; as such, having an experienced mediator [PL as TD] available seems prudent. This helps reduce PL's "mental burden/handicap" of "running things" while playing...but leads to a "less rest & scouting" DISADVANTAGE deeper into the draw! :-(

- Q: It seems unfair for a TD to ALSO compete!
- A: VOLUNTEERS!

If a competent neutral non-playing volunteer/staff can be "coerced"/ "tricked" into managing WW's...

- Q: What happened to "calling in" to sign-up?
- A: When there were participation limits, "calling in" did NOT guarantee a spot since maximum numbers could already be PRESENT.

  With "WW 2.0" due to an [over-]abundance of players, there's really no need/incentive to facilitate EVEN MORE players, so, the "call in sign-up privilege" has, for simplicity, been allowed to fade away...

## ["WW 2.5":]

- Q: How are improbable/anomalous situation handled?
- A: Rather than cover EVERY POSSIBLE situation (e.g., no Top-20 players show up to play WWsA), TD's judgment/experience &/or possibly group votes can help in keeping this document relatively simple...
- Q: Please elaborate a little on the USTA.com's NTRP (National Tennis Rating Program) system? Could it be used for WW's?
- A: From their website:
  - "...rating categories are generalizations about skill levels...but...

    Ultimately your rating is based upon match \*RESULTS\*."

    [So, "winning ugly" can rate above "losing pretty"...]

    LOTS [hundreds/thousands?] of players are needed to make multiple categories/gradations useful/feasible for tournament purposes. For WWs, the "borderline" between "A[dvanced]" and "B[eginner]" is what could be deemed "Intermediate", with roughly an NTRP rating of "3.0".

    [BTW, without [considerable] additional match experience, persons completing "Intermediate"/"Advanced" LESSONS should initially play in the "B[eginner]" category.]

APPROXIMATE/ESTIMATED \*MEN'S\* SINGLES RATINGS (based on PL's "research", asking NTRP-rated players, and LOTS of online info): NTRP "Skill" / RANGE [roughly Low to High "end"...]

- 1.5 = too weak to play ANY tournament!
- 2.0 = lowest level player at WW's; WWs-B[eginner]
- 2.5 = many/majority(?) of players at "Socials"; should enjoy WWsB
- 3.0 = has/could win WWs \*CONSOLATIONS\*; "Intermediate" at StG's
- 3.5 = "peer-pressure'd" to play WWsA[dvanced]
- 4.0 = WWd season champ < TNS-A champ < WWs MainDraw/"A" champ
- 4.5 = WWs season champ < NS Open Cons champ < StG's Closed champ
- 5.0 = "Open Class"; should win 2+ matches in TNS Open Tournaments
- 5.5 = NS Open winner; "Open" in U.S.A./BC/ON...
- 6.0 = TRYING hard to get ranked on AtpWorldTour.com
- 6.5 = Ranked below 400 on AtpWorldTour.com
- 7.0 = Top-400 in the world
- "7.5" = Federer! Some say Top-5/10/20/50...
- Note: An "approximate" [average] winning score for a player 0.5 higher is 6-1 [6-0 according to USTA; 6-2 according to MANY sites/opinions/etc...]; players have good/bad days/motivations! [http://tt.tennis-warehouse.com/showthread.php?t=306370] Also, ratings reportedly differ by region/"purposes" (e.g., "Wanna hit? I'm 4.5!...I'd like to enter the 3.5 tournament.") BTW, based on his "Rogers Rankings", the 2011 NS Open winner [P.P.] is only rated as "5.0" by TennisOntario.com!

[Doubles can be/seem very "different"...]

