2027 Championship Year
Local, Sectional and National Rules and Regulations
Orange, Seminole and Lake Counties

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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 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/orange-county/.
- **Facility Requirements:** Teams must have a home facility that can host at least 2 home matches. Traveling teams will be allowed per league at the discretion of 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 available 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. Commitment forms are required prior to the deadline and must meet the required criteria. Each team must have the minimum number of players prior to receiving a team number. Coordinators may adjust deadline dates as needed.
- **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 5 days before match play begins. Captains are responsible for confirming court availability for their home matches. Captains will have 48 hours 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. Due to facility availability, it is possible that teams will not have equal home and away matches during a season.
- **Roster Limits:** Roster limits will be imposed for all leagues. Leagues that play five lines will be allowed 20 players but 3 and 4 lines will be allowed 18 players. Players may continue to be added to rosters, until there are at least two matches left in that team's regular season. 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% 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. A grievance may be filed against the Captain or Team. Florida 2.01C(3)b NR 2.03L

- **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. When matches are cancelled or postponed for any reason, it is preferred that captains reschedule immediately, but matches must be rescheduled within 72 hours of the 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: inclement weather, facility issues, mutual captain agreement, Local League playoffs, Sectionals, and/or Nationals. One day before and/or after Sectionals/Nationals are included. 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 2-4 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 72 hours of the 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 3 viable alternate dates/times that their facility is available, and the visiting team has 1 day to respond. The rescheduled match must be played within 14 days of the originally scheduled match date, or within 7 days of the last scheduled match, or before any local league playoff, or before the end of the league season, 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, lightening, hurricane or tornado watch/warning, or any unsafe weather condition deemed by either captain, facility or 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 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 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 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 issue is known, but no later than 48 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. Captains should 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.
- **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. Players that are participating in the conflicting event may reschedule their local league match. It is preferred that these lines be rescheduled and played prior to the conflicting scheduled match, otherwise they are subject to the above rules regarding makeup matches. Captains should notify their opponents as soon as they know there is a conflict, but no less than 48 hours 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.

MUTUAL CAPTAIN AGREEMENT

Captain Agreements: Matches other than rainouts may be rescheduled by mutual captain agreement. The rescheduled match must be played within 14 days of the originally scheduled match date, or within 7 days of the last scheduled match, or before any local league playoff, or before the end of the league season, whichever comes first. Such matches must be agreed upon in writing with the Local Play Coordinator included in communication (refer to General Policies). To be courteous, teams requesting a reschedule should give as much notice as possible

MATCH PROTOCOL

- **Courtesy Communication:** Home captains should contact their opposing team captain prior to the match 24 hours 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 early or late lines or will use any other court surface than or mixed surfaces, the captain should notify the opposing team captain at least 48 hours prior to the match. If the home facility is using a mixture of court surfaces, the visiting team captain will designate which lines will play early or late or on the alternate court surface.
- **Provision**s: Home teams must provide the balls (USTA approved, court appropriate). If the facility does not provide water, the home team must provide for their visiting guests.
- **Line-ups**: Each team captain must complete a legible scorecard (printed from TennisLink is recommended).This must include players' first, last names, NTRP level, and the positions played. Line-up cards are exchanged 5 minutes before scheduled match time. At the conclusion of the 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 an amount of time to wait is agreed upon, 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 in progress warm-up but will not be granted any additional warm-up time.
- **Score Entry:** See Florida Section Regulation 1.04C(2)a. Match results must be entered within 48 hours of the match being played by either team captain, but correct entry is both captains' responsibility. All scores must be entered within 48 Hours or the line/s may be defaulted.
- 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.

ADVANCEMENT/PLAYOFFS

- **Post Season:** Post-season play is determined by the Local Play Coordinator once schedules are established.
- **Playoffs:** Local playoff protocols including necessity, dates, venues, and formats will be announced by the LPC via USTA Communication Center, email or text. Sectional and National championships dates are promptly published on USTA Florida.com as soon as they are established. Stated playoff dates may be changed to accommodate the grievance committee, if necessary.
- **Playoff Advantages:** The home team for any playoff is determined by the highest game winning percentage of playoff teams from the Stats & Standings available on TennisLink. That team will determine the facility including surface(s). If the game winning percentage is the same for both teams, the qualifiers listed below will be used to determine the winner. Home team is responsible for any court fees. If the home courts are unavailable, the home team and/or Local Play Coordinator may secure a neutral facility or use the opposing team's courts. Once the teams advancing to a local league playoff have been determined, if any team cannot, or will not, participate in the playoff, the opposing team will be declared the winner and no playoff will be played.
- All playoffs will be held on a weekend during the daytime, unless otherwise stated. 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 qualifiers 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

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 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. If a match was previously played while the team was out of compliance, individual matches played by non-compliant players should be reversed and considered losses.
- Team matches played out of compliance post notification will result in a total team default.

REFUND 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 credits 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, only credits to their account are offered. Once a season has ended, a player may no longer be moved or credited. Administrative registration fees are not refunded. If removing a player from the roster will put a team out of compliance with the 75/25 rule, the player cannot be removed until another player is ready to be added in order to keep the roster in compliance.

Contact Local Play Coordinator for credits or player moves.