

**USTA LEAGUE TENNIS**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY TENNIS ASSOCIATION**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2012 UNIFIED LOCAL LEAGUE RULES**



The Montgomery County Tennis Association administers various USTA League Tennis Programs so that tennis players have multiple, year-round opportunities to compete against other players of the same playing ability. Although competition is spirited, it is expected that each participant in league play exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. To this end, MCTA Leagues have a zero tolerance policy with regard to any physical altercations that occur at any match. Each league participant is expected to know, and is bound by, these Local League Rules, the USTA League Tennis Regulations, the USTA Mid-Atlantic Section League Rules, the USTA Maryland District League Rules, the Rules of Tennis, and *The Code: The Players' Guide for Unofficial Matches* (printed in *Friend at Court*, published annually by USTA). To the extent that the plain meaning of any Local League Rule may be unclear, it will be construed in a manner to foster good sportsmanship and fair play.

**Primary Rules/Regulations.**

Except as otherwise delineated or supplemented below, all questions will be resolved in accordance with the current "USTA League Tennis Regulations" and rules of the Mid-Atlantic Section and the Maryland District. Where no written local, District, or Section rule is authorized, approved and explicitly applies, the national USTA League Regulations control.

**Local League Rules.**

The following shall apply in all MCTA League Tennis programs:

**(A) Team Captains.** Every team must have a team captain, who is the person whose name appears as (or in conjunction with) the Team Name as displayed in TennisLink and who is the person that league administration shall communicate with regarding all matters affecting that team. A person seeking to captain an MCTA league team must first file a signed copy of the 2012 MCTA Captain's Commitment Form with the league administration. Further, a person may perform the duties of captain for **one team ONLY** at any given NTRP level league. In addition, within any one NTRP level league, a person may not captain one team while playing on another.

Captains are responsible for ensuring that a **complete team** is fielded for each match of the league season. A player who is scheduled to play a match has a responsibility to show up for that match. Each team shows up to each match expecting to play an opponent. It is a major disappointment to show up to a match only to find out that you have received a default. Even towards the end of a season, if a team is out of contention for the league title, fairness dictates that you show up for your matches since defaults may affect the final league Standings. Finally, it is the Captain's responsibility to ensure that his/her players know the rules that govern league tennis matches.

In addition, teams are encouraged to appoint one or more "co-captains" to assist with internal team functions (collection/payment of fees, coordinating practices or player availability, etc.) any ONE of whom also may be listed in the TennisLink Team Captain Report.

**(B) Team Rosters.** Official team rosters are maintained on TennisLink. Only those persons who are registered on a team roster are eligible to play in league matches. In accordance with Maryland District rules, roster size for all MCTA leagues is limited to 20 players, except for Tri-Level leagues where the roster maximum is 22 players. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in Tennis

Link shall self-rate themselves when registering for a team using the on-line procedures embedded in TennisLink. Allowing a captain or other player to register a player on TennisLink does not alleviate the affected player of responsibility for truthful, complete and accurate completion of the self-rating protocol.

**(C) Roster Additions/Deletions.** After the deadline for filing initial rosters with the minimum number of players:

(1) Additional team members may be added at any time during the local season up to the start time of a team's next-to-last round-robin flight match by registering on TennisLink before the player competes in a match. To avoid disputes, players who participate in their first match on the same day that they register on that team in TennisLink are strongly encouraged to print an on-line TennisLink receipt and bring it with them to that day's match.

(2) A player must have participated in at least two round robin flight matches (one of which may be a default) in order to be eligible to participate in a local league playoff.

