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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

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. The LPC retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary. Their express mission is "to promote and develop tennis for all" in their area. LPCs must be notified within 48 hours when a postponed, suspended, or rescheduled match occurs. Due to facility availability, it is possible that teams will not have equal home and away matches during a season.

- **Captains' Meetings:** Team Captains or a team representative are required to attend or watch a recording of 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 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 the minimum number of tennis courts required per league except for instances of tiered start times approved by the LPC. Facilities must have restrooms and water on court during the entirety of match play. Operational lighted courts are required for all matches 3:00 pm and after throughout the year. Courts with additional blended lines (used to reduce court dimensions) are acceptable for recreational league play.
- **Traveling Teams:** At the discretion of the LPC, one (1) traveling teams may be allowed per league/division/flight. 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 or a neutral facility designated by the LPC. When scheduled as the home team, the traveling team is required to supply balls, pay any required fees, and ensure water is supplied on all courts if fountains are not accessible. A traveling team may be allowed to change their status to a home facility once 50% or more of the match schedule has been completed with approval of the LPC. The facility will be added to the schedule and all captains will be notified of the changes.
- **Roster Requirements:** Roster minimums are required on the set deadline date and must meet mandatory criteria for each league. Roster limits may be imposed at the discretion of the LPC. Players may continue to be added to rosters, up to the maximum allowed (if applicable), until there are at least two matches left in the regular season or by the deadline date posted on the schedule. Players must be registered electronically via TennisLink on the team prior to playing a match. Any match or court played by a non-registered player will be defaulted.
- **Rule 75/25:** Teams playing in a specific NTRP level league must play 75% of their players at the stated NTRP league/division level. See Florida Section Regulation 1.04D(4)a. A captain must adjust the roster to be within compliance prior to playing a scheduled match. 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.
 - Total # of players on roster 6 – 7 = 1 lower-rated player allowed.
 - Total # of players on roster 8 – 11 = 2 lower-rated players allowed.
 - Total # of players on roster 12 – 15 = 3 lower-rated players allowed.
 - Total # of players on roster 16 – 19 = 4 lower-rated players allowed.
 - Total # of players on roster 20 – 23 = 5 lower-rated players allowed.

- Match Schedules: Captains are responsible for confirming court availability, provide approved match times, and blackout dates prior to the scheduling process. Not all requests for a bye week can be honored. Due to facility availability, it is possible that teams will not have equal home and away matches during a season. The official schedule with match dates/times is published and posted on TennisLink at least 5 days before match play begins. Any change to the league schedule requires the LPC's express written approval. Changes to the schedule are always at the discretion of the LPC.
- 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.

RESCHEDULES & SUSPENDED PLAY POLICIES

Teams are required to play all matches according to the published schedule. No rescheduling of matches or individual courts by captains or co-captains may occur except under the following circumstances: inclement weather, facility issues, conflicts with USTA events or Holiday (see Holiday policy). One travel date before and /or after the dates associated with Sectionals/Nationals are included. The LPC must be contacted in these cases. The LPC retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary.

