



2026 Championship Year Local, Sectional and National Rules and Regulations Alachua County

Adult Local Play Coordinator: Beth Dellovade
Email: dellovade@ustaflorida.com
Phone: (407) 233-0849

LOCAL REGULATIONS

All USTA Leagues will adhere to these USTA League National, Florida Section, and Local Regulations. Local regulations are developed to supplement the National and Section Regulations but may not supersede them. The Local, Florida Section, and National regulations are published on the USTA Florida website. These regulations apply to USTA Florida Adult, Mixed, Combo and Tri-level league programs. They do not necessarily apply to any other social league play or tennis events offered by USTA Florida. Please consult the Local Play Coordinator (LPC) listed clarification.

SCHEDULING

- **Captains' Meetings:** Team Captains or a team representative are required to attend their local captain's meetings to be eligible for captain's gifts. Team Captains are responsible for understanding current regulations that pertain to the league that they are participating in regardless of attendance. Current Local, Sectional, and National regulations are available online for this area at: <https://www.ustaflorida.com/local-play/>.
- **Facility Requirements:** Teams must have a home facility that can host at least one home match. No traveling teams will be allowed. Players must have the express approval of the facility to host a team prior to requesting a team number. When applicable, the Home team is responsible for any facility/guest fees assessed for league matches. Home facilities must have a minimum of three courts per league. In addition, facilities must provide restrooms and water for players during a league match. Operational lighted courts are required for all evening play. Courts with additional blended lines (used to reduce court dimensions) are acceptable for recreational league play.
- **Roster Forms:** Rosters are required on TennisLink before the deadline and must meet the criteria. Consideration for late teams is at the discretion of the LPC.
- **Schedules:** Captains and/or facilities will be asked to provide "blackout dates" prior to the scheduling process. The official schedule with match dates & times is published and posted on TennisLink about a week before match play begins. Captains are responsible for confirming court availability for their home matches. Captains will have 2 days after schedule publication to review and notify the Local Play Coordinator of any conflicts or issues. This includes any match time changes due to court availability. Changes to the schedule are always at the discretion of the Local Play Coordinator. Due to facility availability, it is possible that teams will not have equal home and away matches.
- **Roster Limits:** Roster limits will not be imposed for all leagues. Players may continue to be added to rosters, until there are at least two matches left in the regular season or the deadline date given and posted on the schedule. Players must be registered electronically via TennisLink on the team prior to playing a match. Any match played by a non-registered player will be defaulted.
- **Defaults:** Teams must play all matches scheduled, otherwise they cannot advance to playoff or Sectionals.. If a team defaults an entire team match (defined as playing less than 51% the scheduled individual match lines) for any reason, the team will be subject to the total team default regulations. A full team default can negatively impact the entire local league.
- **Flights:** The Local Play Coordinator is responsible for all decisions pertaining to whether and how leagues and divisions are flighted to accomplish the best play opportunities within the required deadlines to advance to Sectional and National play opportunities.

- **Local Play Coordinators:** Local Play Coordinators may seek feedback from captains and players to offer the best possible experience, but shall determine what days, times, and formats of play are offered for each USTA play opportunity in their assigned geographic region. Their express mission is “to promote and develop tennis for all” in their area. Not all requests can be honored.