- Q: Why are there some seemingly BIG "surprises" in the WW rankings? Why are some people ranked "higher/lower than expected"?
- A: NO ranking/rating system (including "Pro") can EVER be PERFECT!
  Although rankings SHOULD/"hopefully" become more accurate over time,
  "[un-]lucky" draws CAN produce some strange results!
  Easier with OLD "WW 1.0" system since 1R losers could still try to
  earn Consolations pts. Overall, it may take a "while" for rankings
  to become "more accurate", but, players must still participate...
  Since WW rankings encourage/reward PARTICIPATION (like Pro's),
  frequent play increases chance for lucky/easy draws.
- Q: Can we restrict "A[dvanced]" to those ranked above a certain level?
  A: Besides being "elitist", it does little to attract "stronger"/"A"
  players, and may scare people away from playing "B"!
- Q: Why aren't the WWs divisions called "Open"/"A" instead of "A"/"B" ?
  A: PL DELIBERATELY avoided using "Open"/"Class A" [although "Open" used on plaques/etc.] to avoid confusion with TNS designations, AND because "A" = "Advanced" / "B" = "Beginner" "divisions"...
  Also, for ACCURACY's sake, WW's are (& have almost ALWAYS been) much closer in "skill level" to NSTA/TNS's "Class A".
  Technically, not exactly "Open" since only "promising juniors" are invited to play...
- Q: Earlier 8:30am "cut-off"?
- A: Besides being a MAJOR change (requiring "Board" & possibly "neighbors" approval), the people who have shown a willingness/desire /aptitude/etc. to VOLUNTEER and help out in running WW's are ALL relatively "young", and prefer a LATER start time! [more sleep!!]
- Q: Separate WWsA / WWsB start times?
- A: Besides the difficulty in spending MORE TIME (both court & TD's), "social" interactions will be reduced, weather, and the ability to "interleave" matches to optimize/distribute rest is lost. The intro of "Match SCHEDULING" in "WW 2.5" should greatly ease wait "burdens".
- Q: Limit to number of WWsB that can be won?
- A: The ranking system itself will take care of this! Winner(WWsB)=12pts > #20=~10pts
- Q: I prefer Best-of-3-sets matches with Full-Ad. 1 set is "too lucky"!
- A: WW's are "highly compressed" tournaments. TN\$ has longer matches... While it is true that shorter matches favor the weaker player [Would you rather bet on beating Federer over 5 sets or 1 point??], WW's try to find a good balance, given real-world time constraints.
- Q: I only want to play the #1/best player (in my 1R match).
- A: Unlike professionals who generally prefer to "work their way into a tournament (think of Serena W.), you are "special" in your own way! A tournament (goal is to beat "ALL/EVERYONE else") differs from a "hit" (set up with whomever will play) and is more structured.
- Q: When/how can "shortened matches" go back to "normal"?
- A: If "conditions" allow, "shortened sets" may return to 7-game NoAd ProSet at Main Draw QF's (Consolations SF's); and Full-Ad restored at Main Draw SF's (Consolations Final); WWsB = WWsA = Main Draw. However, since "faster" completion of WW's is preferred, players wishing to continue with the shortened format ["stick with what got me/us here!"] have priority; if 3/4 WWd agree, that choice prevails.

- Q: Some misc. observations after 2 WWs with A/B:
- A: should be faster with 2 draws of comparable sizes, especially with less time-consuming complaints/accommodations from/for less-experienced "B[eginner]" players unaccustomed to waiting for courts &/or a larger draw to "catch up"...
  - less overall TOTAL points awarded, due to many fewer (1/3) 1R
     matches [usually ~10 pts for "easy wins"].
  - points have NEVER really been proportional to draw sizes, except in NEW cases for HUGE (WWsA > 32, WWsB > 16) draws; smaller draws get "easier" points [else would have to penalize participants...]
  - "phone-in" is incompatible with "re-confirmation" of A/B choices...
  - top seeds with byes STILL must wait 1-2h for 1st match (due to limited number of courts...); once players win 1st match, subsequent matches follow much more quickly than "WW 1.0"!
  - rankings should improve (become "more realistic") over time, but, there's still "[bad] luck of the draw"...
  - since courts "open up" every ~0:10 [NoAd ~20% faster?], "ESTIMATED match time" = 9am + (Match# \* 0:09).
    - an "average" set is  $\sim 0:40$ ; use 0:45 since 7-game ProSet + warm-up 0:45/(4 or 5 courts) =  $\sim 0:10$
    - "Match SCHEDULE" [on DrawSheet] are CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES so that tournament does NOT wait for players!
    - a "regular set" can range from ~0:15 to 1:30 !
  - more "competitive" matches slows tournament, but, players happier
    with "better battles"! (vs. "blow out" then default...)
  - although started first, the larger draw usually finishes last.
- Q: Some "practical advice" for TDs/PDs (from PL's experiences):
- A: the more "smoothly" WW's are run, the EASIER others will think this VOLUNTEER ["service" to StG's Community] "job" is, especially if they haven't read understood this "short document"!
  - looks "easy" for those who have never tried doing, kinda like Federer's game!
  - try to perceive the RARE ABILITY to successfully "RUN \*AND\* PLAY" a tournament as a gift/challenge/opport., rather than a "burden"!
  - "back-end" (website/ranking/postings/etc.) done "smoothly" so again seems "so easy"... Ignorance is bliss!! ;-)
  - realize that it is impossible to do this/anything "perfectly", and
    that there ALWAYS will be complainers [e.g., "I only want to play
    players my level or better, but, I insist on winning!", OR "even
    though I don't play, I should be [recognized as] #1." -- WTF??]
    - maybe treat "repeat complainers" with:
      - 1. RTFM -- this document
      - 2. "mental challenge"??
    - some [RARE?] complaints/suggestions will/may actually have value!
    - "Majority Rules", so don't even TRY to "make EVERYONE happy"!
  - no "cheating/bias/etc." UNLESS asked for by "majority" [present]
  - can't predict/anticipate everything --> just TRY to prepare...
  - trust your decisions, esp. if guided by "best for group"/etc...
  - Some general principles:
    - FASTER completions --> usually less complaints!
    - More players = obviously "doing something right"...
    - Responsibility to MAJORITY: "put out fires" AFTER get things going ASAP!
    - KISS! Hopefully experienced players can "teach" newbies...
    - Conflicting goals:
      - Goal of most players = finish ASAP! [beware "queue jumpers"!]
      - Goal of TD (takes precedence): finish ENTIRE WW ASAP! (thus waiting/taking turns/etc...)

