

2026 Sectional Championships Event Guide

Welcome to the 2026 USTA Florida Sectional Championships!

On behalf of USTA Florida, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 USTA Florida Sectional Championships, hosted at the world-class USTA National Campus in Orlando.

Thank you for being part of this exciting event. Whether it's your first time competing at Sectionals or you've made it here multiple times, your presence is a testament to your dedication, enthusiasm, and love for the game. This championship represents the culmination of a season filled with hard work, teamwork and passion. We are thrilled to have you join us in celebrating the spirit of USTA Florida League Tennis.

This Sectional is the pinnacle of our league season, and we hope it brings out the very best of tennis — spirited competition, outstanding sportsmanship, personal achievement, camaraderie, and fun. It's more than just a Championship; it's a memorable experience shared with teammates, friends, and fellow competitors from across the state. Whether you're here to win or just enjoy the experience, we're so happy to have you as part of this incredible tournament.

Best of luck to all teams as you take the court in pursuit of the 2026 Florida Sectional Championship title. Play hard, play fair, and enjoy every moment!



Plan for a 3-Day Event

Each Sectional Championship is scheduled for up to three days of play. Due to unpredictable weather, our original match schedule MAY change at any time. **PLAN ON PLAYING ALL 3 DAYS!**

Teams that withdraw prior to the conclusion of the event negatively impact the entire event, particularly for others who have committed to play and have incurred expenses to travel to the tournament. Since this offense impacts the experience of others, this is considered to be unsportsmanlike behavior. As a result, all of the defaulting team's matches are null and void but will be used for advancement and rating purposes. Further, those defaulted matches will count when determining standings if the defaulting team has played all teams with a mathematical chance to advance per

NR2.03L- Scoring of Full Team Defaults.

2026 Integrated Rules and Regulations: [2026 Integrated Rules and Regulations.pdf](#)

Per SR2.03L. All Captains and/or players on a Championship team not playing all matches in good faith or defaulting an entire team match shall be subject to a grievance. This includes registered and non-registered players who made a commitment to participate in the Championship.

See USTA regulations for complete information.

2026 Sectional Event Staff

Tournament Director

- Oversees Entire Tournament
- Scheduling & Procedures
- Line-up Changes
- Score Discrepancies
- Event Logistics
- National Campus Liaison

Officials

- Rules and Regulations
- Tennis Ball Distribution
- Match Questions

Athletic Trainer

- Injury Treatment and Prevention
- Assist with Athletic Needs

Event Coordinator(s)

- Event Updates
- Communications
- Score Entry into TennisLink
- Captain Check-ins after every match
- General Inquiries

League Committee Volunteer

- Rules and Regulations
- Player ID Checks
- Awards Ceremony

Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

- 1) It is required that all Captains & players download the Virtual TD App **prior to arriving at the Championship**. Direct links to the Virtual TD App: [Apple](#) :: [Android](#).
- 2) Captains should inform their players to allow additional time to arrive on court. It is suggested that players allow 45-60 additional minutes for entering the Campus and getting to where they need to be. Match late penalties will be applied by the Officials.
- 3) All Team Captains or Team Representatives (someone the Captain assigns) must be able to access the Virtual TD App throughout the Championship.
- 4) Captains may submit line-ups at any time, but they must be submitted at least one (1) hour prior to scheduled match time or at the time requested by the tournament desk to allow our staff ample time to manage the event. All line-ups **MIUST** be submitted via the Virtual TD app.

Note: The app will lock line-up submissions 30 minutes prior to match time.
No line-ups will be accepted if not submitted through the app.

- 5) Players must be registered in order to be included in the line-up.
- 6) Captains can designate non-playing captains for their specific team by emailing the person's name, email, and phone number to adultteam@ustaflorida.com.
- 7) Players must register for the Sectional Championship on Tennis Director to be eligible to compete, and they are permitted to register throughout the event. But again, that must happen **BEFORE** they can be in the line-up.