(3) Players who have not participated in a match may be deleted from a roster on TennisLink at any time by the Maryland Leagues Administrator upon a request from the MCTA Adult Leagues Administrator, provided the approved Player Deletion Form has been completed in full and submitted by the Team Captain. Players who have played in one or more matches must remain on the TennisLink roster, but may be declared inactive for purposes of compliance with established roster size guidelines by likewise filing a completed Player Deletion form. Player Deletion Forms are available on the MCTA website ([www.mctatennis.org](http://www.mctatennis.org)). Completed Player Deletion Forms are accepted by including same as an e-mail attachment sent to: [playerdeletions@mctatennis.org](mailto:playerdeletions@mctatennis.org). A deleted player is entitled to a **reimbursement only if the player's name has not appeared on any match scorecards and the completed Player Deletion Form has been filed no later than two weeks before the end of the applicable season.** In this case, the MCTA League Programs Administrator will authorize reimbursement of all fees for which the player is entitled to refund and MCTA is subrogated to the player's right to recover from USTA Maryland District for that portion of the fees attributable to the District. The TennisLink convenience fee is never reimbursable. The Mid-Atlantic Section fee is **reimbursable only** in the case of a 2-team league that collapses before the first match is played.

(4) In no event may a player change rosters within a level league after he/she has played in his/her first league match in that level league.

**(D) Fees.** Fees consist of the following:

(1) **Initial Deposit.** Team captains are required to place a refundable deposit with MCTA in an amount equal to the court cost of one team match in order to receive a Team Code for registering players. *See Appendix for applicable amounts.*

(2) **Administrative Fees:** When an individual registers on TennisLink to play in a Leagues program s/he is charged a series of administrative fees, including pre-payment of court fees for up to five matches depending on the season. *See Appendix* for amount and description for each league program. All players must maintain current USTA membership in order to participate.

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- (3) **Individual Costs:** Each captain agrees to be responsible for his/her team's court costs associated with participation in the USTA League Tennis program, net of the amount collected from his/her players via the TennisLink registration process. By participating in a team match, a player agrees to reimburse his/her captain for all costs associated with membership on that team as determined by that team captain. Upon notice to the League Administration by a team captain, an individual's failure to pay such costs will result in suspension of eligibility to compete in any MCTA-sponsored League program until such time as all outstanding debts are satisfied.

**(E) Scheduling.** Input from captains is welcome regarding the length (# of matches) and structure (e.g., flights, playoffs) of each local level league season. However, MCTA reserves the right to organize each level league as it deems appropriate, including the kind and structure of any local playoffs. Where a level league is divided into flights, the assignment of teams to said flights shall be conducted in public by random draw, with affected captains notified of the opportunity to observe/participate. Where a local league playoff structure is utilized, written notice of the specific terms and conditions for such playoffs shall be finalized and communicated to all affected captains prior to the start of match play for the season.

A copy of the final, official, and binding schedule of play for the local league season shall be maintained on the USTA's TennisLink site. Each team match shall be played at the time and site designated on the schedule. Re-scheduling of matches is permitted only by the League Administrator or his/her designee (i) in response to a facility-related closure or condition, or (ii) where a Captain advises the Administration of a conflict between a scheduled local league match and a Mid-Atlantic Section or USTA Maryland District league championship event involving 50% or more players on his/her team, any such conflicts being identified to the League Administrator within 10 days of when the captain knows or should have known of the conflict.

Within 3 days of being made aware of the need to reschedule a match, the League Administration shall advise the affected teams of a new date, time, and location. Where captains have at least 10 days' notice of the proposed new date, it shall be final and binding unless the two captains agree to any earlier date and time that the League Administration can make available.

In no event may a team match remain uncompleted for more than 7 days after the scheduled date or the deadline for completing local league play, whichever occurs first. In the event that the match is not completed, a double default will be entered in TennisLink, unless the MCTA Leagues Administrator determines that the deadline should be extended no more than one additional week.

