

THALHIMER CHALLENGE EVENT RULES

Revised 7/22/2026

1. The main focus of the event is to have fun and raise money for the RTA and their many activities to promote tennis in the Richmond Metropolitan Area. While winning is important, all should focus on sportsmanship and strictly adhering to these Rules.
2. *The club challenge kicks off on Thurs, Sep 17th at Salisbury Country Club, 6p. This will feature 5.0 / OPEN mens and mixed matches from every club starting at 7p. (This is the 2nd round played on Saturday in the past.) Also, there will be food, adult beverages and music. This will be the only time that all 12 clubs are playing together at the same site, so please plan to come out and cheer your club on to victory!*
3. Fri, Sep 18th- Sun, Sep 20th, matches will start at 8:00am with the 3.0 level. The host clubs will be Salisbury Country Club and The Westwood Club. Teams for these 2 clubs will play at their respective home location on Friday and Saturday. The remaining 10 clubs will be selected based on the standings from the end of Saturday play the previous year.
4. The format for the Challenge will be 2 out of 3 sets with a third set tiebreaker and scoring using the Komen tiebreak procedure.
5. Please warm-up prior to arriving at the tournament site. Once all 4 players have checked in they will be put in the queue for the next available court. Teams must play on the next available court. This could be an **outdoor or indoor court**.
6. All players must be a dues-paying member of the club or permanent employee. For purposes of this rule, the immediate family of a full-time teaching professional at a participating club shall be eligible to participate on behalf of that team.
7. All players 4.5 and below must have a valid USTA NTRP rating. Players can self-rate at tennislink.usta.com, click the SELF-RATE box. **Players who are self-rated must be marked on the team rosters with a (SR) next to their name.** There can be a maximum of 4-SR players per club on the roster and allowed to play in the Challenge 3.0-4.5 divisions. **Any SR player competing at levels 3.0-4.5 but NOT listed as SR on the club roster will result in a score of 0 points for that club. SEE ***SELF-RATED (SR) RULE EXPLANATION*** ON PAGE 3.**
8. The club captain is responsible for confirming that every player on their team (except those in the 5.0 / OPEN division) has a valid USTA rating. This can be confirmed at tennislink.usta.com under the "Find NTRP Rating Info". Players must be listed on the team roster by their name in TennisLink, but the name they go by can be in quotations. *Example: John "Jay" Smith*
9. Juniors, tennis pros and other amateur players, without a USTA rating, must play in the 5.0 / OPEN division. Players competing in the 5.0 / OPEN division are not required to have a computer rating in Tennislink, they don't count toward the 4-SR players each team is allowed to have on their team roster in the 3.0-4.5 divisions and they don't have to be listed as SR on the roster.
10. Team rosters are due by the club captains one week prior to the event on Thursday in September and will be posted at richmondtennis.org as soon as possible after that time.
11. No player can participate who is not listed on a team roster at the start of the Challenge. If a player does, that teams' rating / division will receive 0 points. (*Example: 3.0 / M#1=0 points*)
12. A player cannot play at the same rated level twice. A player may play up to a higher level event if that level is not in the same time slot they are already playing in. No player can play for more than 1 club during the Challenge.
13. Teams scheduled to play must stay within the immediate area of the tournament desk starting within five minutes of schedule. Time violations will be enforced in accordance with applicable

USTA Regulations. A five-minute warm-up will be enforced.

14. All doubles teams will receive 1 point for playing the match. The winning team will always receive 2 points, but in matches going to a 3rd set tiebreaker, the losing team will receive 1.5 points.
15. Defaults and 0 points will occur when a team does not field a doubles team in a particular category, a team not adhering to the rules or if there is unsportsmanlike conduct. The tournament desk has the authority to default a team for these reasons. Dress code violations – running shoes, or other obvious improper dress will result in a penalty of one game if discovered during the first two sets.
16. If a team that won a match is defaulted after play, the opposing team will be awarded the 2 winning points.
17. If two or more teams are tied after Saturday or Sunday, the tiebreaker will be as follows: 1) head-to-head wins 2) sets lost 3) games lost. All scores recorded will be final 30 minutes after the last match is completed at the location your team is playing at.
18. Once Saturday matches are completed, the top 3 teams from each location will advance to Championship Sunday played at Westwood and the bottom 3 teams from each location will advance to Consolation Sunday played at Salisbury. An updated schedule will be distributed to all teams as soon as possible on Saturday night and all match times will remain the same as they were on Saturday.
19. All scores will be reset on Sunday and the winner of the Thalhimer Challenge will be decided by whichever team earns the most points from Sunday's matches.
20. The vast majority of the clubs participating in this Challenge want to play on Consolation Sunday. It is important that all teams field players for every match. Any team that fails to have players show up for any line will receive a negative ½ point for each line that is a no-show. The total negative amount will be applied to Day 1 of next year's Challenge score.

*****SELF-RATED (SR) RULE EXPLANATION*****

To improve the competition in the Club Challenge, the RTA Board in agreement with the club captains, have decided to limit the number of SR players allowed from each club to 4. *Self-ratings are valid for 2 years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic computer rating. Please note the details below:*

1. Any player who has a valid USTA Computer (C) or Appealed (A) rating, is NOT a self rated (SR) player.
2. If a player has a D (Disqualified), they have already been bumped up to the next level and can play at the level above the level they were disqualified at.
3. Players with a Self (S), Early Start League Dynamic (E), Mixed (M) or Tournament (T) must be listed as SR on your roster and they count towards the 4-SR's you are allowed to have LISTED on your roster.
4. Any USTA SR player who has completed a minimum of 3 matches this calendar year, in any combination of the adult 18, adult 40 and/or adult 55 & over leagues will, for this Challenge only, NOT be counted as a SR player for that club. **Players that fall into this category must be listed on your roster as (SR-3) so there is no confusion with the (SR) players, that you are allowed to have 4 of.** Retirements and defaults do NOT account toward the 3-match minimum. Each team may have an unlimited # of SR-3 players. *NOTE: Play in the Adult 65 & Over League does NOT count for dynamic disqualification so a player that played in this league exclusively WOULD count toward the 4 SR players allowed for each club.*
5. Play in the following USTA leagues do NOT count for dynamic disqualification so any matches in these leagues will NOT count toward the 3 matches necessary to rate a player SR-3:

- a) 65 & Over Men / Women
 - b) Richmond Doubles Weeknight Women
 - c) 18 & Over Singles
 - d) 18 40 & 55 & Over Mixed
 - e) Tri Level Men / Women / Mixed
 - f) Combo Doubles Men / Women / Mixed
6. Any USTA SR player who has completed 0-2 matches in any combination of the adult 18, adult 40 and/or adult 55 & over leagues WILL be counted towards the 4-SR allowance each club has.
7. **Any SR player competing at levels 3.0-4.5 but NOT listed as SR on your roster will result in a score of 0 points for that club.**
8. Anyone can play in the 5.0 / OPEN division. Players competing in the 5.0 / OPEN division are not required to have a rating in Tennislink, they don't count toward the 4-SR players each team is allowed to have on their team roster and they don't have to be listed as SR on the roster.

The basis of this match requirement is that TennisLink, the USTA League match reporting system, will disqualify a self-rated player who has reached the threshold for disqualification 3 times. This is based on matches played in the adult 18, adult 40 and adult 55 & over leagues. A minimum of 3 matches is needed to trigger any such disqualification. Thus, if a player is performing significantly above level, they will be disqualified from playing at that level after a minimum of 3 matches are played.