Scan QR Code
For Sectional Championship Registration



Notice: Suspension of Play*

In Florida, we have the wonderful advantage of playing year-round tennis. However, a high probability of rain must be expected. USTA Florida does everything we can to prepare for rain and lightning delays. We ask that all participants have patience and remain considerate when interacting with the staff who work diligently to provide a positive experience for all. **Please remember we contract courts from the Campus**, and we are limited as to what we are permitted to use. **We do NOT have the ability to freely take over all of the courts.**

This event is a three (3) day event. Since we are unable to control the weather, **plan on playing ALL THREE DAYS**. In the event of inclement weather that prohibits completion of the Sectional Championship, a winner will be declared by the Championship Committee in conjunction with the League Committee (Section Regulation FLORIDA - 2.03P).

Please note that the tournament format, scoring format and the number of matches may change due to circumstances beyond our control. Weather conditions may result in delays, modifications and cancellation of the Championship. In the event of rain, there are no guaranteed indoor courts at the National Campus facility.

Note: If play resumes indoors, players and Captains are requested to arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before their designated time. Access to the indoor courts facility will not be granted if you arrive earlier than 30 minutes. USTA Florida prohibits spectators from entering the facility during indoor matches; however, registered Captains (1 per team) and/or co-Captains (1 per team), as well as minors of players who would otherwise be unaccompanied, are allowed to watch the matches indoors.

If modification of the Championship schedule or format is warranted, decisions will be made at the discretion of the Championship Committee in conjunction with the League Committee. See NR 2.03D(1), FLORIDA - 2.03D(1) and FLORIDA - 2.03P.

*Suspensions of play related to inclement weather includes, but is not limited to: rain, lightning, fog, and ice

USTA Florida Adult Sectional Information

For all information and resources, visit:

<https://www.ustaflorida.com/vtdd>

USTA
FLORIDA

TENNIS FOR ADULTS ▼ TENNIS FOR JUNIORS ▼ FAMILY & COMMUNITY ▼ VOLUNTEERS ▼ UPCOMING EVENTS ▼

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?



COURT ASSIGNMENTS BILLBOARD
Learn more about upcoming Sectional events
[CLICK HERE](#) □



EVENT GUIDE
Check out the Sectional Championships Event Guide
[CLICK HERE](#) □



2025 RULES AND REGULATIONS
Review the USTA National and USTA Florida League Rules and Regulations.
[CLICK HERE](#) □



SAVE MY PLAY
Watch tennis like never before!
[CLICK HERE](#) □

Use the link above to access:

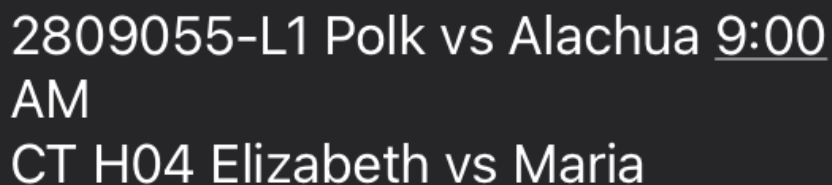
- Court Assignments Billboard
- Sectional Event Guide
- Virtual TD App Guide for Captains
- 2026 Rules and Regulations
- Link to TennisLink Schedules

5-15 Minutes Before Match Time

At 5-15 minutes before your match, each line (and the Captain) will receive a text message consisting of the line-up and courts for the match.

Previously, text messages included the entire match line-up for all lines. Now texts will only be sent to individually scheduled players and the Captains.

At 5-15 minutes before the start of the match, once our staff notifies players to go to their courts, you can access complete match information including your opponent(s) via the Virtual TD App.

A screenshot of a text message on a dark background. The message is white text on a dark gray bubble. It reads: 2809055-L1 Polk vs Alachua 9:00 AM CT H04 Elizabeth vs Maria.

2809055-L1 Polk vs Alachua 9:00
AM
CT H04 Elizabeth vs Maria

No Practice Courts: There will be no practice courts available! If you would like to rent a court, you may do so by calling the National Campus directly [(407) 675-2500] and/or by checking in at the National Campus Welcome Center front desk and to reserve in person.

Prior to Warm-up: Players and Captains may begin warming up using the courts assigned for their match as soon as the courts for their match become available. Both teams must share the courts for any pre-match warm-up equally. No players or teams should ever use a court that is not assigned to them. This will be strictly enforced.

