



2012 MARYLAND DISTRICT USTA LEAGUE TENNIS RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS

RED marks changes for 2012

1. The Maryland District will enforce all National and Sectional **2012 USTA League Tennis Regulations**. The principal responsibility for enforcement of the rule lies with area league coordinators (ALC).
2. Any rules proposed by local leagues (whether to reinforce an existing rule, or establish a new one) must be in written form and submitted annually for approval to the Maryland District **Director of Leagues (DOL)**. The deadline for filing such rules is **3 weeks** before local league play begins. **All local league rules must be approved by the Section before league matches begin.**
3. ALC's must transmit to the **DOL** area league's written rules or written certification that no separate rules will be issued and a USTA League Registration form at least 3 weeks **before league matches begin**. Without this information, team codes and match numbers cannot be assigned. One cannot begin player registration via TennisLink without this information. The full match schedule for any local league must be published in TennisLink prior to or within seven days following the first match.
4. Captains will be responsible for reviewing all league regulations (national, section, district and local) and communicating those to their players. Local leagues will hold captain meetings/**webinars** and any captain unable to attend will be solely responsible for obtaining the information obtained at the meeting.
5. All USTA League participants must be at least 18 years of age, in the calendar year in which they will play. The age for Super Duper is 65.
6. League fees include:
 - a. \$20 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (Adult, Senior, Super Senior, Adult Mixed Doubles).
 - b. \$12 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (Super Duper)
 - c. \$9 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (for all leagues that do not advance).
 - d. \$16 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (Winter and Summer Combo).
 - e. \$7 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (First year 4 Tier Tennis; subsequent years, \$9).
 - f. \$4.75 Mid-Atlantic fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink.
 - g. TennisLink fee (Active.com) set by National.
 - h. Additional league fees to be determined by each local league.

7. The final deadline for all teams to be entered into TennisLink:

Adult Mixed – March 14, 2012

Adult – May 16, 2012

Senior – July 20, 2012

Super Senior, Super Duper, Senior Mixed – August 1, 2012

Combo/Combo Mixed – September 16, 2012

8. 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.

9. The Mixed Doubles League District Championship will be June 8-10, