



## 2012 MID-ATLANTIC USTA LEAGUE TENNIS RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS

RED marks changes for 2012

1. The **2012 USTA League Tennis Regulations**, together with such supplemental rules as may be promulgated by the various District/Area and Local Leagues and approved by the Sectional League Coordinator, constitute the rules of USTA League Tennis in Mid-Atlantic Section.

2. At a minimum, each District/Area in the Mid-Atlantic Section shall publish written rules governing (a) the information necessary for a local league to be recognized by the District/Area and organized in TennisLink; (b) the progression of local league winners to District/Area championship events, and District/Area championship participants to Sectional championship events; and (c) the filing, investigation, and adjudication of grievances and appeals arising out of Local League or District/Area Championship play within its jurisdiction. **All local league rules must be approved by the Section before league matches begin.**

3. Players with a valid computer rating established according to USTA-approved computer methodology must enter a USTA League Tennis division at that rating or higher. Any individual who circumvents this requirement by acquiring multiple, false or misleading (e.g., variants on the same name) USTA membership numbers shall be disqualified from further participation in any USTA League Tennis program for a period of 12 months from the date of disqualification and all matches played by such persons will be declared forfeit, or any other appropriate penalty determined by the Section League Committee.

4. When first entering the Leagues program, players without a computer rating are required to answer questions on-line regarding their player history and then declare a self-rating on TennisLink **of 2.5 or higher**. In making their self-rating decision, players must consider the NTRP Guidelines posted on the TennisLink website; their on-court performance against established league players; relevant tennis history including frequency of play and instruction; and general fitness. Once made, the self-rating declared by the player shall apply to all Divisions until superseded by a computer-generated rating established according to USTA-approved computer methodology.

5. TennisLink is the official and exclusive system for registering teams and players, and reporting match scores and standings for the USTA League Tennis program. No person may participate on a League team, and no local league may commence, without first registering via TennisLink. All local league seasons must start and finish in the same calendar year. No local league winner may advance to championship level competition until all scheduled matches have been recorded in TennisLink.

6. Match results **must** be reported on TennisLink within 72 hours of the completion of the team match. This may be done by either the winning or losing team captain, or their designee. Failure to do so shall cause the local coordinator to instruct that the match be scored as a Double Default. The non reporting captain, or designee, **must** log in to TennisLink and confirm or dispute the reported match scores within 48 hours after they have been reported. After that time, TennisLink automatically blocks any attempt to edit or otherwise contest reported results, which are deemed final and complete with no further right of challenge.

7. A team match should not remain uncompleted for more than seven days after its scheduled date or the deadline for completing local league match play, whichever occurs first. (This does not preclude a local coordinator from formally re-scheduling a match date/time where local circumstances require, so long as established dates for completing local play are not violated.)

8. Local League Play.

If a player arrives late for a match, local league penalties for lateness apply. However, the player is still entitled to a 5 minute warm-up.

If a player in the exchanged line-up doesn't show and the time allowed for being late has expired, then that court becomes a default if the other matches have already started. In such cases, no changes will be made to the position of matches.

National Regulation 2.03L does not apply with respect to determining a defaulting team's eligibility to advance to championship play, but does apply insofar as a team match default affects any other team's eligibility to advance. It is the Local League Coordinator's responsibility to check for full team defaults, and to make any necessary adjustments to the standings before certifying the winning team for advancement to the next championship level.

The full match schedule for any local league must be published in TennisLink prior to or within seven days following the first match.

9. Player Dynamic NTRP ratings are automatically recalculated in the national database on a daily basis throughout the season unless some unforeseen technical problem prevents it. As a result, inputting match results in proper chronological order (the order in which they are played) is essential. If as a result of system-driven recalculations, a player's Dynamic NTRP rating reaches disqualification level three times, and if that player has an A, S, M, T or D rating:

9a. During local league: all matches played at that level shall be forfeited. The player may register on a team at the higher level if otherwise eligible to do so. The Sectional office shall issue notice of NTRP disqualification promptly to the player and the Team Captain as designated on the TennisLink team roster, with a copy to the District League Coordinator. (Captains and players are encouraged to provide e-mail address information when registering on TennisLink, and to update such information as necessary, to facilitate timely notice in the event of disqualification.)

