

Adult Local Play Coordinator: Lauren Kushner
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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 and will 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.

SCHEDULING

- **Captain's Meetings:** Team Captains or a team representative must attend their local captain's meetings to be eligible for captain's gifts. The Team Captain is responsible for understanding current regulations that pertain to the league they are participating in regardless of attendance. Current Local, Sectional, and National regulations are available online for this region 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 will be allowed per league, at the discretion of the LPC. Players must have the facility's express approval to host a team before requesting a team number. If applicable the home team is responsible for any facility fees assessed for league matches. Home facilities must have restrooms, water, and ice for players available at the time of the match. Operational lighted courts are required for all evening plays. Courts with additional blended lines (used to reduce court dimensions) are acceptable for recreational USTA league play.
- **Traveling Team:** The league will allow one (1) traveling team per league program. This is a team without a fixed home club. When the schedule shows them as the home team, the match will be played at their opponent's home court. The Traveling team will supply balls and pay any required fees for the club's use. They are responsible for ensuring water is supplied if fountains are not on the court.
NOTE: The travelers may change their status to a home facility once half the season schedule has been played with the notification and approval of the Local Play Coordinator who will then add the new facility and update all captains on the change of status. (Example There are 12 scheduled matches, you may register a home facility to start with match number (7) seven).
- **Roster Forms:** Rosters are required on TennisLink before the roster deadline date and must meet the league team 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 and times is published and posted on TennisLink 7 days before match play begins. Captains are responsible for confirming court availability for their home matches. Captains will have until before the first match of the season is played to review and notify the Local Play Coordinator 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 Local Play Coordinator. All matches must be completed before the playoffs (when applicable) or end of the league season. Players are required to play two league matches in order to play in playoff matches.

- **Roster Limits:** Only If limits are imposed. Leagues that play five lines will be allowed 18 players, but mixed leagues allow 16 players. Players may continue to be added to rosters, up to the maximum, until there are at least two matches left in the regular season or by the roster 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 may not be able to advance to a playoff or Sectional. If a team defaults on an entire match (defined as playing less than a majority (51%) of the scheduled individual match lines) for any reason, the team will be subject to the strict regulations regarding total team defaults regulations. A full team default can negatively impact the entire local league. If the Grievance Committee deems the defaulting team still eligible to play, the non-defaulting team captain will offer 3 viable dates/times their facility and team is available, and the other team has 1 day to respond. The rescheduled match must be played within 2 weeks of the Grievance Committee's decision, or before the league end date, 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.
- **Flights:** The Local Play Coordinator is responsible for all decisions pertaining to whether and how leagues and divisions are flighted in order to accomplish the best play opportunities within the required deadlines to advance to Sectional and National play opportunities.
- **Local Play Coordinators** may seek feedback from captains and players in order 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 region, not all requests can be honored.

RESCHEDULED & SUSPENDED PLAY POLICIES

ALL TEAMS 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 other Local League Playoffs, USTA Section or National, or mutual Captain Agreement.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Any change to the league schedule requires Local Play Coordinator's express written approval.
- When matches are cancelled or postponed for any reason, the home team captain must offer 3 viable alternate dates/times that their facility/team is available, within 48 hours, and the visiting team has 1 day to respond. Matches must be rescheduled and played within 2 weeks post original scheduled date, but before the league end date, whichever comes first. Rescheduled matches may be scheduled as a whole team, or as individual positions played.
The agreed-upon date must be emailed to the LPC immediately upon agreement with both captains included. If the rescheduled date gets rained out, the same rules apply as the first rainout, but the match must be played within two weeks of the first rainout scheduled date or before the league end, whichever comes first.
- If a date cannot be agreed upon within these set time frames, 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 rescheduled date for any reason (players being unavailable due to travel or injury), The LPC will set the date and 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. No Exceptions!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Only captains, acting captains, or facilities may declare an inclement weather cancellation. All matches must be rescheduled.
- Inclement weather situations considered for rescheduling are rain, lightning, hurricane or tornado watch/warning, or any unsafe weather condition deemed by either captain or the home facility. Any player in a match in progress that is concerned about safety may suspend their match due to weather deterioration.
- Matches may not be called for inclement weather more than 1 1/2 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.

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 2 hours prior to the match. Emergency issues (within 2 hours of the match) must be communicated as soon as the captain is aware of the situation. If a team experiences a court conflict of any kind, the first option should be to move the match to the opponent's courts, if available on the same date & time. A neutral facility may be obtained by the home ~~court~~ team. If the home team is unable to find suitable courts, the opposing team may assist and get courts, as long as they are available on the same date and time.
- **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 and rescheduling procedures will apply.

USTA EVENTS

Championships Play: All championship play (local league playoffs, sectional, and/or national championships) supersedes local league play. Teams participating in the conflicting event may reschedule 1 position if 1 or 2 players are affected and 2 positions if 3 or 4 players are affected. Teams must notify their opponents and the match must be rescheduled at least 1 week prior to the conflicting scheduled match. The match must be played within two weeks of the original scheduled match. If a team does not comply with this, the position(s) may not be rescheduled. Each line rescheduled must contain one of the players participating in the conflicting event or the position will be defaulted.