GENERAL POLICIES

- It is expected that all matches will be played as scheduled. If a team experiences a conflict of any kind, the first option can be to move to the opponent's court if the other facility is within 5 miles and available on the same date & time. A neutral facility may be obtained by the Home Team if the facility is available at scheduled match time.
- Any change to the league schedule requires LPC's express written approval. LPCs must be notified within 48 hours when a postponed, suspended, or rescheduled match occurs.
- When matches are cancelled or postponed for valid reasons above, it is preferred that captains reschedule immediately, but matches must be rescheduled within 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 4 viable alternate dates/times their facility is available, and the opposing captain has 3 days to respond. The rescheduled match must be played within 2 weeks (14 days) of the originally scheduled match date, or within 1 week (7 days) of the last scheduled match, or the third day prior to the last day of the league, when applicable, whichever comes first. All matches must be completed before playoffs.
- If a date cannot be agreed upon within these set timeframes, 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. All matches must complete a majority of the courts (51% or more) for a legal match. Less than 51% is considered a full-team default and may be subject to a grievance. See (FLORIDA - 2.01C(3)b).
- 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 (including players being unavailable due to travel or injury), the match will automatically be scheduled for 2:00 pm on the second Saturday following the originally scheduled match date (or within eight days of the last scheduled match of season or the third day prior to the last day of the local league season, when applicable.) If the second Saturday is a holiday, the match will take place the following day, Sunday. If either captain is unable to field any position on the rescheduled date and time, that position will be retired or defaulted. NO exceptions! All matches must be completed before the playoffs when applicable.
- Defaults: Teams must play ALL matches scheduled or a grievance may be filed against the entire team (FLORIDA - 2.01C(3)b). A full-team default (less than 51% of the courts completed) negatively impacts the entire league. Be aware that winning a match by a full-team default may not be a favorable outcome.
- Teams must play all matches scheduled, otherwise teams cannot advance to playoffs or the Sectional Championship.
- If a team acquires a full-team default and the grievance committee deems the team still eligible to play; the makeup match for the full-team default in question shall be rescheduled by the LPC for the second Sunday after the ruling comes back for a time of 2:00 PM at visitor courts (if available) or defaulted teams courts, if visitor courts not available. If it was the last match of the season, the match will be scheduled on the first Sunday of the ruling by the Grievance Committee. Teams may reschedule this to play earlier but no later than the date set by LPC.
- No rescheduling of matches or individual courts for players who play on multiple teams. No exceptions!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Inclement weather situations considered for reschedules are rain, lightning, hurricane or tornado watch/warning, or any unsafe weather condition deemed by either captain, acting captain, or facility.

- Matches may not be called for inclement weather before 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 captain / 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.
- Only captains, acting captains, or facilities may declare an inclement weather suspension or cancellation. All matches must be rescheduled according to the rules and regulations.
- 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 3 days prior to the match. Emergency issues must be communicated as soon as the captain is aware of the situation and communicated to the LPC immediately. If courts are available at the visitor's facility, the match may 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 captain must follow the general reschedule policies. Captains must email the LPC, with the opposing captain copied as soon as possible. The LPC 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, and the procedures for rescheduling shall 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.

- 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 or more players in a 3-court league are affected, 4 or more players affected then a 4 or 5 court league may reschedule the match.
- It is expected these matches be rescheduled and played prior to the conflicting scheduled match; if not, the match is 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 3 days before the conflicted match.
- Matches made up because of conflicts with championship play must contain at least 1 player that participated in the conflicting event.
- Be aware that some local events and tournaments may be promoted, sponsored and/or managed by USTA but are NOT considered Championship Play (whether sanctioned or unsanctioned) and DO NOT meet criteria for rescheduling matches. Contact the LPC prior to match scheduling for requesting bye-dates and/or blackout dates to avoid potential conflicts and defaults.

MUTUAL CAPTAIN AGREEMENT

Matches may NOT be rescheduled by mutual captain agreement WITHOUT written permission of the LPC in an email with both captains prior to the scheduled match date and time.

- 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.
- No rescheduling of matches or individual courts for players who play on multiple teams. NO exceptions!
- The rescheduled match must be played within 2 weeks (14 days) of the originally scheduled match date. The agreed upon date must be emailed to the LPC immediately upon agreement with both captains included.
- At least 51% of the courts must be played on the rescheduled date approved by the LPC.
- The LPC has authority to set a date/time for a match to be completed when a mutual agreement to reschedule was decided WITHOUT the LPCs knowledge or written approval. If either captain is unable to field any position on the rescheduled date and time, that position will be retired or defaulted. If a full-team default occurs, a grievance may be filed against the entire team. See (FLORIDA - 2.01C(3)b). Teams that acquire a full-team default or do not complete all matches cannot advance to playoffs or a Sectional Championship.

MATCH PROTOCOL

- Responsive and Cooperative Communication: Home captains must contact their opposing team captain no less than 3 days prior to confirm the match time(s), inform if warm-up courts will be available, and provide any necessary instruction on

facility attire rules, identification requirements, parking, etc. Failure to communicate and withhold information on known line defaults for any reason is considered poor sportsmanship. Any changes affecting a match must be disclosed as soon as possible.