Between 5 and 15 Minutes Before Match Time : Players and Captains will receive notification that it is time to go to the courts. This can be seen via the Virtual TD app. In addition to the app, players and Captains can expect a text message with the match line-ups and court numbers (cell service conditions may apply). Players should go to their designated courts to begin the official warm-up. Players will not be “put on the clock” as late until it is the official match time. Once players are on the court, cell phones should be powered off and put away.

Match Time: Tennis balls will be placed on court by the officials before the start of the match. There will be one can of balls provided per match. After the match has concluded, the players may keep the tennis balls or return them to the Tournament Desk.

Prior to the official 5 minute warmup that starts at scheduled match time or as soon as the courts are available, the designated Home Team (first team listed in the App) will conduct the racquet spin. The team that wins the spin can either choose to serve or receive, choose a side, or defer their choice. Warm-up should proceed with the players positioned on the side of the court determined by the racquet spin. After 5 minutes, the match begins.

Court Assignments

To see the Court Assignment Billboard and other valuable event information for players and Captains, visit the Adult Sectional Information page:

<https://www.ustaflorida.com/vtdd>

Family Can Still Be in the Stands – Virtually!

If your friends, family, and/or teammates cannot to come see you play, they can watch you virtually via Save My Play. Please keep in mind this is operated by the Campus, and we have no ability to assist if there are issues. If we are informed of issues, we will certainly bring them to the attention of the Campus.

Access Save My Play via the National Campus' website at:

<https://www.ustanationalcampus.com/en/home/watch.html>

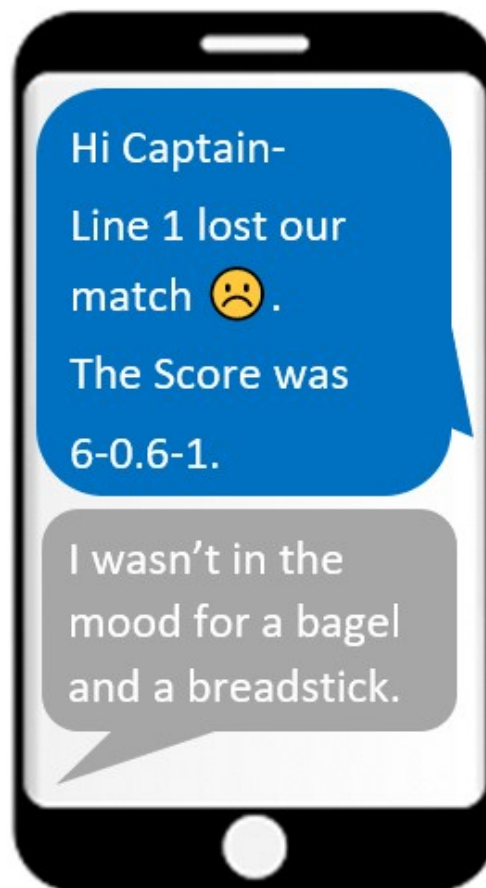
USTA National Campus Site Map



Players Submit Scores to Captains

Players-

**Please remember to report
your scores to your captain.**



Captain's Checklist

1. Submit a line-up via the Virtual TD App.
2. Look up your court assignments via the Virtual TD App.
3. Play your match.
4. Winning Captains are primarily responsible for entering scores, but opposing Captains may also enter the scores via the Virtual TD App.
5. Review confirmation text & email of reported scores.
6. Come to the Tournament Desk **AFTER every match** to confirm scores.
7. Double-check TennisLink for score/match accuracy as reported via the Virtual TD App.

At any point, if information is incorrect on the emails, texts, or TennisLink, Captains should immediately report the error using the "Contact Tournament Desk" function in the app.

To report a score discrepancy, please use the Match Results page. Click on the red flag next to the incorrect match score to get to the "Report Score Discrepancy" page.

All disputed match scores must be communicated to the Tournament Desk **no later than one hour after match completion**. And this is the actual time the match finished.

Note: Score input, score changes, or line-up changes in Tennis Director will not be completed by tournament staff unless communication is received from a Team Captain or Team Representative via the Virtual TD app.

FAQ's for 2026 USTA Florida Sectionals

Q- What happens when I arrive to the National Campus?