**(F) Inclement Weather/Hazardous Playing Conditions.**

1. **Outdoor Courts.** If within 2 hours of the scheduled start time of an **outdoor** match both captains agree to reschedule due to weather conditions, then no players need go to, or remain on, the match site. In the absence of the captains' agreement, players must report to the match site, ready to play. If thereafter an outdoor match is cancelled, or interrupted **during** play, due to rain or other hazardous condition (e.g., lightning), players shall remain on site for at least 30 minutes (longer if both captains agree) to see if the rain/hazard abates and the courts become playable. If so, the match may resume

and be extended, if possible, the length of time of the delay, subject only to court availability. In the event the rain/hazardous condition prevents resumption of play, the following rules shall apply:

- a) The Team Captains shall promptly notify the MCTA Leagues Administration that the match was interrupted or cancelled and the reason therefore, and request a rescheduled match date.
  - b) MCTA will reschedule the match indoors or outdoors as it deems feasible and will revise the TennisLink published match schedule accordingly. No additional fees for this rescheduled match will be charged.
  - c) Captains are free to agree to hold the make-up match in an alternate location(s) and/or on an alternate date(s) acceptable to both teams. Teams that select this option are responsible for making all arrangements for courts and for all costs associated with the re-scheduled match(es).
  - d) In no event may a team match remain unfinished for more than seven days after its scheduled date, nor beyond the deadline for completion of match play for the season as determined by USTA/Maryland District rules.
2. **Indoor Courts.** MCTA abides by Montgomery County's Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) determinations whether to remain open during adverse weather conditions (e.g., snow, sleet, extreme heat or humidity, etc.).
- a) If CUPF announces **public facilities are closed for evening activities due to inclement weather or other hazardous condition**, then MCTA matches are cancelled, regardless of a facility's decision to remain open. Captains and players can register on-line with CUPF to receive such notifications directly, or may telephone 240-777-2710 for CUPF recorded announcements.
  - b) If CUPF makes no activity closing decision, captains are responsible for contacting the facility to determine whether it is open for play. If open, captains are responsible for ensuring that their teams play, MCTA having already paid for the courts.
  - c) For Ladies Day League matches, if public schools announce a "delayed opening," then matches scheduled to start before 12:00 noon will **not** play, but matches scheduled at 12:00 noon or later will play. Conversely, if public schools announce an "early release day," then matches scheduled to start before 12:00 noon **will** play, but matches scheduled at 12:00 noon or later will not play. If public schools are closed for the day, no LDL matches will play.
3. **Line-up Changes for Matches Rescheduled to a different Date.** If a league match is cancelled/rescheduled to another day **after line-ups are exchanged but before players complete warm-up or commence play (first service attempt)**, then captains are free to utilize the same or different line-up at the rescheduled "make-up" match. **For any individual matches that have commenced play before the match is interrupted/rescheduled**, those same players must complete their suspended matches, whether finished separately or all at the same time, on or before the assigned reschedule date.

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**(G) Match structure.**

1. **Team Match.** A team match in each level league shall consist of the approved number of individual singles and doubles matches as stated in the *Appendix*.

2. **Individual Match.** Each individual match shall be a fixed timed match, and shall be best of 2 sets with regular scoring and a *set tiebreak* (first to 7 by a margin of 2) at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a *match tiebreak* (first to 10, by a margin of 2) shall be played to decide the match. **A point in play at the end of the time limit will be completed even if it will affect the outcome of the match.** All tiebreaks shall use the Coman Tiebreak procedure. If desired, any level league may elect by a unanimous vote of the affected captains prior to the start of match play to use no-ad scoring for its entire league season.

3. **NTRP Ratings.** Players may not have an NTRP rating that exceeds the stated level of a straight-level league. In combined rating leagues, the combined NTRP ratings of the players paired in an individual match may not exceed the stated level of that league, nor may such players have a rating differential between them of more than one point (e.g., a 5.0 player and a 3.0 player cannot play together in an 8.0 league).

**(H) Warm-up Courts.** Warm-up courts may be purchased as spot time at a facility where allowed, the same as any other patron. Otherwise, players are not authorized or entitled to early access to courts except with the explicit permission of the facility; and if a facility does permit early access without payment of an additional fee, then such courts must be shared equally between the competing teams.

