



# 2020 CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR USTA LOCAL, SECTIONAL & NATIONAL RULES & REGULATIONS COLLIER/REGION 7

## 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 listed below for clarification:

**Tricia DiPalo**

dipalo@ustaflorida.com

407-674-1659

<https://www.ustaflorida.com/county/collier-county/>

## SCHEDULING

- **Captain's Meetings:** Team Captains or a team representative are required to attend their local captain's meetings. 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 a home facility that can host home matches. No traveling teams will be allowed per league. Players must have the express approval of the facility to host a team prior to requesting a team number. Home facilities must have required number of courts for league type, restrooms, water, ice, and chairs on court 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:** TennisLink Roster are required prior to the deadline and must meet the required criteria.
- **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 Tennis Link 7 days 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** Will not be imposed for all leagues. Players may continue to be added to rosters, up until there are at least two matches left in the 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. There will be no refunds for any players who did not play.
- **Defaults:** Teams must play **ALL** matches scheduled. If a team defaults an entire match (defined as playing less than the majority of the scheduled individual match lines) for any reason, the team will be subject to the strict regulations regarding total team defaults and could result in league sanctions. This can negatively impact the entire league.
- **Flights:** The Local Play Coordinator is responsible for all decisions pertaining to whether and how leagues and divisions are flighted in order 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 in order 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: **rain, facility issues, conflicts with other USTA Sectionals or Nationals, Local League playoffs.**

### 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.
- 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 should be to move to the opponent's courts, if the other facility is within 10 miles and available on the same date & time. A neutral facility **may** be agreed upon by both captain's 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 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 that their facility is available, and the visiting team has 3 days to respond. The rescheduled match must be played within 3 weeks of the originally scheduled match date, or within 1 week of the last scheduled 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.
- Any conflicts between the 2 teams with players leaving town will be scored as a double default, no exceptions.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Inclement weather situations considered for reschedule are rain, lightening, hurricane or tornado watch/warning or any unsafe weather condition deemed by either captain.
- 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 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.

### 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 3 days prior to 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 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 make 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 2 weeks before the conflicted match. Matches made up because of conflicts with championship play **MUST** contain at least 1 player that participate in the conflicting event.

## MATCH PROTOCOL

- **Courtesy Communication:** Home captains should contact their opposing team captain prior to the match 3 days to verify match time, location, and 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, cups 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 completed scorecard post-match to ensure correct reporting. See score entry.
- **Tardiness:** All players are expected to arrive prior to 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 after default time, and the players want to play, that is considered a legal match.
- **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, however, no additional warm-up time will be granted.
- **Score Entry:** Match results must be entered by either home or away team captain within 24 hours, but correct entry is both captains' responsibility. Effort 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 Local Play Coordinator prior to recording a total team default in TennisLink.
- **Spectators, teaching professionals, and team members** may not, at any time, inject themselves in a match. Home team captains are responsible for educating and controlling the environment at their facilities. 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. 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 after season and schedules are established.
- **Playoffs:** Local playoff protocols including necessity, dates, venues, 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 Advantages:** Any playoff advantage is determined by Local Play Coordinator and they determine facility including surface(s), time of day, other based on availability.

#### **Advancement when there are eleven or more teams in the same age-group division:**

- 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 Fall and Winners of winter 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 & night playoffs each season winners will move on
- If the same team wins both seasons, the captain picks which roster to take to Sectionals, and the second-place teams of each season 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 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% 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.
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### **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 will 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. 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 fees are not refunded. **Contact Local Play Coordinator for refunds or player moves.**