Guests are not required to check in.

Q- Am I required to sign a waiver in order to attend the event?

Yes, all participants are required to sign a USTA Florida and a USTA National Campus waiver (once per year) prior to playing at the National Campus. This occurs at time of online registration.

Q- What is the refund policy?

NO REFUNDS will be provided after the minimum player registration deadline.

It is each Captain's responsibility to manage their players' expectations about playing time, and each player's responsibility to only register if they fully intend to play. Refunds will no longer be provided to players who registered but did not have the opportunity to play. A significant amount of effort, time, and cost goes into planning these events based upon the expected number of participants.

Q- What if I start to feel ill while I am at the event?

A. Please inform the Athletic Trainer on duty immediately if you begin to feel any of the following symptoms: chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or you stop perspiring.

B. Seek immediate medical care if you experience the following symptoms: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, bluish lips or face.

Q- What do I do if I develop COVID-19 symptoms after the event, or I test positive for COVID?

If COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test develop within 14 days after the Tournament, for contact tracing purposes, report symptoms to your healthcare provider to determine next steps. All are advised to report this information to the Tournament Director.

Q: Why are matches sometimes played using short sets and/or no-ad scoring?

When it rains, matches obviously can't be played on wet courts, and indoor courts at the National Campus are limited because they are not reserved for us. (Please remember the Campus is NOT our facility. We are guests.) To stay on schedule and get as many matches played as possible within our contracted court times, we sometimes have to shorten the format. We only make these changes when absolutely necessary.

Q: Why do we play short sets instead of pro-sets?

Short sets can provide more playing time than a pro-set. In a short set format, a match can include up to three tiebreakers, while a pro-set will only ever have one. This allows for more competitive points and opportunities to play.

FAQ's for 2026 USTA Florida Sectionals (continued)

Q- Will there be identification checks?

Yes. Players are required to carry a picture ID with them for the entirety of the tournament. Random ID checks will be conducted by tournament staff throughout the event. Players who are not able to present an acceptable photo ID will not be allowed to play. Tournament staff will notify the officials and late player penalties may be imposed. Forms of acceptable of ID include your driver's license, passport, student ID or a digital copy of such (a photo of one of those on your mobile device).

Q- Can I register onsite for the event?

Players may register online prior to their arrival at the National Campus and throughout the event week-end. See the Championship Page for information and the registration link. No cash or check registrations will be accepted. Players registering after the listed deadlines will not be guaranteed a player gift nor be included in the raffle prize drawing.

Q- Why do I see differences between the National Campus Guidelines and the FAQs?

The National Campus Guidelines were created for "everyday programming." While most of the information is applicable regarding "events," such as the USTA Florida Sectional Championships, there are a few exceptions to the guidelines. Please remember we RENT the space from the National Campus for our Sectionals.

Q- Can my friends and family come watch me play?

Spectators will be allowed to attend the Sectional events. To assist with finding players on court, there will be a digital display screen by the Tournament Desk that will display the current players on the assigned courts.

Q- What equipment do I need to bring with me to the National Campus?

Players will be responsible for their own equipment. Players will be asked to supply their own towels, water bottles, and any individual items that they need to compete. A handheld umbrella is very helpful to provide personal shade and to provide cover from any rain. Showers are available, but bring everything you need.

Q- Will water be available on court during the match?

Water may or may not be available on court. Water refill stations will be accessible and are located within walking distance of the courts. Ice machines are usually available but could be temporarily out of service. COME PREPARED. Bring a large refillable water bottle.

FAQ's for 2026 USTA Florida Sectionals (continued)

Q- What happens if it starts raining or there is lightning during the event?

In the event of rain or a red alert, there will be a delay. Participants and guests will be asked to depart the courts immediately and will be provided with updates via text and/or email. Matches that are “in progress” should stay at the facility, unless released by the Tournament Director. The server is responsible for retrieving and keeping the match balls for the resumption of play. Please be sure to report to your Captain by phone or text the score of the match, any game in progress, and who was serving, as you must have that information for the resumption of play. Please bring paper and pen to assist with scorekeeping. Score tenders may not be available on court.

Q- How are we getting our tennis balls to play the match?