**(I) Match Administration.**

(1) **Balls and Court Assignments.** The Home Team Captain shall pick up at the front desk of the facility/club a sufficient number of cans of new, yellow, Type 2 (medium-heavy duty felt) USTA-approved tennis balls to provide one can per individual match actually to be played (balls have been paid for by the league), and makes court assignments for individual matches from among the courts pre-determined and provided by the facility/club. In no instance shall a home team seek the use of other, unassigned courts for a match. If no specific courts have been assigned for a match, the home team can then make a choice from among those deemed available by the facility/club.

(2) **Exchanging Lineups.** Captains or their designated representatives are required to make themselves available at the facility front desk no less than 5 minutes prior to the designated start time of the match in order to exchange valid written lineups, including specific court assignments for each individual match, and to finalize agreement on the calling of "Time" (See, Rule I.5.(a) below). Captains should download lineup forms from TennisLink (instructions can be found on MCTA's website). The form will contain the system-generated, unique Match Code for the match. A valid line-up shall include only those individuals who are listed on the official team roster located on TennisLink and are not ineligible to compete at the assigned facility. A scorecard shall be posted in the facility lobby throughout the match. Each captain is responsible for keeping a complete match scorecard for future reference when entering (or validating)

the results on TennisLink, and to facilitate resolution of any data entry disputes.

If a captain does not exchange lineups on time, the following penalties apply:

- Both captains equally late = No penalty
- One Captain late, or both captains late but ready at different times = the penalty accrues when the first captain is ready to exchange written line-ups. The second captain's team is penalized by loss of toss and 1 game for each individual match.
- If the written line-up has not been submitted to the other captain by the scheduled time for the start of the match (after considering any delay attributable to Rule I.5.g below), the penalty is default of all matches.

**(3) Individual Match Forfeits and Defaults.**

a. After lineups are exchanged neither team shall make any substitutions in the scorecard except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of the match, or as authorized by MCTA Unified Rule F.3. Forfeits are to be determined in accordance with USTA League Regulation 2.03 (I-L). A forfeited match will be recorded as 6-0, 6-0 and a notation made on the scorecard that it is a forfeit.

b. If a team must forfeit an individual match, it must be the lowest numbered position (whether in singles or doubles) consistent with the table referenced in USTA League Regulation 2.03K. Where one or both players that constitute the #1 or #2 doubles team in the match fail to show up by the end of the 15-minute default period, the remaining doubles teams listed on the scorecard must move up and play in the vacated position(s), with no revision of playing partners allowed. Similarly, if the #1 singles player has not arrived by the end of the default period, then the #2 singles player on the line-up must move up to play the #1 position, and #2 singles is forfeited. **However, once any individual match begins (first service attempt), no adjustment to the players on that court is ever allowed**, even if that results in a default being recorded in the "wrong" place on the scorecard.

**NOTE:** The captain of the team that is the recipient of a forfeit is responsible for ensuring that the forfeit procedure detailed above is followed. If not followed, the match is considered to have been played in good faith. Unless the 2 team captains have agreed on forfeitures in advance, the team seeking to claim a forfeit must have its players present in order to claim the individual match in question. Once a default is proffered, it cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the opposing captain.

c. Where both teams have a full complement of players at a team match, court costs are divided equally between the 2 teams. Whenever one or more individual matches is defaulted, the team that defaults pays 100% of the costs of those courts (calculated as that team's pre-paid, per-player cost for each specific kind of defaulted court, plus their opponents' per-player cost for those same courts,

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the latter of which is debited against the defaulting team's deposit account and credited to the receiving team's deposit account). The defaulting team captain retains the right to use the vacant court(s) per Local Rule I.6 below. Only Captains (or acting captains) may enter into agreements to share costs of defaulted courts between the two teams. Any such agreement must be reported to MCTA by both captains within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

**(4) Team Match Defaults.**

- a. A team match may not start unless both teams have a mathematical chance of winning the match point. If the exchanged line-ups do not reflect this possibility, or if one team does not produce sufficient players to have a mathematical chance of winning (even though sufficient names may be listed on the scorecard), that team must forfeit the entire team match.
- b. Per Mid-Atlantic Section rule, for purposes of MCTA local league play, USTA League Regulation 2.03L (regarding consequences of a team match default) does not apply with respect to determining a defaulting team's eligibility to advance to championship play, but the National Regulation does apply in so far as a team match default affects any other team's eligibility to advance.
- c. Where an entire team match is defaulted, the defaulting team bears 100% of the costs of all courts reserved for the match, regardless of the presence of one or more team members ready to play. Where a defaulting team incurs court charges, that captain retains the right to use the vacant court(s) per Local Rule I.6 below.

