



2026 Championship Year Local, Sectional and National Rules and Regulations Duval, St. Johns, Clay and Nassau Counties

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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 for 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 two home matches. A traveling team may be allowed per league at the discretion of the LPC. Players must have the express approval of the facility to host a team prior to requesting a team number. If applicable the home team is responsible for any facility fees assessed for league matches. Home facilities must have restrooms and water on court for players available at the time of the 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 the deadline date given for each league and must meet the required criteria. Consideration for late teams is at the discretion of the LPC.
- **Schedules:** Captains 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 Tennis Link at least one 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 LPC of any conflicts or issues. This includes any match time changes due to court availability. Due to facility availability, it is possible that teams will not have equal home and away matches during a season. Changes to the schedule are always at the discretion of the LPC.
- **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 teams cannot advance to playoff or Sectional Championship. 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 LPC 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 (LPC):** LPCs 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

The LPC retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary. 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. No rescheduling of matches by captains or co-captains may occur except under the following circumstances: **weather, facility issues conflicts with USTA events, or mutual captain agreement.** The LPC must be contacted in these cases.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Any change to the league schedule requires LPC's express written approval. LPCs must be notified within 1 day when a postponed, suspended, or rescheduled match occurs.
- It is expected that all matches will be played as scheduled. If a team experiences a conflict of any kind, the first option may be to move the match to the opponent's courts, if available on the same date & time. A neutral facility **may** be agreed upon by both captains if neither facility is available at scheduled match time.
- 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 should 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 3 weeks (21 days) of the originally scheduled match date, or before the league end date, or before any local league playoff, 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Inclement weather situations considered for rescheduling are rain, lightning, hurricane or tornado watch/warning, or any unsafe weather condition deemed by either captain unless indoor facilities are available.
- Matches may not be called for inclement weather before 1½ 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 captain 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.
- Only captains, acting captains or facility staff may declare an inclement weather suspension or cancellation. All matches must be rescheduled.
- Rescheduled matches may be scheduled in whole as a team or individual positions played.

FACILITY ISSUES

- **Court Issues:** If the courts for a scheduled match become unavailable because of an issue with the hosting facility, the home team should notify the opponent as soon as the issue is known, but no later than 6 hours prior to the match. Emergency issues must be communicated as soon as the captain is aware of the situation. If a team experiences a conflict of any kind, the home team may secure alternate courts within a reasonable distance of the original match site (must be agreed upon by both captains). Alternatively, the opponent's courts may be used if available. If courts are not available at either facility at that time, the home team must follow the general reschedule policies. Captains should email LPC, 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, rescheduled, and those procedures will apply.

USTA EVENTS

Championships Play: All championship play (local league playoffs, sectional and/or national championships) supersedes local league play. Teams that are participating in the conflicting event may reschedule their local league match. It is expected that these matches be rescheduled and played prior to the conflicting scheduled match, otherwise they are then subject to the above rules regarding makeup matches. Teams should notify their opponents as soon as they know there is a

conflict, but no less than 24 hours before the conflicted match. Matches made up because of conflicts with championships play MUST contain at least 1 player that participated in the conflicting event. 1 player equals one position, 2 players =2 positions, and more is the entire match.

MUTUAL CAPTAIN AGREEMENT

Captain Agreements: Matches may be rescheduled by mutual captain agreement. Such matches must be agreed upon in writing prior to scheduled match with LPC included in communication. Matches rescheduled using mutual captain agreement MUST be rescheduled within three weeks (21 days) of the original match date, or before the league end date, or before any local league playoff, whichever comes first (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 surfaces, the captain should notify the opposing team captain at least 2 days prior to the match. If the home facility is using a mixture of court surfaces, visiting team captain will designate which lines will play late or on the alternate court surface.
- **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 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 scorecards and signed by the team captains or team representative, or they must wait indefinitely, if no time is agreed upon.
- **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 be granted no additional warm-up time. Any warm-up prior to the start of the match at the scheduled match time is at the discretion of the facility and is not guaranteed.
- **Score Entry:** See Florida Section Regulation 1.04C(2)a. Efforts should 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 LPC 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 LPC 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 should 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.

ADVANCEMENT/PLAYOFFS

- **Post Season:** Post season play is determined by the LPC after season and schedules are established.
- **Playoffs:** Local playoffs are at the discretion of the LPC. Local playoff protocols including necessity and dates will be posted on the TennisLink schedule and communicated via email as soon as they are established. Local playoff match times may be dependent on court availability and may not be scheduled for the same time as the regular season match start times. Sectional and National

Championship dates are promptly published on USTA Florida.com as soon as they are established. Stated playoff dates may be changed to accommodate the grievance committee, if necessary.

- **Playoff Advantages:** Any playoff advantage is determined by the standings. If the home courts are unavailable, the opposing team's courts, or a neutral site, will be used.
- **Playoff Date Changes:** The LPC retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary.
- **Two Season Leagues:** If there are two league seasons for a league type (day and night, spring and summer) then there would be a playoff between the league winner of each season. If the same team wins both seasons, the captain must select which roster to advance to Sectionals.
- 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.
- If a team is notified that they are out of 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. Any individual match(es) played by players out of compliance will be deemed ineligible, disqualified, and scored as 6-0, 6-0 loss(es). Team matches played out of compliance post notification will result in a total team default.

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 refund. 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 fees are not refunded. **Contact the LPC for refunds, credits or player moves.**