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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 captains' 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/county/brevard-county/>.
- **Facility Requirements:** Teams must have a home facility that can host at least two home matches. Traveling teams will only be permitted if there is no other reasonable option, and **MUST** be approved by 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 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 date given for each league and must meet the required criteria.
- **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 a week before match play begins. Captains are responsible for confirming court availability for their home matches. Captains will have 3 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.
- **Roster Limits:** Roster limits will not be imposed for any 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. If a team defaults an entire team match (defined as playing less than 51% of the scheduled individual match lines) for any reason, the team may be subject to the total team default regulations. A total 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.

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. When matches are cancelled or postponed for any reason, 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. 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 will be contacted in these cases.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Any change to the league schedule requires Local Play Coordinator's express written approval. Local Play Coordinators must be notified within 24 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.
- 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 moved 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 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 at least 3 viable alternate dates/times that their facility is available, and the visiting team has 2 days to respond. Matches can be rescheduled so that all lines play on the same date OR may be rescheduled so that individual lines play on different dates. The rescheduled match must be played within 2 weeks of the originally scheduled match date, or one week before the season end date, or before any local league playoff 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Inclement weather situations considered for rescheduling are rain, lightning, hurricane or tornado watch/warning. A captain, facility, or any player in a match in progress that is concerned about safety may pause their match due to weather deterioration.
- Matches may not be called for inclement weather before 1 hour 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 or acting captains may declare an inclement weather suspension or cancellation. All matches must be rescheduled.
- Rescheduled Matches may be scheduled in whole as a team, or as individual positions played.

FACILITY ISSUES

- **Court Issues:** If the courts for a scheduled match become unavailable because of a known issue with the hosting facility, the home team should notify the opponent as soon as issue is known, but no later than 2 days prior to the match. Emergency issues must be communicated as soon as the captain is aware of situation. 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 must follow the general reschedule policies. Captains should 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. 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.

MATCH PROTOCOL

- **Courtesy Communication:** Home captains should contact their opposing team captain 24 hours prior to the match 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:** The home team captain determines which court surfaces will be used for all lines. The home captain should advise the visiting captain as to which lines will use which court surfaces as soon as it is known and MUST advise the visiting captain before the lineups are exchanged. If the home captain fails to do this, the visiting captain can rework their lineup after learning of the court surfaces.
- **Provisions:** Home teams must provide the balls (USTA approved, court appropriate).
- **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 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.
- **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 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 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.
- **Line Judges:** This local area will opt in to the use of line judges when requested by a player on court. Please refer to Addendum A at the end of this document for the role of a line judge and their guidelines.

ADVANCEMENT/PLAYOFFS

- **Post Season:** Post season play is determined by the Local Play Coordinator after season and schedules are established.
- **Playoffs:** Local playoff protocols including necessity, dates, venues, and formats will be announced 2 days prior to the commencement of the season via email. Sectional and National championships dates are promptly published on USTA Florida.com as soon as they are established.
- **Playoff Advantages:** In any local league playoff match (i.e. early start vs spring), the team from the league that occurred the earliest will be designated the home team and will have the opportunity to host the playoff match. If the playoff match consists of two teams from the same league (i.e. the top two teams from the same league season), the team higher in the standings will be designated the home team.

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 75/25 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 the league 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 Local Play Coordinator for refunds or credits or player moves.

ADDENDUM A – LINE JUDGES

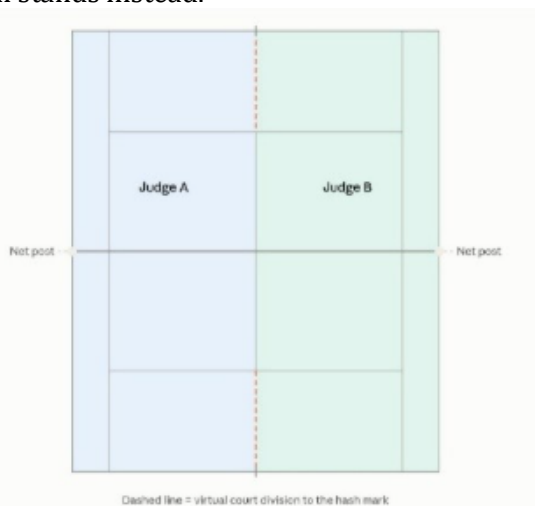
Line Judge Role

If, during a local league match, an irresolvable dispute arises between the players about the accuracy of calling the lines, any player may suspend play and request that line judges be present for the remainder of the match.

Line Judges are volunteers, not certified officials, whose sole responsibility is to assist with line calls. A line judge may be called in by any player on court, and each team may select one individual to serve as a line judge. Once selected, the judges' line calls are final and must be accepted by all players without argument.

Line Judge Guidelines

1. Only one player needs to request that line judges be used for the match.
2. A line judge must be a team captain (or acting captain), a player from either team, or a facility staff member. Two line judges are recommended when possible.
3. If line judges are requested at any point after the match's scheduled start time, players have up to five minutes to locate one. If a line judge cannot be found within that time, play must proceed without them.
4. Line judge duties, positioning, and calls:
 - Line judges only make calls when asked by a player — they never call a line on their own.
 - Each line judge stands at a net post (one judge per side).
 - Each line judge is responsible for their own half of the court: from the center line to the sideline nearest them, running the full length from net to baseline.
 - Exception: if a serve lands on or near the center line, both line judges make that call together.
 - A line judge's call is final and cannot be argued.
 - If both judges are asked about the same call and disagree with each other, the players' own call stands instead.



The diagram above shows how the court splits into each judge's zone: the solid center service line is a real court marking, and the dashed portion is the extension down to the hash mark that defines the boundary between the two judges' halves for the full length of the court.

2.5 NTRP Level Exception

At the 2.5 NTRP level only, line judges may also assist players with the mechanics of playing the match, in addition to their line judge duties. This can include helping keep score, confirming service order, and explaining how to play a tiebreaker. This additional assistance applies only at the 2.5 level and is subject to each county's specific local league rules regarding line judge use.