Tennis balls will be on placed court by officials before the start of the match. There will be one can of balls provided per match. After the match has concluded, the players may keep the tennis balls or return them to the Tournament Desk. If a rain delay occurs, the server is responsible for retrieving and keeping the match balls and bringing them back when it is time to resume the match. Contact an official if there are issues.

Q- Are practice courts going to be available?

There will be NO practice courts available! If you would like to rent a court, you may do so by calling the National Campus directly (407-675-2500) and reserving a court or by visiting the National Campus Welcome Center front desk to reserve in person. Do not utilize courts that are not assigned to your team at any time.

Q- I have some questions regarding the procedures for the event, is there someone I can call?

Yes, your Captain is a great resource for information. They have been provided additional instructions. You may also send an email to adultteam@ustaflorida.com where a member of our staff will be happy to assist you.

https://www.ustaflorida.com/events/category/adult-events/team-play/ustaflorida-league-tennis/usta-florida-league-section-champs/list/?tribe_eventcategory=161

USTA Florida Tournament Desk Contact information:
Use “Contact Tournament Desk” in your Virtual TD app during the event.

Rules of Tennis: [2026 Friend at Court](#)

Inclement Weather Delay Process

Please know that a handheld umbrella will be useful to have at the event. It can serve as personal shade, but also with the Florida weather, rain should always be expected.

If we experience any kind of inclement weather or “red alert” while at the National Campus or on court, players and patrons may be asked to exit the facility. In progress match participants must remain at the facility, unless released by the Tournament Director.

Any inclement weather or red alert will result in a temporary suspension of play. You will be notified through text with all updates so please make sure you and your players are providing the **correct cell phone numbers when registering** to ensure you receive all messages.

Captains must submit partial scores immediately upon notification that the event has entered a weather delay.

The server is responsible for collecting all tennis balls and bringing them back to court once matches resume.

Suspended Play

Suspended Play

Play is continuous until such time as the Tournament Official officially declares that play has been suspended. An individual match has officially started when the warm-up period has been completed, and the first service attempt has occurred.

No Individual Matches have Started Play

If line-ups have been submitted to the tournament staff and subsequently the team match has been declared suspended by a Tournament Official, and no individual matches have started play, a **new** line-up may be presented at the start of the rescheduled team match.

Match Play has Started

If the team match has started and play has been suspended, **and play will be resumed on the same day**, at a rescheduled time, match play will resume with the same players in the same positions, where play stopped at the exact score, set and game point (any point played is always counted and never replayed). All completed games, sets and individual matches will stand as played. Any individual match indicated as a forfeit on the initial line-up will remain as a forfeited match. No player changes may be made.

***Captains must submit partial scores at the time play is suspended via the Virtual TD App. Please see instructions on page 24.**

Matches in progress will be notified via text and email when their matches will resume. TennisLink times will not be updated because the match is already in progress.

Match times will be updated in Tennis Director App and/or TennisLink for matches that are delayed but have not started yet.

If the team match has started and play has been suspended **and play has been rescheduled for another day**, a **new** line-up may be presented for any individual match that has **not** started. Any individual match previously indicated as a default shall remain.

The Coman Tiebreak Procedure

What is it?

The Coman Tiebreak Procedure is the same as the present tiebreak (set or match), except that ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points (i.e., after the 5th, 9th, 13th, 17th points, etc.), and at the conclusion of the tiebreak. The change of ends after the tiebreak is based on where the players are when the tiebreak ends, not where they were when it began. In other words, you change ends from wherever you played the last point of the tiebreak. The scoring in the Coman Tiebreak Procedure is the same as a traditional set or match tiebreak, and the procedure for playing the Coman Tiebreak is the same as a set or match tiebreak. For example, if the Coman Tiebreak Procedure is used when the set score is 6-6, the player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the deuce court; after the first point, the players shall change ends and the following two points shall be served by the opponent(s) (in doubles, the player of the opposing team due to serve next), starting with the ad court; after this, each player/team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (starting with the ad court), changing ends after every four points, until the end of the tiebreak game.

When will it be used?

USTA Florida will use the Coman Tiebreak Procedure at all USTA League Sectional Championships for all set and match tiebreaks. Use of the Coman Tiebreak Procedure is encouraged during local league play.