## [advice:]

#### TD:

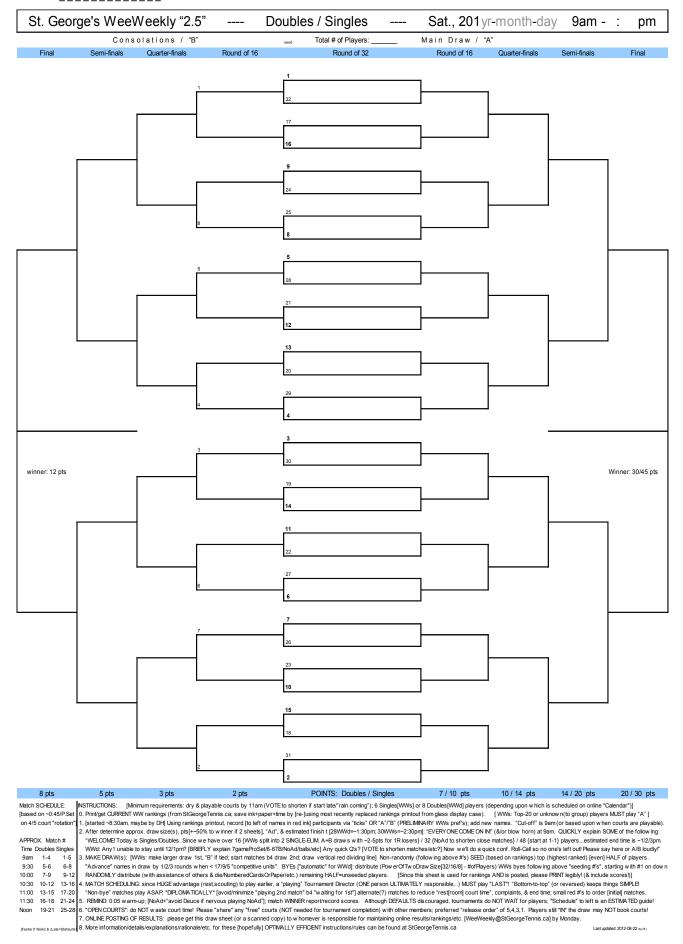
- WWs: quick 9am "tally" of draw sizes & pts when call "everyone in"
- learn to ignore questions while making draw ASAP!
- TD being ranked #1/#2 makes draw's match ordering easier (top-to-bottom, or reversed).
- to help PD, do NOT overly "mark-up" "Ranking Sheet"!
- exercise "patience" with "complainers", who might be intelligent, but, often are relatively inexperienced/"ignorant"...
  - prior to RUNNING these TENNIS tournaments, PL used to IGNORANTLY complain [mostly to himself] about fatigue at "playing twice before others played once" at TNS/NSTA tournaments. Now with experience, WW matches can be ordered to minimize fatigue AND [waiting] complaints, while still finishing ASAP.
  - generally, players [except SN ;-)] who have won their first match will be content enough to allow the tournament to try and run smoothly to an ASAP completion.
- A HUGE disadvantage ("bad luck") is to be "last match on" (because of LESS rest & "scouting"). However, an even greater UNIQUE difficulty/disadvantage is trying to RUN a tournament WHILE playing in it (ENORMOUS mental burden!) Thus, TD's choice is to sacrifice one for the other to PROTECT tournament integrity. Otherwise, more rest but unable to keep things running smoothly...
  - "Playing" TD's burden of playing last (shared by Doubles partner) would be much worse in a Best-of-3-sets situation
  - if TD played "first", accusations of self-favoritism instead!
  - play as "late as possible"; not LAST if WWsB has "deeper" byes...
  - maybe TRY to play on Courts #1-3 so "closer" to DrawSheet...
- "triple-check" ranking points:
  - 1st = determine & write points from [high] Winners "backwards"
     towards lowest (in red ink) on rankings sheet used Saturday.