MUTUAL CAPTAINS AGREEMENT

Matches may be rescheduled by mutual captains' agreement. Such matches must be agreed upon in writing before the scheduled match with the Local Play Coordinator's permission. **All rescheduled matches must be reported to the LPC so the schedule can be updated.**

MATCH PROTOCOL

- **Courtesy Communication:** Home captains must contact their opposing team captain prior to the match 1 day before 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 captain must notify the opposing team captain at least 2 days 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 surface appropriate). If the facility does not provide water, cups, and ice the home team must provide them for their visiting guests.
- **Line-ups:** Each team captain must complete a legible scorecard (printed from TennisLink recommended) prior to match time. This must include the players' first and last names, and the positions they will play. Line-up cards are exchanged promptly at the scheduled match time. At the end of the match, captains should review and sign the scorecard. 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) not on court within 15 minutes of 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 record it, and it should be written down and signed by both captains.
- **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 a warm-up in process, but will be granted no additional warm-up time.
- **Coaching:** No coaching is allowed due to the format of our USTA league play.
- **Line Calls:** Are the responsibility of only those on the court. No judges allowed. Disputes should be handled by those playing. Spectators, captains or teaching professionals should not be involved.
- **Spectators, Teaching Professionals, and Team Members** may not at any time, inject themselves in a match. Home team captains are responsible for educating and controlling the environment at their facilities. Spectators must be courteous and considerate to players on the court and may not converse with any player for the duration of the match. Spectators must remain outside of the playing area. Home teams should designate areas used for rest during changeovers for players only. At the conclusion of the match, the participants from 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.**
- **Score Entry:** See Florida Section Regulation 1.04C(2)a. Efforts should be made to settle any disagreements between the team captains concerning match 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. In full team matches, line defaults are recorded at the lowest position, regardless of where they occurred on court, (exception is Tri-Level). **Captains must contact the Local Play Coordinator prior to recording a total team default in TennisLink.** ALL SCORES MUST BE ENTERED WITHIN 48 HOURS OR THE LINES MAY BE DEFAULTED.

ADVANCEMENT/PLAYOFFS

- **Post Season:** Post-season play is determined by the Local Play Coordinator after the season and schedules are established.
- **Playoffs:** Local playoff protocols including necessity and dates will be posted on the TennisLink schedule. Sectional and National championship dates are promptly published on USTA Florida.com as soon as they are established.
- All playoffs are at the discretion of the LPC.
- **Playoff Advantages:** A spin of the racquet will determine the site and day/time of play. The winner of the spin gets the choice between facility site OR day/time of match. The other team determines the remaining choice.
- If due to no fault of either team scheduled for a playoff, the playoff match is not held before the Local League Deadline date, the winner will be determined by the first of the following procedures:
 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
- **One Team Advancement:**

If there is only one league season with one flight (ie. only day or night) the winning team advances to Sectionals providing there is no same team in the same league in the NPB area of the region. If this is not the case, then the winner of the IRMSL league will have a playoff match with the winner of the NPB league and the winner of the playoff advances to Sectionals for Region 6. If there are two or more flights within any same league, a playoff between the winner of each flight would occur first before playing the winner of the NPB league (if applicable).

If there are two league seasons (ex. ESL in fall, regular in winter), the winner of each season, after any flight playoffs if necessary, would have a playoff with the winner of the other league season and would then advance to Sectionals providing there is no same team in the same league in the NPB area. If this is not the case, then the winner of the IRMSL league will have a playoff match with the winner of the NPB league and the winner of the two area playoff advances to Sectionals.

If the same captain wins both seasons, then the captain will pick which roster to take to Sectionals or to a playoff first with the NPB league winner if applicable.

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.
- **Rule 75/25:** Florida Section Regulation 1.04D(4)a, all teams in 18 & Over and 40 & Over leagues **with 3 or more teams** must play 75% of their players at the team level. If a team is notified that they are out of 75% at level compliance, 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. If a match was previously played while the team was out of compliance, individual matches played by non-compliant players shall be reversed and considered losses.

<u>Total # of players on roster</u>	<u>Lower level players allowed</u>
6 - 7	1
8 - 11	2
12 - 15	3
16 - 19	4
20 - 23	5

- **Rule 50/50:** All 18 & Over and 40 & Over teams in leagues **with only 2 teams** must play 50% of their players at level. If a team is notified that they are out of 50% at level compliance, 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. If a match was previously played while the team was out of compliance, individual matches played by non-compliant players shall be reversed and considered losses.

CREDIT/MOVE POLICY

Registration Credits (No Refunds): Once a player has registered for a team and has played a match, players may not be moved from a team, nor will a credit 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 to their account. Once the season has ended, a player may no longer be moved or credited.

Administrative registration fees are not refunded as they are paid to TennisLink and not to USTA Florida. **Contact Local Play Coordinator for credits or player moves.**