



2027 Championship Year Miami Dade and Monroe Counties Local League Rules & Regulations

Adult Local Play Coordinator: Donna Kass

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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. Please consult the Local Play Coordinator (LPC) listed for clarification.

SCHEDULING

- **Captain's 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/county/miami-dade-county/>.
- **Facility Requirements:** Teams must have a home facility that can host at least two home matches. No traveling teams will be allowed in the league. Players must have the facility's express approval to host a team before requesting a team number. If applicable, the visiting team is responsible for any facility fees assessed for league matches. Home facilities must have water and restrooms available at the time of the match and provide appropriate new balls for 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 TennisLink before the deadline and must meet the criteria. Consideration for late teams is at the discretion of the LPC.
- **Schedules:** Captains/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 TennisLink 7 days before match play begins. Captains are responsible for confirming court availability for their home matches. Captains will have until 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 an equal home and away matches during a season. Changes to the schedule are always at the discretion of the Local Play Coordinator.
- **Roster Limits** will be imposed for all leagues. Leagues that play five lines will be allowed 18 players but mixed 8.0 and 9.0 leagues will be allowed 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 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 cannot advance to playoff or Sectionals. 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 will be subject to the total team default regulations. A full team default can negatively impact the entire local league.
If a position is defaulted and the court is released less than 24 hours before the scheduled match time, the defaulting team will be required to pay the associated court fees.
- **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** 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 by captains or co-captains may occur except under the following circumstances: **inclement weather, facility issues, conflicts with USTA Playoffs, Sectionals, National Championships, 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 4 hours of a postponed, suspended, or rescheduled match.
- If a team experiences a court conflict of any kind, the first option could 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. If the home team is unable to find suitable courts, the opposing team may assist and get courts, if they are available at the same date and time. If courts are not available at either facility at that time, the home team must follow the general reschedule policies. Captains must email 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.
- When matches are cancelled or postponed for any reason, it is preferred that captains reschedule immediately, but matches must be rescheduled 3 days post the original scheduled time. The agreed upon date must be emailed to the LPC immediately upon agreement with both captains included.
- The home team captain must offer 3 viable dates/times their facility is available within two days, and the visiting team has 1 day to respond. The rescheduled match must be played within 2 weeks of the originally scheduled match date, 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. 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 reschedule date for any reason (players being unavailable due to travel or injury), the LPC will

set the date, 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.

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 facility. Any player in a match in progress who is concerned about safety may suspend their match due to weather deterioration.
- Matches may not be called for bad weather more than 2 hours before the match.
- 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 the courts will remain unplayable within that time frame.
- Rescheduled Matches may be scheduled as a whole or 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 must notify the opponent as soon as the issue is known, but no later than 2 hours prior to the 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.
- **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 participating in the conflicting event may reschedule 1 position if 1-2 players are affected and 2 positions if 3-4 are. **These matches must be rescheduled at least a week prior to the conflicting scheduled match. Teams must notify their opponents at least a week before the USTA event. If a team does not comply with this, the position(s) may not be rescheduled. Each line made up must contain one of the participating players or the position will be defaulted.**

MUTUAL CAPTAIN AGREEMENT

- **Captain Agreements:** Matches may be rescheduled by mutual captain agreement. Such matches must be agreed upon in writing prior to a scheduled match with Local Play Coordinator included in communication (refer to General Policies).

MATCH PROTOCOL

- **Courtesy Communication:** Home captains must contact their opposing team captain 1 day prior 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 must 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 or mixed surfaces, the captain must notify the opposing team captain at least 2 days prior to the match. The home 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) 5 minutes prior to match time. This must include players' first, last names, NTRP level, and the positions played. Line-up cards are exchanged five minutes before scheduled match time. At the end of a match, captains must 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**.
- **Player Identification:** Prior to the start of any match, a team or acting captain may request to verify the identity of an opposing player. Upon such a request, the player must present a valid form of identification (e.g., driver's license, passport, credit card) to confirm they match the name and information listed on the official team roster. A clear photo of a valid ID shown on a phone is also acceptable as proof of identity. This request must be made before the match begins. Once play has started, no identification challenges will be permitted for that match.
- **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 or they must wait indefinitely, if no time is agreed upon. If an amount of time to wait is agreed upon, it must 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 in progress warm-up but will be granted no additional warm-up time.
- **Score Entry:** See Florida Section Regulation 1.04C(2)a. Efforts must be made to settle any disagreements between the team captains concerning scores prior to requesting any changes. Both captains (or acting captains) must 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 except for TriLevel. 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 must designate areas used for rest during changeovers for players only. At the end of a match, the participants become spectators and, at the earliest opportunity, must remove themselves and any personal belongings from areas designated for players only. If a spectator/non-lineup participant must go through a gate, walk on the court to sit on the bench/chairs, then they are not allowed to sit in that area during the match. If the benches/chairs are located between courts, i.e.; in a walkway, then the spectators can sit there.
- **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 and dates will be posted on the TennisLink schedule. The playoff date may need to be adjusted due to an NTRP Grievance being filed to allow for the response by the Grievance Committee. Any date changes will be set by the LPC. Sectional and

National championships dates are promptly published on USTAFlorida.com as soon as they are established.

- **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
- When two teams get to advance, and there is only one league season, the top two teams would progress to Sectionals with no playoff.
- If there are two league seasons (ex. ESL in fall, regular in winter), the winner of each season would go to Sectionals with no playoff.
- If there are two league seasons (ESL in fall, regular in winter), and both are divided into Day and Night flights then there would be a playoff between the flights at the end of each season, and the winner of each of these playoffs (ESL and winter) would go to Sectionals.
- If the same team wins both seasons, the captain will pick which roster to take to Sectionals, and the second-place teams of each season would play off to determine the second team going to sectionals.

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 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% level 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, or the LPC will remove the last lower-level player added until the team is compliant. Any individual match(es) played by players out of compliance will be deemed ineligible, disqualified, and scored as 6-0, 6-0 loss(es).

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. Administrative registration fees are not refunded.

Contact Local Play Coordinator for credits or player move.

Adendum A - Line Judges

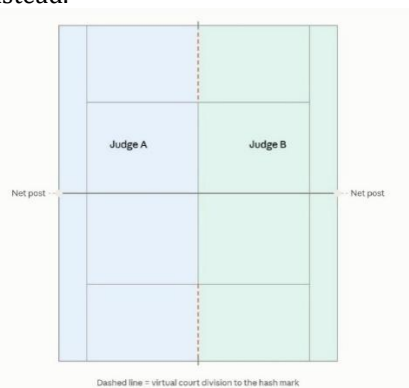
Line Judge Role

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.