  - 3rd = very quickly double-check spreadsheet points with old paper ranking sheet; MANUALLY check OWN RnkPts calculations.
- "Current" WW "replaces" prior year's points, and "up to" last year's "current date" + 6 days.
- Players withdrawing AFTER draw is made but BEFORE playing a single match receive 1 ranking point; failure to even show after calling in = 0.5 points.

## DrawSheet:

- to make "as large as possible" (without using a photocopier):
  - 1. Created in M\$ Excel 2007 [WW\_2012-08-22.xls; "64%...size"];
     safest/best results may sometimes require "Print Preview" 1st!
  - 2. Printed to GreenCloud v7.5.3 Printer then "Save[d] as PDF"
  - 3. Opened pdf with Foxit v5.1.4 Reader then Printed [Page Zoom 96%] to PL's Brother HL-2230 Laser Printer [in "Toner Save Mode"].

[\*this\* document created with OpenOffice]



## Some WW Statistics (since 2009):

```
- Most # of events (best weather): 10 WWd in 2010 [+ 8 WWs]
- Participation records:
 - WWs: 34 on 2012-06-30 [finished 4:30pm; pre-"WW 2.0]
 - WWd: 38 on 2012-06-16 [finished 2pm; latest 2:45pm with 17 teams]
            # of
  Year
           Players
                                 // Comments
WWs
  2011
          18 to 32; Avg=24.2
                                // 6 WWs
  2010 16 to 29; Avg=22.9 // 8 WWs = record!
2009 12 to 23; Avg=16.2 // 6 WWs
WWd
  2011
          16 to 34; Avg=23.5 // 8 WWd
          14 to 30; Avg=23.0 // 10 WWd = record!
  2010
          14 to 23; Avg=18.7 // 9 WWd
  2009
```

## Hi:

```
If you've read this far, CONGRATULATIONS!! or, I'm sorry...; -) If you also actually ENJOY playing WW's please feel free to "save"/protect the WW's" by helping "offset" a few loud complainers with some positive feedback to the StG's Board at http://StGeorgeTennis.ca/board.php
```

Thanks for reading!

- PL

## V. UPDATE HISTORY:

\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### 2010-October:

 Draft ("Version 0.9") of this document posted to StGeorgeTennis.ca for feedback.

#### 2011-02-08:

1. "Version 1.0" posted to StGeorgeTennis.ca

#### 2012-05-29:

1. "Version 1.1"

## 2012-07-24

SIGNIFICANT "WW 2.0" updates/clarifications/URL checking/etc.

- WWs A/B-divisions, mainly
  - 5.b.+c. [Pg. 6-7]
  - end of FAQ [Pg. 18-21]
  - new DrawSheet + Stats

Further "fine-tuning" is likely needed as gain experience with WW 2.0 - next major update(s) (if needed) will likely precede 2013 season... Note: "WW 1.0/1.1" was 17 pages; "WW 2.0" is now 25 pages!! :-|

#### 2012-08-22

- 1. Corrections/clarifications "clean-up"/etc.
  - 7.a. [P.9] WWsA/B 1R loser points detailed...
  - Lots SIMPLIFIED, including:
    - old (no longer relevant) material removed
    - Stats reduced
    - V. Update History (to keep at 1 page...)
  - additions to FAQ
- 2. Added "Match SCHEDULING"
  - "Version 2.5" because significant DrawSheet improvements!
- 3. Tried to keep "WW 2.5" "close to" 25 pages...