**(5) Time Management.**

- a. **Official Match Time Piece and Who Calls "Time:"** Where a facility uses a horn, bell or similar device to announce time, it shall be relied upon as the official timepiece for all matches. Where no such device is present and operable, then the Home Team Captain shall determine the official timepiece to be used for the match and the Visiting Team Captain shall determine the person responsible for calling "Time" using said timepiece. No other means of time notification to players on court is permitted. Whatever conditions regarding management of time captains agree to for a match (i.e., timepiece to be used and name of designee to call Time") should be recorded on each copy of the scorecard before match play begins and should be initialed by each captain. Note that where captains disregard these procedures, the local Grievance Committee is unlikely to be able to fairly determine what relief (if any) is appropriate.
- b. **Match Warm-up:** Match warm-ups are strictly limited to no more than 15 minutes. No match shall begin later than 15 minutes after the official start time for the match, except that late-arriving players are always entitled to 5 minutes warm-up, and in this instance the start of any affected individual match may be delayed to accommodate such a request. The Visiting Team Captain

or designee is responsible for announcing when the warm-up period has expired and it is time to "Begin Play." At that time, any adjustments in position due to lateness (i.e., defaults) must be made and match play begins promptly thereafter.

- c. **Lateness.** Whenever at least one player (or one member of a doubles team) is late (i.e., not on the assigned court and ready to play), the players shall be penalized in the following manner:
  - Opposing players equally late = No penalty. Double default if neither player arrives by end of the 15-minute warm-up period.
  - Opposing players late but arrive at different times = The penalty accrues upon the arrival of the first player (or doubles team):
    - 0-5:00 minutes late, opponent loses toss + 1 game.
    - 5:01-10:00 minutes late, opponent loses toss + 2 games.
    - 10:01-15:00 minutes late, opponent loses toss + 3 games.
    - At 15:01 minutes, opponent defaults the match.

**Except, that a team member who is both acting as captain and also in the lineup for a particular match shall incur no penalty for lateness until 5 minutes has elapsed.**

Note: a doubles team has not arrived until both players of the team have arrived, are dressed and ready to play, **and are on the assigned court.** Thus, no lateness penalty begins to accrue until both members of a doubles team have arrived.

- d. **Continuous Play Rule:** The continuous play rule shall be observed. This means that no more than 20 seconds may elapse between points within a game or between games not involving a change in ends, and no more than 90 seconds may elapse between games where a change of ends is involved (with the exception of the change of sides that occurs after the first game *in any set*, in which case play is continuous). (**Note:** the above time intervals are measured from the instant the point is completed to the time when the next server begins his/her service motion.)
- e. **Time between Sets:** As desired by any player, a 2-minute rest period between sets is allowed.
- f. **Bathroom Breaks:** Bathroom breaks are limited to a reasonable amount of time generally not to exceed 5 minutes and are authorized only if truly necessary. An established pattern of requesting Bathroom breaks during the last 15 minutes of the time allotted for a match constitutes unsportsmanlike behavior and may subject a team to Grievance Complaint and penalty. To minimize the potential for gamesmanship, it is advisable for opponents to accompany the team that takes a bathroom break. Teams are encouraged to use the 2-minute set break, and if necessary, the 90-second changeover time, to take whatever bathroom breaks are needed. Plan ahead.