RESCHEDULES & SUSPENDED PLAY POLICIES

All teams are required to play all matches according to the published schedule. The Local Play Coordinator retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary. ALL TEAMS are required to play all matches according to the published schedule. The Local Play Coordinator retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary. No rescheduling of matches by captains or co-captains may occur except under the following circumstances: inclement weather, facility issues, conflicts with USTA Sectionals or Nationals, or mutual captain agreement.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Any change to the league schedule requires Local Play Coordinator’s express written approval. Local Play Coordinators must be notified within 48 hours when a postponed, suspended, or rescheduled match occurs.
- If a team experiences a conflict of any kind, the first option could be to move to the opponent’s courts, if available on the same date & time. A neutral facility may be obtained by the home court. If the home team is unable to find suitable courts, the opposing team may assist and get courts, if they are available at the same date and time. If courts are not available at either facility at that time, the home team must follow the general reschedule policies. Captains must email local play coordinator, with the opposing captain copied, so that the coordinator may assist in finding an alternate site and/or reschedule the time/date for the match.
- When matches are cancelled or postponed for any reason, it is preferred that captains reschedule immediately, but matches must be rescheduled 3 days post originally scheduled time. The agreed upon date must be emailed to the LPC immediately upon agreement with both captains included.
- The home team captain must offer 3 viable alternate dates/times that their facility is available, and the visiting team has 2 days to respond. The rescheduled match must be played within 2 weeks of the originally scheduled match date, or before the last scheduled match, whichever comes first. If a date cannot be agreed upon within these set timeframes, then the LPC will set the date, time, and place in which both teams must be present. If either captain is unable to field any position on the rescheduled date and time, that position will be defaulted. . In cases where a match has been rained out, or started and postponed, and the players involved are unable to agree on a reschedule date for any reason (players being unavailable due to travel or injury), the LPC will set the date, time, and place in which both teams must be present. If either team is unable to play on the rescheduled date and time, that position will be retired.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Inclement weather situations considered for reschedule are rain, lightning, hurricane or tornado watch/warning, or any unsafe weather condition deemed by either captain, facility, or any player in a match in progress that is concerned about safety may suspend their match due to weather deterioration. Only captains, acting captains, or facilities may declare an inclement weather cancellation. All matches must be rescheduled.
- Matches may not be called for inclement weather more than 2 hours prior to the scheduled match time.
- The official weather suspension time will be 30 minutes after the original starting time, unless both captains agree to declare a weather suspension sooner, or the home facility has deemed the courts unplayable. If a match is interrupted by inclement weather, players must wait a minimum of 30 minutes before calling the match and rescheduling unless both captains agree that the courts will remain unplayable within that time frame.
- Rescheduled matches may be scheduled as a whole team match or individual positions played on separate days.

FACILITY ISSUES

- **Court Issues:** If the courts for a scheduled match become unavailable because of an issue with the hosting facility, the home team must notify the opponent as soon as the issue is known, but no later than 4 hours prior to the match. Emergency issues must be communicated as soon as the captain is aware of the situation. If courts

are available at the visitor's facility, the match must be played at the visitor facility at the same time on the same day (refer to General Policies). If courts are not available at either facility at that time, the home team must follow the general reschedule policies. Captains must email the local play coordinator, with the opposing captain copied, so that the coordinator may assist in finding an alternate site and/or reschedule the time/date for the match.

- **Facility Lights Out:** If a match is interrupted due to the facility closing early, lights going out, or any other facility issue that makes the courts unplayable, the match will be treated as a match suspension reschedule and those procedures will apply.

USTA EVENTS

- **Championships Play:** All championship play (local league playoffs, Sectional and/or National championships) supersedes local league play. Players that are participating in the conflicting event may reschedule their local league match. It is preferred that these lines be rescheduled and played prior to the conflicting scheduled match, otherwise they are subject to the above rules regarding makeup matches. Captains must notify their opponents as soon as they know there is a conflict, but no less than 48 hours before the conflict. Teams that are participating in the conflicting event may reschedule 1 position if 1 player is affected, 2 positions if 2 players are affected, 3 positions if 3 players are affected, or all lines if 4 or more players are affected. Each line made up because of conflicts with championship play MUST contain a player or players that were participating in the conflicting event. A partial match must be played if only 2 or fewer players are participating in the Championship event.

MUTUAL CAPTAIN AGREEMENT

- **Captain Agreements:** Matches may be rescheduled by mutual captain agreement. Such matches must be agreed upon in writing 3 days prior to scheduled match with Local Play Coordinator included in communication (refer to General Policies).

