



2027 Championship Year

Collier County

Local League Rules & Regulations

Adult Local Play Coordinator: Tricia DiPalo

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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 clarification.

SCHEDULING

- **Captains' Meetings:** Team Captains or a team representative are required to attend/watch their local captain's meetings to be eligible for captain's gifts. Team Captains are responsible for understanding current regulations which pertain to the league they are participating in regardless of attendance. Current Local, Sectional, and National regulations are available online for <https://www.ustaflorida.com/county/collier-county/>.
- **Facility Requirements:** Teams must have a home facility that can host home matches. Traveling/nomad teams will not be allowed per 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 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.
- **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 about 1 week before match play begins. Captains are responsible for confirming court availability for their home matches. **Captains will have 7 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 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. No refunds for players who did not play a match.
- **Defaults:** Teams must play all matches scheduled. 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. See Reg FL 2.01C(3)b
- **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. ***NO rescheduling of matches or individual courts by captain or co-captains may occur except under the following circumstances:*** Rain, conflicts with other USTA ONLY events including Nationals and Sectionals, USTA Local League playoffs, and LPC adjustment, Holiday (See Holiday Policy).

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.
- 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 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.
- When matches are cancelled or postponed for valid reasons above, it is preferred that captains reschedule immediately, but matches must be rescheduled 3 days post originally scheduled match. The agreed date must be emailed to the LPC immediately upon agreement with both captains included.
- Each team captain should offer at least 3 different viable dates/times they are available, and captains have 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 within 3 days of the last day of the league or within 3 days of the local playoff date, when applicable, whichever comes first. *All matches must be completed before the playoffs take place when applicable.*
- 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. All matches must play a majority of courts for legal match.
- 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 the 15th day of the originally scheduled match (or within 8 days of the last scheduled match of the season or within 3 days of the last day of the local league season or local league playoff date whichever comes first when applicable. *(All matches must be completed prior to local playoffs).* If the 15th, 8th or 3rd day is a holiday the match date will be the very next day. All day matches will be scheduled at 2:00 PM and night matches will be scheduled for 6:30 PM. If either captain is unable to field any position on the rescheduled date and time, that position will be retired or defaulted. NO exceptions!
- NO rescheduling of matches or individual courts for players who play on multiple teams, or for any reason. No exceptions see rule above.

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, or any player involved in the match on court.
- 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.
- Only captains or acting captains may declare an inclement weather suspension or cancellation. All matches must be rescheduled.
- 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 should notify the opponent as soon as the issue is known, but no later than 3 days prior to 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 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 local play coordinator, with the opposing captain copied, so 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) supersede 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 5 days before the conflicted match. Each line made up because of conflicts with championship play **MUST** contain a player or players that were participating in the conflicting event. If not match will be marked as ineligible player or a default.

MATCH PROTOCOL

- **Courtesy Communication: Home & Away captains** should contact their opposing team captain prior to the match 3 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.
- **Provisions:** Home teams must provide the balls (USTA approved, court appropriate). If the facility does not provide water and ice 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, or they must wait indefinitely, if no time is agreed upon. If the player arrives late and the players want to play, that is considered a legal match and will stand.
- **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.
- **Line Judge** - 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.
- **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. 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/FLIGHTS

- **PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN FLIGHT PLAY – NR 2.01C(2)**
- Any league which has at least 10 or more teams may be scheduled for a partial round robin in local league play. A partial Round Robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two (2) teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish either flight and or season winners.
- If any of the flights has 16 or less teams in them ONLY the top 2 teams will advance to the single elimination playoff
- If any of the flights has 17 or more teams in them and if any of the top 4 teams have not played each other within the partial round robin during the local play of the original schedule, then the top 4 teams will progress to a single elimination semi-final, then finals for local playoffs to determine either flight winner or season winner.
- The seeding for the top 4 Semi-Final is: 1st vs 4th, 2nd vs 3rd.
- If the flight has 17 or more teams in them and the top 4 teams have all played each other during the partial round robin during the local league season original schedule, then only the top 2 teams will advance to a single elimination playoff to determine either flight winner or season winner.
- In a league with multiple flights within the same league and season (Example: Adult 55 & over 7.0 women, Flight X and Flight Y, or Day vs Night) the winners of each flight after the partial round robin playoff will play an additional Final of the league flight winners to determine the actual season winner. (Example: after semi-Final winner of flight X or Day and Winner of Flight Y or Night will play a final match) ○ **Post Season:** Post season play is determined by the Local Play Coordinator after season and schedules are established. Dates and rain dates will be given; teams will need to have players available for all dates and be available all day. Dates could be subject to change for unforeseen circumstances.
 - **Playoffs:** Local playoff protocols including dates, and formats will be announced at least 2 months prior to the commencement of the season via USTA Communication Center email/text. Sectional and National championships dates are promptly published on USTA Florida.com as soon as they are established.