9b. During District/Area or Sectional Championships: computer calculations shall be run and new ratings produced after each team match. Players who accumulate their "third strike" (considering all matches reported in the database to that point) shall be immediately disqualified, and the championship tournament matches played by such players shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team pursuant to Rule 2.04E(2)a. In the event that the Scorekeeper is unable to connect to TennisLink in "real time" during a championship event, upon notice to that effect the Tournament Committee may make an irrevocable election to suspend Rule 2.04B(2)a and instead follow the procedure outlined in Rule 2.04B(2)b for the event in question. Whenever such an election is made, 2.04E(2)c shall likewise be in effect.

10. The Mid-Atlantic Section delegates to each of its Districts/Areas the authority vested in it by Rule 1.04D(5) to limit the number of players that appear on a team roster.

11. **USTA League Tennis Regulations** Rule 1.04G authorizes players and captains to participate on more than one team under certain conditions. Specifically in Mid-Atlantic Section and for any Division, whether or not that division results in Sectional Championship competition:

11a. **Same league, same level:** a player/captain may play on or captain only one team at the same level within the same local league.

11b. **Same league, different levels:** a player/captain may play on or captain more than one team in the same local league, so long as each team is at a different NTRP level.

11c. **Different local leagues:** a player/captain may play on or captain more than one team, regardless of the NTRP level, if each team is in a separate local league.

11d. Player limitation for leagues which advance to Sectional Championships: In local level leagues of:

11d1. **four or more teams**, only two players who are registered on the same team may be members together on any other team in the same Division during the same season\*.

11d2. **three or less teams**, three players may be members together on another team in the same Division during the same season\*.

11d3. **exception** - three players may be members together on another team in the same Division during the same season\* in the Super Senior, Super Duper, Senior Mixed and Super Senior Mixed Divisions only, regardless of the number of teams in their local league.

\* It is the same season if there is an overlap in the local league **scheduled match** dates. The infraction occurs at registration.

Where violations of this rule occur, penalties are established as (a) immediate disqualification from the second (or any subsequent) team of all players who are members together on another team, except for the first two (or where authorized, three) such players, the order of registration as recorded in TennisLink being the determinative factor, unless a player has not played a match for either team, then the player may select which team to be removed from; and (b) forfeiture of all matches played by the disqualified players on behalf of the second (or any subsequent) team. The disqualified players may continue to participate on their other team(s) without penalty, and to register for additional teams consistent with Rule #11 and any District/Area or local registration deadlines.

12. **Two (2) local league matches, with one default counting, must be played prior to participating in any local league playoff, District or Sectional Championship.**

13. For Tri/quad Level Leagues, a minimum of three players per level must be on the team roster. Match play must be in order of strength – no player may play above a player with a higher rating. Defaults do not have to be from the bottom up if players are not available for a particular level.

14. The Mid-Atlantic Section will use the scoring format described in Rule 2.01C(3) match tiebreak in lieu of a third set) at all Sectional league championship tournaments, including the Coman tiebreak procedure. In addition, for the Mixed Doubles Division only, the Sectional Championship tournament shall be organized using combination ratings of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0. The 2.5 Adult Mixed Doubles level will comprise of 2.5 players only, with no combined ratings allowed. The Super Senior and Super Duper Divisions shall be organized using combined ratings of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0, and the age for Super Duper reduced from 70 to 65.

