



2018 USTA LOUISVILLE FALL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

All players participating in the USTA League Tennis Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide by the National, Sectional, State and Local USTA League Tennis Regulations and the Standards of Good Conduct, Fair Play and Good Sportsmanship. The Rules and Regulations for the USTA League Tennis Program are administered by the Local League Coordinator (LLC) and the Tennis Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK) and the Louisville Adult League Committee.

SECTION I. ELIGIBILITY

1) TEAMS

- A. Teams must have a minimum of FIVE (5) eligible players for 18 & over and 40 & over or SIX (6) eligible players for 55 & Over by the ***initial roster deadline of September 17, 2018***. Teams that do not meet this deadline may be subject to a grievance filed by the LLC. The Kentucky Adult League Committee has the authority to alter the initial roster deadline prior to the match start date if deemed necessary.
- B. Captains, Co-captains or someone acting on his or her behalf ***MUST*** be present at each team match.

2) PLAYERS

- A. All players must use their current NTRP rating when registering. If they do not have one, they may self-rate using the NTRP guidelines. Players may play their NTRP and one level up.
- B. A player may play on one 18 & Over, one 40 & Over, and one 55 & Over team during the local season if he or she meets the age requirements.
- C. All players shall have ***reached the age of eighteen (18) years of age*** prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in their first local league match. Players must have reached forty (40) years of age for the 40 & Over division, and fifty-five (55) years of age for the 55 & Over division prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in their first local league match.
- D. All players must be paid members of the USTA through the respective season of play.

- E. The league fee for 2018 shall be **\$23.32** (this includes taxes) (plus \$3.00 TennisLink fee). The outdoor court cost is **\$8.00** per player (plus tax) and the indoor court cost is **\$18.00** per player (plus tax)
- F. The roster size shall be a maximum of 21 players.
- G. The last day to add a player to the team roster shall be **December 15, 2018**.
- H. The last day to play local league matches will be **December 16, 2018**.

SECTION II. TEAM CAPTAIN'S DUTIES

1) REGULATIONS

It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand the current Local USTA League Regulations prior to the start of league competition. These Regulations are available at www.talktennis.org. ***It is especially important to have the person designated as acting captain at any match to be familiar with these regulations as well.***

2) CONTACT INFORMATION

Captains must have a current email address and phone contact information in TennisLink in order to receive league information throughout the season. ***It is the captain's responsibility*** to know what is going on during the league season. Check the website listed above routinely for updates of league information. Updates to your personal information can be made via TennisLink or Membership Services at 1-800-990-USTA.

3) SCHEDULING MATCHES

- A. The home captain shall designate placement of courts at the scheduled facility.
- B. The policy is that there will be ***NO RESCHEDULING*** of matches during the season ***unless both captains agree. If an agreement is reached, the match must be rescheduled within 2 weeks. The rescheduled match should be played at the originally scheduled facility if possible. The captains must notify the LLC if a match is rescheduled. The only exception*** is if any team has 50% or more of their roster involved in a USTA League Tennis State, Sectional, or National event, regardless of the league, may request from their opponent consideration in ***pre-scheduling*** their league match prior to the scheduled day of the match. A team with this concern must notify the affected opponents at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled match to reschedule individual matches. The team affected should contact the LLC if this situation should arise. ***We expect opposing teams to cooperate fully in these circumstances.***

4) RATINGS

Play in the Louisville Fall League does not affect a player's NTRP rating.

5) MATCH DAY

- A. In order to start the league match, complete written lineups must be simultaneously exchanged at or before the scheduled match time. If the captain will not be there at the start time, he/she should send the lineup with a designated captain. The default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the league match. **Cell phones are the official time for the start of the match.** *However, since not all cell phone times may be the same, the benefit of the time goes to the earliest time on a cell phone. If one cell phone says 12:14 PM and another says 12:16 PM for the players on the court, the time shall be 12:14 PM. Comment: This means all players must be on the court, and not merely at the facility preparing food, going to the bathroom, stretching, etc., no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. Courtesy requires a prompt start time and a brief warm-up (10 minutes). League rules support a default of the individual match if players are not on court.*
- B. Once the teams exchange lineups, no movement of players is allowed. **Never move players already listed on the lineup to another position.** (See Rule 5C regarding player substitutions). Should any movement occur; the individual match shall be recorded as a forfeit.
- C. A substitute is defined as a player not listed on the original lineup. A substitute can only be used if a player or players listed on the original lineup do not arrive within the 15-minute default time or if a player is injured or becomes ill prior to the start of the league match which includes the warm-up. *Comment: A substitute cannot be used if a player originally listed on the lineup arrives at the match and decides he/she no longer wishes to play or no longer has time to play.*
- D. If a team knows 24 hours in advance of their scheduled match that they intend to forfeit a court, the captain **must** contact the facility and the opposing captain to cancel the court. *Comment: A facility may charge a fee unless notice is given 24 hours in advance. The forfeiting captain may be responsible for full payment of that court unless the facility has been notified in advance of the cancellation.*

6) SCORECARDS

- A. Captains must print a scorecard from TennisLink before each match to use for lineup exchange. All eligible players will be listed at the bottom of each scorecard. Please verify all players listed are registered below. Do not print until before the match as players may be added on the day of the match.
- B. Captains must confirm the scores with the opposing captain at the completion of the match and keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.
- C. Scores **MUST** be entered and confirmed within 48 hours of the completion of a match. It is preferred the Home Team Captain enter the score and the Visiting Team confirm the score. Score confirmation or score disputes **MUST BE MADE WITHIN 48 HOURS.**