PLAYOFF LOCATION & HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

- **Playoff Location:** Local playoff locations will be determined based on the playoff format, number of teams involved, court availability, scheduling requirements, and other logistical considerations. The LPC retains final authority to determine the location and format necessary to complete the local playoffs within applicable deadlines.
 - **Home Court Advantage:** When feasible, home court priority may be given when only one team match is required to determine the season winner or advancing team. An undefeated first-place team will receive first consideration to host. If both teams are undefeated, or neither team is undefeated, regular-season game winning percentage may be used to determine home court priority. The team receiving home court advantage must be able to provide the required number of courts at an appropriate time on the established playoff date. If that team cannot accommodate the playoff, the hosting opportunity may be offered to the opposing team, or another suitable facility may be selected by the local play coordinator.
 - **Multiple Team Playoffs:** When 3 or more teams are involved, or the playoff format requires multiple team matches, the LPC will determine the playoff location and schedule based on court availability and other requirements necessary to complete the playoff. A participating teams' facility, neutral facility or other suitable facility may be used.
 - **Coordinator-Hosted Facility:** When appropriate and feasible, the LPC may host a local playoff at a facility selected by the coordinator. Coordinator-hosted playoffs are not guaranteed and will be determined based on court availability, scheduling requirements, playoff format, and other logistical considerations. When a coordinator-hosted playoff requires facility or court fees a player fee may apply.
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- **Playoff Dates Announcement:** The dates for the playoffs will be set no later than 1 week after the season schedule is released, and an email will be sent to all captains to inform them about the dates and other relevant factors to successfully compete in Local playoffs.

- 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

Advancement when there are fifteen (15) or more teams in the same age-group division: Florida 2.02A(1)

- In a single flight with one season: The top 2 teams will advance,
- If there are two league seasons (ex: Fall and Winter): The winners of each season will advance.
- If there are two league seasons with flighted play (Flight A & B): Sub-Flight playoffs will occur and then the season winners will advance.
- If there are two separate leagues (ex: Day and Night): Day and night will playoff and each season winners will move on.
- If the same captain wins multiple advancement opportunities: The captain will choose which roster to take to sectionals, if more than one team gets to advance See the Additional advancement opportunities below.
- All required matches must be played before the playoffs.

ADDITIONAL ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- If an additional advancement opportunity to the Section championships becomes available and more than one eligible second – place team is under consideration, the eligible second-place team with the highest game-winning percentage from its local regular season will receive the advancement opportunity.

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% at level compliance, the captain must adjust their roster to be within compliance prior to playing the next scheduled match. If a match was previously played while the team was out of compliance, the match will stand. Team matches played out of compliance post notification will result in a total team default.
- **Holiday Policy:** If either captain requests a reschedule because the scheduled match falls on the actual recognized holiday, captains must follow the reschedule policy by notifying the opposing captain at least five (5) days before the scheduled match. The opposing captain is expected to cooperate in good faith to reschedule the match in accordance with the established rescheduling procedures. This policy applies only when the scheduled match is on the actual recognized holiday unless the Local play coordinator announces additional holidays, dates, or special procedures for a specific league or season.

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.**

Addendum A - Line Judges

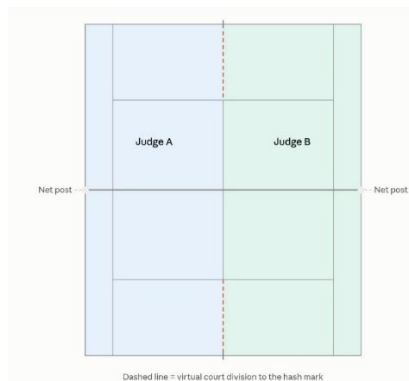
Line Judge Role

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.