- **Court Surface & Late Play:** If a home facility must start lines at different times or use any other court surface than clay or mixed surfaces, the captain must notify the opposing team captain at least one week prior to the match. The home team captain will identify which lines will play late or on the alternate court surface.
- **Provisions:** Home teams must provide the balls (USTA approved, court appropriate). If the home facility does not have water accessible to players, the home team must provide water for the visiting team.
- **Line-ups:** Each team captain must complete a legible scorecard (printed from TennisLink is recommended). The scorecard must include player's first and last names, NTRP ratings, and the court positions played. Line-up cards are exchanged promptly at scheduled match time. At the conclusion of a match, both 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) that is not on court within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time will be considered defaulted. The opposing captain may agree to wait as a courtesy. However, the extended wait-time must be defined and agreed upon by both captains; if not, the courtesy wait time is indefinite. If the player(s) arrives after the default time, and all players want to play, it will be considered a legal match and the results will stand.
- Should the player(s) arrive after the default time and/or agreed upon wait-time, and all players agree to play, the match is considered legal and the results shall stand.
- **Warm-ups:** Warm-ups are not to exceed 10 minutes upon taking the court at the scheduled match time. Late players (any time after official start time) will be allowed to join the warm-up in progress but will not be granted additional time.
- **Match Format:** All local league match formats are the best of three tiebreak sets with a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of a third set, unless otherwise stated.
- **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:** EITHER CAPTAIN may enter scores into TennisLink. 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**. Line defaults are recorded at the lowest position, regardless of where they occurred on court. Captains **MUST** contact the LPC prior to recording a full-team default in TennisLink.
- **Spectators, Teaching Professionals, and Team Members:** See Florida Section regulation 1.04E(4)a. Captains, players, spectators, or coaches who interfere and/or are disruptive at team matches are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. This includes conduct before, during and after the completion of the team match. As "The Code" states, spectators, players, teammates, or coaches may not volunteer advice on scoring, line calls or the conduct of the match. It is the responsibility of each team to control spectators' conduct at all team matches. Spectators must be courteous and considerate to the players on court and may not converse with any player during a match. 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.

ADVANCEMENT/PLAYOFFS

- **Post Season:** Post season play is determined by the LPC after season and schedules are established.
- **Playoffs:** Local playoff protocols including necessity, dates, venues, and formats will be announced via administrative message on TennisLink or USTA communication email/text. Sectional and National championships dates are promptly published on the USTA Florida website when finalized.
 - **Playoff Advantages:** Any playoff advantage such as facility including surface(s), time of day, or game winning percentage is determined by the LPC.
 - **Playoff Date Changes:** The LPC retains the authority to change the schedule at any time deemed necessary.
- **Multiple Leagues and Flights**
 - Twenty (20) or more teams in the same age-group division in a single flight: the top 2 teams will advance to playoffs for determining the winner.

- If there are two or more seasons of the same league/division (ex: Fall and Winter): The winners of Fall and the winners of Winter will advance to playoffs to determine the winner.
- If there are two or more flights in a league/division (Flight A & B): sub flight playoffs will occur to determine the winner.
- If there are two separate leagues (ex: Day and Night): Day and Night will playoff to determine the winner.
- If the same team wins multiple seasons of a league/division, the captain will select which roster will advance to Sectionals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Sportsmanship Policy: 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.
 - 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
- Communication: When communicating do not rely on telephone conversations and voicemail. Please be sure that you have communicated in writing via text and email. Follow-up telephone conversations, text messages and voicemails are a courtesy, but all agreements made between captains and coordinators must be in writing through email.
- Captains are solely responsible for the team. Co-Captains, acting captains, and/or players MAY NOT act as the spokesperson or lead communications with the LPC regarding team affairs. Team captains may appoint an acting captain in their absence to relay information and must be copied on all communication.
- Captains must notify the LPC when a self-rated (S) player on the roster appeals their rating after registering for the team. The LPC must manually change the player's rostered level to the new approved rating level on the roster in TennisLink. Any matches that an appealed S-rated player completes without notifying the LPC will be overturned.
- If a captain is notified the team is 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 full-team default.
- Holiday Policy: If either captain requests a reschedule for a holiday such as Halloween or Valentine's Day, captains must follow the reschedule policy at least 14 days before the match in question to accommodate the request.

REFUND/CREDIT POLICIES

- Registration Refunds: Refunds are no longer an available form of reimbursement for team registrations. 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 a credit may be requested for certain circumstances. Once a season has ended, a player may no longer be moved or provided a refund or credit. Players will have one year to use the held registration. Administrative registration fees are not refunded. Contact the LPC for requesting a credit or moving a player to a different roster or holding zone.