MATCH PROTOCOL

- **Courtesy Communication:** Home captains must contact their opposing team captain prior to the match 2 days to verify match time, inform if warm-up courts will be available and provide any necessary instruction on facility attire rules, parking, etc. It is considered poor sportsmanship to withhold information on known line defaults, and they should be disclosed as soon as they are a certainty.
- **Court Surface & Late Play:** If a home facility will need to have late lines or will use any other court surface than clay the home captain must notify the opposing team captain at least one week prior to the match. If the home facility is using a mixture of court surfaces, the home team captain will designate which lines will play late or on the alternate court surface.
- **Provisions:** Home teams must provide the balls (USTA approved, court appropriate). If the facility does not provide water, the home team must provide for their visiting guests.
- **Line-ups:** Each team captain must complete a legible scorecard (printed from TennisLink is recommended) prior to match time. This must include players' first, last names, and NTRP level and the positions played. Line-up cards are exchanged promptly at scheduled match time. At the conclusion of match, captains should review and sign scorecard at the end of match. Both captains are expected to keep a copy of the completed scorecard post-match to ensure correct reporting. See score entry.
- **Tardiness:** All players are expected to arrive prior to the scheduled match time. Any player(s) that is not on court within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time will be considered defaulted. The opposing team may agree to wait as a courtesy; however, they must determine how long they will wait, and that time MUST be recorded on both scoresheets and signed by the team captains or team representatives. If the captains agree to wait longer than 15-minutes they must BOTH notify the LPC.
- **Warm-ups:** Players get a 10-minute warm-up when taking the court at scheduled match time. Late players (any time after official start time) will be allowed to join in progress warm-up but will not be granted any additional warm-up time.

- **Continuous Play:** Players are allowed 25 seconds between points, 90 seconds for changeovers and 120 seconds between sets. After the first game of each set, and during the tie-break game, play should be continuous, and the players shall change ends without a rest.
- **Score Entry:** See Florida Section Regulation 1.04C(2)a.. Efforts must be made to settle any disagreements between the team captains concerning scores prior to requesting any changes. Both captains (or acting captains) should verify and sign-off on the scores prior to leaving the courts when a match has completed to prevent errors. If a scorecard is disputed, the captain must contact the local play coordinator in writing to level the dispute. The opposing captain must be copied on all requests for score changes or player changes, and the request must include the match number in question. Line defaults are recorded at the lowest position, regardless of where they occurred on court. Captains must contact the Local Play Coordinator prior to recording a total team default in TennisLink.
- **Spectators, Teaching Professionals, and Team Members:** See Florida Section regulation 1.04E(4)a. Spectators must remain outside of the playing area and may not sit in the player's rest area. Home teams must designate areas used for rest during changeovers for players only. At the conclusion of a match, the participants in that match become spectators and, at the earliest opportunity, must remove themselves and any personal belongings from areas designated for players only. See FLORIDA 1.04E(4)a.

ADVANCEMENT/PLAYOFFS

- **Post Season:** Post-season play is determined by the Local Play Coordinator after the season and schedules are established. Local playoffs are at the discretion of the LPC. Local playoff protocols including necessity and dates will be posted on the TennisLink schedule or via email as soon as they are established. Sectional and National Championship dates are promptly published on USTA Florida.com as soon as they are established.
- **Playoff Date Changes:** the LPC retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary.
- **Playoff Advantages:** Local playoff advantage is determined by the standings. Regional playoff advantages will be determined by coordinators. If due to no fault of either team scheduled for a playoff, the playoff match is not held before the Sectional End of Local League Deadline date, the winner will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 1. Highest game winning percentage from their local league season
 2. Most wins at #1 doubles divided by #1 doubles played
 3. Most wins at #2 doubles divided by # 2 doubles played

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Courtesy** does not trump regulations. Please remember that while courtesy and good sportsmanship are the cornerstones of league play, these USTA regulations are designed to keep play fair for all players and teams involved. A good deed done for one team may have an unintended negative consequence for another.
- **Communication:** When communicating do not rely on telephone conversations and voicemail. Please be sure that you have communicated in writing via text or email. Follow-up telephone conversations and voicemails are a courtesy, but all agreements made between captains and coordinators must be in writing.
- **75/25 Rule:** If a team is notified that they are out of 75% level compliance per Florida Section Regulation 1.04D(4)a, the captain must adjust their roster to be within compliance prior to playing the next scheduled match, or the LPC will remove the last lower-level player added until the team is compliant. Any individual match(es) played by players out of compliance will be deemed ineligible, disqualified, and scored as 6-0, 6-0 loss(es).

REFUND POLICY

Registration Refunds: Once a player has registered for a team and has played a match, players may not be moved from a team, nor will refunds be issued. A player that has not played a match for the registered team may be moved from the roster upon the captain's or player's request to a "holding zone" to be used for future play, or they may request a credit.

No refunds will be given. Once a season has ended, a player may no longer be moved or refunded. Players will have one year to use the held registration. Administrative registration transaction fees charged by 3rd parties are not refunded.

Contact Local Play Coordinator for credits or player moves.