

Tennis Facility Compromise Whiteboard System

The whiteboards have an upper part and a lower part. There's a whiteboard for courts 2-4, another for 5-7 and one for court 1. Let's use the whiteboard for courts 5-7 for illustration. It is located just outside court 5. The upper part is where you sign out a court that you're about to occupy and there are six lines, one for each court, with room to enter up to four names and the times you entered and will leave the court on the line. **Everyone playing has to be there** to occupy and sign out a court. You can't make an entry in the upper part in advance, so **it's not a reservation system**, it's a record of who is currently on the court and when they got there.

Courts 5-10 Sign Up Board						
(If you occupy a court but are not signed up for it on this board, other waiting players may sign up for it and take it over)						
Court	Players Names (No Initials)				Time (1.5 hr. allowed)	
	1	2	3	4	IN	OUT
5	<i>Keshawn</i>	<i>Rosa</i>	<i>Demayne</i>	<i>Miba</i>	<i>8:25</i>	<i>9:55</i>
6	<i>Alicia</i>	<i>Betty</i>	<i>Sophia</i>	<i>Jingzhi</i>	<i>7:15</i>	<i>8:45</i>
7	<i>Ingrid</i>	<i>Paolo</i>	<i>Millie</i>	<i>Jake</i>	<i>8:05</i>	<i>9:35</i>
8						
9						
10						

Do not erase names unless you are sure the players are no longer using the court or their 1.5 hr. are over.

Waiting List

	Players Names (No Initials)					
	1	2	3	4		
1	<i>Jintae</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Ed</i>	<i>Judy</i>		
2	<i>Shandra</i>	<i>Bill</i>	<i>Sandy</i>	<i>Tomo</i>		
3						
4						
5						

Do not erase names unless you are sure the players are no longer waiting for a court.

Whiteboard example for courts 5-7.¹

The lower part is the waitlist. You can put your names here when you arrive at the court and only one person has to be there to do it. Simply by looking at the upper part of the whiteboard, it is easy to see which courts are occupied and when they will become available so you know how long you have to wait.

In the illustration, a foursome has just taken court 5 at 8:25 a.m. The next court becoming available is court 6 at 8:45 a.m., then court 7 at 9:35, then court 5 again at 9:55.

¹ Courts 8-10 are reserved in advance using the "Kourts" computer/smartphone application. A "Kourts" reserved court not occupied in 1st 10 min. is forfeited and open to anyone for the remainder of the time period.

The waitlist is just a line of people waiting for the next available court, not a reservation. You can think about it like a line for a restaurant table for four. Only one person has to be in the line, but when a table becomes available, all four have to be there or the next group in line gets the table. If you're passed over, you don't lose your place in line, but you do have to wait for the next table.

For most of the day, all seven 1st come, 1st served courts are not in use and you can immediately walk onto a vacant court whenever you arrive. Rules to manage traffic aren't necessary then and the only whiteboard rules in force are that you must put your names and times on the board for the court you're occupying. If there is a vacant court available, newly arriving players must take the vacant court rather than move existing players from the court they're on.

During congested hours when demand is highest, the following rule was developed to increase the number of people who could play during those hours:

Courts 2-4 are limited to one hour of play to increase turnover. If this proves insufficient to meet demand and limit excessive waiting, additional courts restricted to one hour could easily be added.

What's a Good Whiteboard Plan for a foursome wanting to play 90 minutes?

Check out the whiteboard on courts 5-7 to see how many groups are waiting and when the next courts open. For example, if two groups are waiting and the next three courts will be available in 10, 15 and 25 minutes, you know you have 25 min. to wait. If only one group is on waitlist, then you have 15 min. to wait. If the wait is too long ...

1. Check out the whiteboard for courts 2-4 to see if the wait there is shorter. If so, you may be giving up 30 min. of play for a shorter wait. When your 60 min. is up on your initial court, other courts may have opened or be on a short wait and you'll be able to continue play there. Otherwise ...
2. Head over to the Challenge Court (Ct. 1) and put your names on that waitlist. When the current set underway is complete, two of you will play the winners next, the other two the set after that. By then other courts will open and you can play with your original foursome, having met some new people.

Protect Yourself

Occasionally, someone will mistakenly erase a line of names on the whiteboard. Then someone thinking that you haven't signed for the court you're on will try to get you to vacate the court so they can play on it.

The best defense against this is to take a picture of the white board when you sign up for a court (and include the clockface). If anyone challenges your right to the court, show them the picture. If they still argue, show the picture to the Sr. Recreation Asst. and request her help.