15. The team(s) certified by each District/Area Leagues Administrator as its District/Area Championship winner or 2<sup>nd</sup> place team at each NTRP level is entitled to advance to the Sectional championship tournament. The areas must certify their winning teams to the SLC by July 6th for Mixed Doubles, July 20th for Adult, August 28th for Senior, August 21<sup>st</sup> for Senior Mixed and Super Duper, September 11<sup>th</sup> for Super Senior and December 20<sup>th</sup> for tri/quad level. Further, the Districts must certify that their teams will attend Sectionals with a full contingent of players, and that their teams have abided by all National & Sectional Rules and Regulations. The Mid-Atlantic Adult Section Championships will have 6 teams at each gender and level, **where appropriate**. Of the 6 teams eligible to participate, 2 shall come from Virginia, 2 from Maryland, 1 from DC and 1 from West Virginia. No area may receive the benefit of more than one "wildcard entry" per level, except where the SLC has determined that it is appropriate. To be eligible to advance to Sectional championship competition, a team must have registered the minimum number of players required by Rule 1.04D(5) and played the minimum number of matches required by Rule 2.01C(1) by:

June 1st for Mixed Doubles championship competition;

June 30th for Adult league championship competition;

August 13th for all Senior league championship competition, including Super Duper and Senior Mixed;

August 26th for Super Senior league championship competition.

December 1<sup>st</sup> for tri/quad level championship competition

16. Winning teams not able to participate in the corresponding Sectional Championship tournament must notify the Sectional League Coordinator and their District/Area Coordinator of their intention not to participate at least ten (10) days prior to the start of the Tournament. Teams who violate this rule shall be reported to the Chairman of the Section League Grievance Committee for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. Penalties will be severe, up to and including being banned from league play for the following league year. Upon notification that a winning team is unable to advance, the second place team may advance in its place. If the second place team is unable to participate, the Sectional League Coordinator shall determine whether that District/Area shall retain its right to place an entry in that specific level or flight.

17. In the event that a person is a captain of or player on more than one team at the same level in the same division advancing to the same Championship event, that captain or player shall transmit written notice in advance to the District/Area or Section office (as appropriate) declaring which ONE team (s)he will represent at that event. Such declarations are binding only for the duration of the event where the conflict arises, and must be received at the appropriate District/Area or Section office at least 3 days before the start of the tournament. All Declarations received will be considered confidential to other teams. In the event no Declaration is received and a person captains 2 teams, or a player competes for 2 teams at the same level, in the same Division, then all matches played/or captained for the 2nd team will be disqualified.

18. Players/teams leaving a Sectional Championship tournament before completing their entire schedule of assigned matches and without the Tournament Director's approval shall be reported to the Chairman of the Section League Grievance Committee for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. Penalties will be severe, up to and including suspension or other sanctions for the following league year.

19. At all Mid-Atlantic Section League Championship tournaments, match line-ups are due to the Tournament Desk 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of each team match. Failure to turn in line-ups on time shall result in an automatic \$50.00 cash fine for each such occurrence. Any such fine must be paid before the offending team will be allowed to play its scheduled match. Match times are tentative and play will be on a "followed by" basis. The Tournament Desk has the right to call a match to begin play up to 30 minutes before the scheduled start time, assuming courts are available to do so. Once a match has been called, the USTA's Point Penalty System applies and will be strictly enforced.

20. In the event that a player is not notified of his/her disqualification before the deadline for submitting the team's next line-up, and the Team Captain has scheduled the disqualified player to participate in that next match, the Team Captain may substitute an eligible player into the position vacated by the disqualified player. No other line-up adjustment (reorganizing doubles teams or repositioning players, etc.) is permitted.

21. Super Senior Move-up/Split-up. Super Senior teams who advance to National Championships may move up one level as a team or must disperse to form new teams, using the following formula: Of the players who participated at Nationals, no more than 3 may stay together the following year. The exception is if their local league had 3 or less teams, then 4 players may stay together.

22. For the purpose of these MAS League Rules, the term "District" refers separately to: each of the Districts defined in Article IV, Section 1 of the current MAS Bylaws; and the term "Area" refers separately to: counties of West Virginia that USTA has designated as falling within the boundaries of the Mid-Atlantic Section.

**Approved by MAS League Committee 11-14-11**

**Approved by MAS Board of Directors 11-19-11**