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g. **Interruption of Play.** In the case where a match is delayed by the facility due to court unavailability or is interrupted due to an act of nature such as a power failure, the following rules shall apply for all tennis facilities. If the match is delayed/interrupted for 20 minutes or less, play will resume and continue for the full allotted time - i.e., play will continue for the exact amount of time of the delay/interruption past the time when the match would have ended. The starting time of any match scheduled to use the courts following a delayed/interrupted match shall be delayed by the amount of time of the preceding delay/interruption, not to exceed 20 minutes. If the delay/interruption is longer than 20 minutes (i) a match that was in progress may resume; but (ii) a match that had not yet begun shall be rescheduled if there is another league match scheduled to follow it at the same site; otherwise it may commence if both captains agree and the facility allows. Where both captains agree to resume play, a 5-minute warm-up is permitted. If the match is rescheduled, it must be completed within 7 days (see para. (E) above for provision of an additional week under certain circumstances). Upon completion of all individual matches, the results are reported in TennisLink (see (J) below) using the date of the last completed individual match.

(6) **Court decorum.** All players must abide by the rules, customs and procedures contained in *The Code* at all times. Spectators are permitted to sit courtside only if both sides agree. In any event, spectators are permitted on adjacent courts if the matches are finished, provided that such spectators come no closer than the centerline of the court they occupy in relation to the court they are observing (in other words, maintain one-half court width distance from any match still in play). Good sportsmanship must be maintained. No spectator, teammate, or team captain, may intervene, offer an opinion, or become involved in any way, in any match that has not yet been completed, except for the calling of "Time" by the Visiting Team Captain or designee, either to begin or end match play on all courts. *No coaching is allowed at any time during the match.* Having paid for a court(s), that captain may practice on the vacant court(s) *provided that* players occupy the court continuously; that proper tennis etiquette is followed at all times; and that no disruption or interference to any ongoing match is tolerated.

**(J) Scoring.**

(1) After the entire match is completed **both captains** or their designees **shall sign both match scorecards, indicating their agreement to the player names and scores recorded thereon.** It is recommended that as they finish, the participants of each individual match initial the scorecard to indicate their agreement to their specific match scores recorded thereon. Each captain shall **retain one of the signed scorecards for the remainder of the season. Failure to retain a signed scorecard may result in waiver of the right to dispute the results of the match.**

(2) For each team match played, whether or not played to natural conclusion, it is recommended that the Captain of the winning team enter the scores in TennisLink (although either

Captain has the right to do so) as soon as possible, and in any event within 72 hours as required by Mid-Atlantic Section rule. The team that does not enter the scores must confirm/dispute the scores as entered within 48 hours thereafter or it waives any right of challenge regarding score accuracy. In reporting matches in TennisLink, the winner's score is always reported first. Failure to input the scores in TennisLink within the prescribed timeframe shall result in the match being scored as a Double Default.

- (3) Where match results as entered in TennisLink are disputed, the League Administrator shall rule within 7 days after the disputed match has been completed on any challenge, relying first upon the signed scorecards retained by the two captains, and promptly thereafter will order any necessary adjustments to the scores reported in TennisLink. As stated in paragraph I.2 above, failure to retain a signed match scorecard may result in a waiver of the right to dispute the results of the match. Captains have the right to Grieve the Administrator's decision within the normal timeframe permitted under USTA League Regulation 3.03B(1).
- (4) Where individual matches are not played to natural conclusion, the captains shall report scores in TennisLink exactly as they stood on court when play stopped:
  - a. If due to forfeit or default, enter 6-0, 6-0 and use the "Default" code.
  - b. If due to injury or physical condition that makes it impossible for a player to continue a match that has begun play, mark the match using the "Retired" code.
  - c. If due to expiration of time, mark the match using the "Timed Match" code.
- (5) No individual or team match may end in a tie – the winner will be determined based on *the principle that the outcome of each individual match is to be decided by what happens on that court alone.* As a result, scores are to be reported on TennisLink using the Timed Match designator and following the procedures below:

**If in the first set when time expires,** the winner of the most completed games in that set shall be awarded the set and match point. **If games are tied,** then the players shall without delay play one, "sudden death" point to determine the match winner. For purposes of the sudden death point, players shall spin a racket for choice of server or receiver, or selection of end. Whichever team is the Receiver in the sudden death point shall determine the side of court to which the serve shall be made (deuce or ad) and for doubles, the specific player who shall be the Receiver.