Principal Advantages

Fairness – By changing ends more frequently, the effects of the elements (sun, wind, etc.) are distributed more evenly between the two opponents as opposed to playing six consecutive points before changing ends. In doubles, the server will always serve from the same end of the court, rather than having to serve from both ends.

Tiebreak and Advancement Progression

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1) In the event of a tie in Team Wins in full round robin and partial round robin formats, USTA Florida authorizes for Sectional Championships and below, that the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)a Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)b Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)c Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)d Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)e Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)f #1 Doubles. Winner of #1 doubles only if all teams tied have played each other and one team defeated all tied teams at #1 doubles.

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)g #1 Doubles. Most wins at #1 doubles in the entire competition.

FLORIDA - 2.03H(1)h #2 Doubles. Most wins in #2 doubles in the entire competition.

Number of Teams Necessary in an NTRP Level to Advance to a Semifinal/Final

- Ten (10) or more teams: advance four (4) into Semifinals;
- Five (5) to nine (9) teams: advance two (2) into Final;
- Two (2) to four (4) teams: no final (must play at least three (3) team matches; winner determined based on one (1) or two (2) full round robins.

Championship Procedure to Determine The 4 Teams Advancing to Semifinals

Partial Round Robin play in one group – Standings as determined by TennisLink with ties broken per Section Regulation 2.03H(1).

Full Round Robin play or Partial Round Robin play from one group

- Standings as determined by TennisLink with ties broken per Section Regulation 2.03H(1).
- The remaining semifinal play-off spot(s) shall be determined per SR 2.03H(1) above.
- All semifinals will be a 1st place vs 4th place and 2nd place vs 3rd place format.
- This format will be used even if the teams have played each other in the partial round robin or in a full round robin flight.

Full Round Robin Play with 4 flights – If each flight has the same number of teams, the team with the most team wins will advance. In the case of a tie, the procedures shall be the same as per SR 2.03H(1).

If any of the flights have a **different number of teams**, the procedure for the ranking 1-4 of flight winners shall be determined as follows:

- Highest Game Winning Percentage as shown in TennisLink
- Manual calculation of GWP to the thousandth decimal
- Most Wins at #1 Doubles. Most wins at #1 Doubles in the entire competition
- Most Doubles Wins. Most doubles wins in the entire competition
- Highest % of #1 doubles matches won divided by the # of indiv #1 doubles matches played
- Highest % of #2 doubles matches won divided by the # of indiv #2 doubles matches played
- Coin toss

The best second place team will automatically be ranked number 4 per procedures above.

Grievances

All Grievances filed at a USTA Florida Section Regional or Sectional Championship event, except NTRP grievances, must be accompanied by a refundable, check or money order payment in the amount of \$50.00. There is no charge to file an NTRP grievance.

1. Grievance forms should be provided to the Captain as requested; and the Tournament Director should answer any questions. The Captain should be advised that the grievance must be filed *within 30 minutes of completion* of the subject match or prior to the commencement of the next team match involving the individual or team, whichever occurs first.
2. The grievance form should be returned to the Tournament Director, who will insert the date and time received on the form. The grievance is then given to the Staff Liaison who will make appropriate copies for all parties, including the Grievance Committee.
3. The Tournament Director will provide any assistance requested by the Grievance Committee.
4. The Tournament Director will receive the Grievance Committee decision, review it, communicate the decision to the respective parties, and then store it with the tournament documentation.

#RESPECT OUR GAME

Play Fair | Win With Grace | Lose With Dignity

- Play fair and have fun
- Be courteous and cooperative, timely and responsive
- Coaching is not permitted
- Ask, don't assume!
- Do not jump on open courts during match hours
- Be respectful of the facility, we would like to be invited back!

By playing a USTA Sanctioned event each captain and player agree that they and their spectators abide by the rules and regulations and the USTA Sportsmanship Policy outlined below.

Sportsmanship Policy

- Understanding and following the rules
- Being Fair
- Acting with character
- Respecting others
- Winning with humility and losing with grace
- Maintaining composure
- Being accountable for one's own actions
- Giving others the benefit of the doubt