

**Greater Portland City League Tennis Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 15, 2025
10:30 AM, Irvington Club**

CALL TO ORDER: Patricia McKinnon called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia McKinnon, Linda Brumder, Cindy Dorado, Shannon Bilstrom, Patty Morrison, Kate Hunter, Alisa Rakoz, Susan Agee, Penny Birkhofer, Michelle Johnson

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Joy Kolesnikoff, Stephany Mo

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING MINUTES: Approved, as corrected.

OFFICER REPORTS:

- **President:** Patricia McKinnon –
 - A June meeting date of June 11, at 9:30 AM was confirmed.
 - The six clubs potentially impacted by a rule change for 5.0's at the A/B level will be notified of our intent to revise this rule.
 - The new teams available for the 2026/27 season are: B, C, E, G, H, I, 2 at J, K, 4 at S. This information will be distributed to the tennis directors and/or appropriate City League contacts at each club.

- **Treasurer:** Kate Hunter –
 - The Budget Report was presented and expenses reviewed.
 - It was noted that a budget report and a bank statement are submitted each month to the President for review.

- **Website Coordinator:** Kate Hunter –
 - Overall, the mid-season roster update period went smoothly:
 - One Captain got in early, and the portal also stayed open later than planned. Guidance will be submitted to our website administrator to more clearly define portal opening and closing in the future.
 - Statistics:
 - Down 41 players in the league, (A down 3, B up 3, C down 6, D down 5, E up 3, F down 4, G down 5, H down 7, I down 5, J up 2, K down 5, S1 down 3, S2 down 6.
 - Total of 2050 in the league
 - S division has 311 players.
 - 172 players are cross-rostered in the S division.

- Substitutions update: several players at 4, one player has 6 subs.
- Defaults update: one K team has 8, a few teams have 3.
- Website updates:
 - The new teams available for the 2026/27 season will be posted.
 - Mid-season update period will be removed.
 - Spring add period information will be posted. The end date reminder will go out later in the spring.
 - Changes to the Contact Page noted in “New Business” will be made.
- **New Business:** The Contact page information was reviewed. To reduce exposure to phishing schemes and streamline communications the following changes will be made:
 - The division representatives, secretary and treasurer emails will be removed.
 - The president, vice president, website coordinator, and resolution coordinator contacts will remain.

DIVISION REPORTS –

- **A & B Divisions, Cindy Dorado:** a Captain needed assistance with the add/drop period. It was discovered in the process that a captain contact was missing, which was then added.
- **C Division, Michelle Johnson:** Roster update period support was provided.
- **F Division, Susan Agee:** Guidance was provided regarding a request for a split match. A discussion was had clarifying that the home team provides new, USTA approved tennis balls. If a visiting team has specific tennis ball needs, they could provide the balls, if the home team agreed. The division will be advised.
- **G Division, Shannon Bilstrom:** Two teams needed guidance with the roster update period. Additionally, one team received info on how to change an incorrect score input, but their delayed action ultimately resulted in the change being referred to the website coordinator.
- **K Division, Penny Birkhofer:** There was a communication issue where a Captain said they sent three messages to their rep, but no emails were received until their fourth effort which was sent to the President and Vice President as well. Tests were run on the messaging system, and no system failures were found.

The Captain’s concerns were regarding the number of defaults another team was posting including one entire match default. The rules require this default move a team down a division at the end of the season, however K is the lowest and no

further sanction is required. The board is aware the team in question is struggling this season. The president spoke with the club's management which is working on the challenges this team is facing and working to minimize future defaults. Even with the defaults, the point total for this team is typical of a team at the bottom of a division.

- **S Division, Patty Morrison:** Players from two teams expressed concerns about the significant difference in abilities within the league. They wanted the board to explore the idea of the flights being separated into a high and low bracket with further restrictions based on USTA ratings. These teams, coincidentally, were among the highest and lowest in their bracket, which most likely represents the widest split in ability levels.

The Board has visited this topic before and still concludes that the majority of players are best served by the present format. There is a bell-shaped curve at each division within City League illustrating a range between top and bottom teams. The S division provides an additional opportunity for players 65 and older to compete. Those at the top seeking a higher level of competition can pursue it by playing on a C-K team (as 172 already do), a USTA team, or some other league. For those who may find City League too challenging or are not having fun in the league, they are free to pursue tennis opportunities in a less competitive environment. CL Tennis hopes to continue to do it's best to serve both the minority of players at these two poles, and the majority that find themselves somewhere in the middle.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:43 AM.

Next Meeting: February 19, 2026, Irvington Club, 10:30 AM