**If in the second set when time expires,** and neither team is ahead by two or more games, the winner of the first set shall be declared the winner of the match and awarded the match point. If a team is ahead by two or more games, it shall be awarded that set; and if it also won the first set, then also declared the winner and awarded the match point. If instead, this creates a tie match ("split sets"), the team that won the most total games in both sets on that court is the match winner. If the total games won by each team are tied, then a single, "sudden death" point shall be played to determine the

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match winner, using the procedure for “sudden death” points described in the immediately preceding paragraph.

**If in a tiebreak in any set or in the deciding match tiebreak when time expires**, a team is awarded the set if and only if six or more points have been played and one team is ahead by two or more points. Otherwise, the tiebreak does not count. The team that has won the most number of games in all sets played on that court is declared the winner. If the total games won by each team are tied, then a single, “sudden death” point shall be played to determine the match winner, using the procedure described above.

**(K) Calculation of League Standings.** The winner of each NTRP level league shall be that team that accumulates the greatest number of team match points over the course of the league season (unless a local playoff system is announced for that level in advance of regular season play), subject to any adjustment required as a result of Rule I.4.b regarding Team Match defaults. One “team match point” is awarded to the team winning a majority of the individual matches played in any scheduled team match. In the event of a season-end team match point tie, a level winner will be determined using the rules, steps and procedures described in USTA League Regulation 2.03H. Where more than one team is eligible to advance to championship competition, teams shall qualify in descending Standings order for such advancement.

**(L) Grievances/Appeals.**

**(1) Filing a Grievance**

Subject to resolution of Scoring disputes per local Rule J.3, all complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing as provided by USTA League Regulation 3.03B(1) “prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team’s next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within twenty-four hours after the end of the local league season.”

Per USTA League Regulation 3.03A(5), a complaint against an individual or team may “only be filed by (a) the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) a league coordinator or (c) a member of a Championships Committee.”

For purposes of MCTA local league play, any grievance complaint must utilize the approved form available on the MCTA website, and must be filed electronically to the following e-mail address: [leaguegrievances@mctatennis.org](mailto:leaguegrievances@mctatennis.org)

**(2) Local League Grievance Committee**

As required by Mid-Atlantic Section and Maryland District rules, and pursuant to USTA League Regulations Rule 3.01A(1), a Local League Grievance Committee (LLGC) is hereby established to receive and adjudicate Grievances arising out of all MCTA-sponsored USTA League Tennis programs..

The LLGC shall consist of 7 members nominated by the MCTA League Programs Committee Chair, including one nominee designated to serve as LLGC Chair, based on an interest in serving, an appreciation and clear understanding of rules and procedures, demonstrated skills in mediation and negotiation, and availability. In nominating persons to serve on the LLGC, the MCTA League

Programs Committee Chair shall take care that all nominees are active participants in one or more of the MCTA-sponsored USTA League Tennis programs. LLGC members shall serve for a 1-year period and may succeed themselves without limitation. As required by USTA League Regulation 3.01A(1), the Sectional League Coordinator shall approve each nominee. In the event that 1 or more nominees to the LLGC are not approved by the Section, the League Programs Committee Chair shall submit additional candidates for approval until 7 such persons have been qualified and approved to serve.

No less than 3 of the 7 members of the LLGC will decide each and every grievance. If for any reason a conflict of interest may be perceived if an LLGC member were to participate in a particular grievance decision, s/he shall recuse him/herself.

In conducting its business and without exception, the LLGC shall use the procedures described in USTA League Regulations 3.03B, 3.03D, and 3.05. As more fully described in Regulation 3.03D(2), the LLGC has broad authority to correct any rules violations it may find by “reasonable means, including the suspension of an individual or team.”

