

## RULES FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

### 1. General League Rules

- a. All leagues must abide by and enforce the rules listed in the USTA League Tennis National Regulations and the Mid-Atlantic Section Rules, for all USTA League play.
- b. Since USTA league matches are unofficiated, the most current edition of [Friend at Court](#), "The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules & Regulations" and The Code: The Players' Guide for Unofficiated Matches shall apply in any situation not covered by the rules. Friend at Court is the book of rules and regulations under which tennis is played in the United States. It includes the ITF Rules of Tennis, The Code, and USTA Regulations
- c. League Registration: Local League registration dates are set by each Local League Coordinator and may be found on TennisLink and on some Local League websites. Late registration is subject to the discretion of the Local League Ambassador. Late team entries may not be accepted after the scheduling process has begun.
- d. Home teams provide USTA approved tennis balls if not provided by the facility/other party.
- e. Team captains handle all team administrative matters and represent their team in USTA League Tennis matters. All communication with the League Ambassador must go through the team captain.
- f. Team captains must be familiar with all Regulations, Policies and Procedures.
- g. Team captains are responsible for fielding a complete team for each match of the league season. Team defaults may affect the final league standings. Therefore teams should play all matches regardless of whether they are in contention for post-season play.

### 2. Team Rosters

- a. Players may play only one NTRP level above their current computer rating or self-rating. (USTA National Regulation 1.04G(5)). There is no limit to the number of players per team who "play up", unless it is a 2 team league, in which case each team must maintain its roster with at least 40% of its players at the designated level of play. (USTA National Regulation 1.04D(5)).
- b. The exception is the Adult 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation. The Section allows the same exception for the Adult 65 & Over Age Group.

### 3. Match Schedules and Match Times

- a. Matches are scheduled according to court availability.
- b. If due to court constraints timed matches are necessary, the minimum allowable match time is 1.5 hours. See Local League Procedures from the Local League Ambassador for timed match information.
- c. Match Rescheduling - \*Note: Delays or cancellations due to weather/facility issues are common; therefore, captains are expected to cooperate in the rescheduling process.
  - i. Match Schedules are firm. Matches are to be played on the scheduled date with the following exceptions, and at the discretion of the Local League Ambassador:
  - ii. Facility issues or weather (rain, heat, visibility, etc.)
  - iii. USTA Local Playoff or post season Championship (Regionals, Sectionals, Nationals).

- iv. LLA sponsored tennis events.
- d. Either the Local League Ambassador or the home team determines court playability if weather/court conditions or facility issues are questionable on the day of the match. See Local League Procedures for your local league policy.
- e. Inclement weather make-up matches must be played within 14 days or the deadline for completing local league match play, whichever occurs first. See 1.04C(2). This does not preclude a local Ambassador from formally re-scheduling a match date/time where local circumstances require, as long as established dates for completing local play are not violated.
  - i. If inclement weather or a facility issue occurs after a match has begun, completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted. If line-ups are exchanged and no matches have begun, different players can be presented at the make-up match.

#### **4. Match Format & Courts**

- a. The Local League Ambassador may schedule any combination of hard courts, clay courts, or indoor courts for league matches.
- b. Warm ups are limited to no more than 10 minutes. If a player arrives late, but before the 15 minute default time, the player is entitled to a 5 minute warm-up. See 2.01C(5) or 9b.
- c. It is recommended that match play consist of best two out of three sets with a match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set using regular scoring and a set tiebreak (first to 7 points by 2 points) at six games all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10 win by 2) in lieu of a third set shall be played immediately following the end-of-set rest period. The Coman tiebreak procedure will be used for all tiebreaks, unless stated otherwise for indoor matches in the Local League Procedures.
- d. In leagues where there are timed matches, refer to the Local League Procedures for specific instructions to follow

#### **5. Line-up Exchange**

- a. Team captains must simultaneously exchange line-ups before the match start time. Suggested time is 5 minutes before the match time. Those captains who do not submit the line up before the match start time are subject to the lateness penalties referenced in Local League Rule 7. Printed TennisLink scorecards (showing rosters) may be used.
- b. If a team knowingly begins a team match without a full complement of players for the line-up, they must forfeit from the bottom up. (#2 singles before #1 singles; #3 doubles before #2 doubles.)
- c. If a match is postponed after line-ups have been exchanged, all line-up positions may be changed except for any positions that already started their match (first service attempt). (USTA National Q&A Interpretations, Page 4)

#### **6. Team Defaults and Individual Match Defaults**

- a. Captains should notify opposing team captains (by email) of known individual match defaults in advance (USTA National Interpretations, Page 5) Once defaulted, players do not need to show to play and the team receiving the default will be awarded a 6-0, 6-0 score for the court. If unplayable conditions exist (weather, facilities, etc.) and the match is rescheduled, the default is void.
- b. If a player arrives 15 minutes after a scheduled match time, his/her individual match is considered a default. Below are the penalties for lateness (See Table 16 in [Friend At Court](#)):
  - i. 5 mins. or less late, loss of toss and 1 game;

- ii. 5:01 – 10:00 mins. late, loss of toss and 2 games;
- iii. 10:01 – 15:00 mins. late, loss of toss and 3 games;
- iv. More than 15:00 mins. late, default. If a player arrives late for a match, local league penalties for lateness apply. However, the player is still entitled to a 5 minute warm-up

#### **7. Score Entry.**

- a. If a team match is split up or interrupted by rain or other situation, use the date of the last outstanding individual match for entering the score in TennisLink.

#### **8. Post Season Play**

- a. If Local League playoffs are required, playoff formats will be determined by the Local League Ambassador and will be communicated to captains prior to the start of the league season.

#### **9. Captain/Player Conduct**

- a. All players and captains are expected to exhibit the highest levels of sportsmanship along with courtesy and fairness **both on and off the tennis court**. Each league participant is expected to know, and is bound by the National, Section and Local League Regulations.
- b. All matches should be played in good faith and to the benefit of tennis and fair play. Teams are expected to compete to win.
- c. **Captains should conduct administration of their team in a clear, concise, fair and appropriate manner in communications with other players, other Captains and Local League Ambassadors.**

#### **10. Grievances**

- a. There is a standard process in the National Regulations: National Regulation 3.00 Grievance Procedures. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members must be approved by the Section. Those local areas not opting into the Central League Grievance Committee must list Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members on the Local League Fact Sheet.

#### **11. Miscellaneous Rules**

- a. Medical Time Outs: No more than one (1) medical time out is allowed per player, per injury. The medical time out can be a maximum of 3 minutes in duration once treatment supplies are on court. Bleeding time outs consist of the time required to stop the bleeding up to a maximum of 15 minutes. If the injured player is unable to continue after the medical time out due to the injury or illness, the match will result in a retirement.
- b. Cell Phones: All players' cell phones are to be turned off during all matches. Any match disruptions caused by a cell phone will result in the opposing team being awarded one point.
- c. Spectators: No communication and no coaching is allowed between spectators and players
- d. Problem match: If there is a problem on the court with outcalls, foot faults, or delay of game, teams may seek an acceptable (by both) impartial third party to make calls in regards to these concerns. If an acceptable impartial third party is not available, a team captain or team representative from each team may observe the match from a stationary position at the net post. Selected parties must be in DIRECT observation and must remain at the net post (I.e. don't start wandering to baselines). If both agree,

out call correction stands. If only one party agrees then the player's call stands. In regards to foot faults, before a player may call a foot fault on his opponent, (s)he must first give a warning.

**This document incorporates all local league rules.**

***Approved by MAS League Committee 11/2020***