SECTION III. FORMAT OF PLAY AND SCORING

1) TEAM MATCH FORMAT

- A. For the 18 & over and 40 & over divisions, each team match shall consist of **three individual matches: one singles and two doubles matches**. For the 55 & over division, each team match shall consist of **three individual doubles matches**. In order for a team match to be counted in the standings, teams must play two (2) individual courts.
- B. TennisLink stats and standings will determine division winners. Winning teams will be determined first by number of matches won, then by number of individual court wins, then by least number of sets lost and least number of games lost.
- C. Each division of an NTRP level shall have a scheduled match every weekend (except Thanksgiving weekend) with the league play ending on December 16, 2018 even thou in some divisions the round robin format was not completed.
- D. Defaults (forfeits) and disqualifications shall be scored according to USTA League Tennis Regulations.

2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH FORMAT

- A. If a team knowingly begins a match without a full complement of players for the lineup (e.g. 4 players rather than 5) said team must forfeit the singles court. If only 3 players are available, the #2 doubles court must be forfeited. For the 55 & over division, the #3 doubles court must be forfeited.
- B. The warm-up **must** be accomplished in a maximum of 10 minutes, **including serves. Do not practice your return of serve during warm-up. Also, do not go out onto the courts before your scheduled match time if there is a match in progress on either side of your assigned court.**
- C. Matches will be the best 2 out of 3 sets, with the Set Tie-Break to be used at 6 all in each set. In lieu of the third set, a Match tiebreak shall be played (the first to 10 winning by 2). There will be a 2 minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as 1 game for tiebreak procedures. **All tiebreaks will be played in the Coman Tiebreak format.**
- D. **Coaching is not permitted.**
Comment: Coaching is considered to be communication, advice or any instruction that is audible or visible to a player. Communication between spectators and players should be in a language understood by all players present, or it may be considered coaching.
- E. In each match, the Home team shall provide a new can of USTA approved balls.
- F. At **NO** time are **cell phones**, or any other electronic device allowed or used on the tennis court during a match. **All electronic devices must be turned off during the match.** If a phone on your court rings once, request that the phone be turned off and replay the point. If the phone rings again, you may claim the point in the game based on a deliberate hindrance.

SECTION IV. MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- 1) All matches must be played to completion without interruption. Unfinished matches must be played if a court is available at the host facility within a half-hour of the interrupted match, or within a reasonable time as long as both teams agree on the delay. Additional court fees may be charged by the host facility. If a court is not available within a reasonable time frame, rescheduling should be arranged immediately by the players. ***If it is necessary to reschedule the match, the captains must notify the LLC, and the match must be played within two weeks.*** If the team prior to your match is in a third set tiebreak, please be courteous to players on the court by allowing them to finish their match.
- 2) Play shall be continuous from the first service until the match is completed.
 - A. The receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the server and must be ready to receive when the server is ready to serve. The server cannot take longer than 20 seconds in between points. When changing ends, a maximum time of 90 seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game to the time the ball is struck for the first point of the next game.
 - B. After the first game of each set and during the tie break, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period.
 - C. At the conclusion of each set, there shall be a set break of a maximum of 2 minutes from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game to the time the ball is struck for the first point of the next game.
 - D. A 10 minute break ***WILL NOT*** be allowed between the 2nd set and the Super Tiebreak game. A ***bona fide*** bathroom break can be taken at any time during the match, though it is courteous to leave the court at the end of a game.
 - E. Visible or audible profanity ***WILL NOT*** be tolerated on the courts during any match. Abuse of racquet, balls or equipment ***will also NOT*** be tolerated. Players are responsible for adhering to the Code. Unsportsmanlike conduct ***WILL NOT*** be tolerated.

SECTION V. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- 1) Inclement weather is defined as unsuitable driving conditions in regards to snow and ice, rain or temperature for outdoor matches.
- 2) In the event of inclement weather, the LLC and the Louisville Adult League Committee will make the decision to play or cancel matches. This decision will be posted on the local league's website at www.talktennis.org.

SECTION VI. FORFEITS, RATINGS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 1) If a team forfeits an entire team match (2 courts), or 4 individual courts total for teams that have 10 or less matches in the season, a grievance WILL be filed by the LLC against the team, which may result in removal from competition.
- 2) Any team found playing an ineligible player may immediately be disqualified from league play for at least the remainder of the league year. A grievance may be filed against the ineligible player and/or team.
- 3) All players must use their current published rating at the time of registration on a team. Ratings are administered by USTA Kentucky within the stated NTRP guidelines and published in TennisLink.

SECTION VII. LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

- 1) All complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Tennis Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing with the LLC.
- 2) Grievances must be filed by a team captain prior to the next team match during the local league season and within 24 hours after the last regular match or playoff match. Grievances shall be sent to the LLC who will then forward them on to the Grievance Committee.
- 3) A copy of each complaint shall be sent to the party (ies) against whom the complaint has been made by the LLC. For full Grievance Procedures refer to Section 3.0 of the 2018 USTA League Tennis Regulations. Rules & Regulations may be found at www.talktennis.org under Rules

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