

Suggestions for Determining a Legitimate Tennis Lineup

Coaches shared the following methods for evaluating the skill level of their players so they can submit a **legitimate lineup which shall be based on the skill level** of their participating players (i.e. the #1 singles player shall be better than the #2 singles player).

I play challenge matches to determine the lineup based on ability. Initially, the coach sets up the matches, but as the season progresses, players are allowed to challenge other players if they would like to play up a position. They play the same person for the best of three matches to decide if they remain at the spot or move positions.

I consider the results of several things: Have girls play a set against each other in both singles and doubles. Send four girls to a court and play four games with each person and keep track of their total games. If sets are close, have the girls play a regular match vs each other. Look at the positions they have played in the past and what their record has been. Evaluate their current performance in region.

I have the girls play off and record scores. The #1 player should be able to beat anyone on the team. It should be clear to all.

To get an initial idea, have the girls play the best of four games. Each girl serves twice. If it went 2-2, they played one more. Evaluate their strengths and preferences for doubles or singles.

I form our team through singles challenge match play to separate out the top three singles players. Then we pair up the remaining players based on skill level and partner compatibility. After the best pairings are forged, then the doubles teams play challenge matches to determine their placement.

We play matches within the team and also see how the players do against other teams because of their mental strength.

We use challenge matches to determine their positions so the lineup is based on their ability.

For the first three weeks of the season, I do match play. Our girls are divided up into brackets of 6-8 players, giving everyone a chance to play a lot, facing each girl in their group at least twice. The top 8-10 girls play in 3 set matches to determine their varsity position. Match play continues into the season, with the players knowing that they "play their way" to a position based on their head to head matches with teammates.

Our method for selecting our positions is having our players play at least a set (to 6) for the order on the team. The singles players are placed in order of their head-to-head competition, with the best at #1, and so on. Match play continues until spots #1, #2 & #3 are clear.

I have a playoff with all varsity players playing four games against each other. A 7-Point Tiebreaker is played instead of a third set. Then we place the athletes into a ladder with the girl with the best record on top. The #1 position plays #1 singles. The doubles teams are decided by a number of factors including chemistry, communication, ability, and coach evaluation.

Our players challenge all the time. I establish a ladder and all players challenge once per week, within the singles and the doubles. Doubles teams must challenge each other especially. It is hard to determine the best "team" without those challenges.

I determine the team lineup by setting up a ladder to first determine the order of the whole team as singles players. Then we decide who would like to play in doubles and have a ladder system of doubles teams.

During tryouts, I group the players based on the ability/skill level and do round robin matches consisting of 1 set per match. This gives a rough idea of the order of the team to form a team ladder. Once the ladder is formed, we begin challenge matches to fine tune the team ladder. In a couple of weeks, it is obvious where the players stack up against each other. This method is used to determine the varsity & JV lineup for our preseason matches. The preseason matches are another tool used to determine the skill level of the players. We also look at their past records or successes.

I use pro-sets to get a general idea of the ability level of the players. Then the top five singles players have a round robin tournament, and the top four doubles teams have a round robin. Girls are allowed to challenge during the season.

Once an initial ranking of the girls is determined and they are placed in proper order, after practice time they may challenge each other for a higher spot. We continually watch the girls and will move them up and down depending on how they play.

I have a little tournament during tryouts to set up the initial ladder. Then, we will have challenge matches as needed to confirm or adjust the lineup. Girls provide input on doubles and then the doubles teams challenge each other and the better teams advance.

After an initial assessment, the players are divided into two categories: Adv/Intermediate and Beginner. After evaluating their skills through drills and matches, the first group is divided into two groups- advanced and intermediate. I ask players whether they prefer singles or doubles. Challenge matches are played, scores are recorded. The one with the most wins will be #1 to begin. I also look at the mentality of players during the matches (how well they handle game situations, the pressure, etc). During the season players that progress move up and we still continue with the challenge matches.

Challenge matches...is there any other legitimate way?