This authority extends to possible sanctions against players or teams against whom Grievance Complaints are filed in which allegations of poor sportsmanship (which may include but is not limited to repeated line call challenges; accusatory language; inappropriate, threatening, unacceptable behavior on the court and toward partners and opponents; screaming; cursing, etc.) are made. Depending on the facts and the committee’s ability to corroborate them, one Complaint may be sufficient to warrant penalties. The Committee retains all Complaints filed. Even where the facts are disputed, the filing of 2 or more Complaints by separate Captains against the same team or individual player within any 12-month period, whether within the same league division or not, suggests a pattern of unacceptable behavior that will trigger a Committee investigation and can result in disciplinary action.

Any appeal of a LLGC decision must be filed within the time period established by the LLGC in its written decision.

**(3) Local League Grievance Appeals Committee**

Pursuant to Maryland District rules, the Local League Grievance Appeals Committee (LLGAC) is established to consider and rule on all appeals of LLGC decisions. The committee shall consist of 5 persons including a person who shall be nominated by the Chair of the MCTA League Programs Committee to serve as the Chairman. As required by USTA League Regulation 3.01B(1), the Sectional League Coordinator shall approve each nominee. No member of the LLGC may be a member of the LLGAC. LLGAC members shall serve for a 1-year period and may succeed themselves without limitation.

For purposes of MCTA local league play, any appeal of a Local League Grievance Committee decision must be filed with the Local League Grievance Appeals Committee by electronic means, using the standard form included with the LLGC decision. Appeals are filed at: [leaguegrievanceappeals@mctatennis.org](mailto:leaguegrievanceappeals@mctatennis.org)

The LLGAC shall operate according to the procedures and authorities detailed in USTA League Regulation 3.04–3.05, and shall have the power to affirm, modify or reject a decision of the LLGC. If the LLGC has imposed a penalty, the LLGAC may not impose a harsher penalty. The decision of the LLGAC is final and binding on all parties.

**USTA LEAGUE TENNIS**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY TENNIS ASSOCIATION**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2012 UNIFIED LOCAL LEAGUE RULES**



The LLGAC shall send a copy of its written decision to the grievant and other interested parties and to the Maryland District League Administrator.

**(4) 2012 Committee Members.** The names of all persons serving on the Local League Grievance Committee and the Local League Grievance Appeals Committee shall be posted on the MCTA website upon their approval by the Sectional League Coordinator.

**(M) NTRP Grievances.** Complaints alleging NTRP violations must be filed with the Mid-Atlantic Section Leagues Coordinator.

- (1) Complaints regarding the accuracy of computer-generated ratings are not allowed. The Section office receives reports daily indicating whether any player has reached the point of “dynamic disqualification” and informs such players of their disqualification immediately and without need of a formal Complaint
- (2) To protect against potential abuses of the NTRP self-rating system, the National USTA League Tennis Committee has issued an **NTRP Grievance Protocol** which provides a remedy for flagrant cases of mis-rating. Flagrant mis-rating is defined as a player who self-rates at one NTRP level when the player’s actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. The National Leagues Committee considers such acts to be a violation of the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, to which all League players are bound per Regulation 3.03E(1). As a result, such acts are subject to grievance complaint. A complaint may be filed by a captain, coordinator, or member of a championship tournament committee against the player and/or captain who enters or condones entering the Leagues program at one NTRP level when the player’s actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. The timeliness requirements of Rule 3.03E(5) also apply.
- (3) Consistent with the National directive, NTRP grievances will be heard exclusively by a designated subcommittee of the USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section Leagues Committee. Guidelines for filing a NTRP grievance, and the appropriate forms for doing so, can be found on the Mid-Atlantic Section website ([www.midatlantic.usta.com](http://www.midatlantic.usta.com)).

**(N) Annual Rules Review/Approval.** These local league rules will be reviewed and amended as necessary, but at least annually in the Fall, by the MCTA League Rules Committee, which will forward its recommendations to the MCTA Board of Directors for approval at its next scheduled meeting. Captains or players with suggested amendments (whether additions or deletions) are invited to submit them in writing at any time during the year, by e-mailing: [leaguerules@mctatennis.org](mailto:leaguerules@mctatennis.org).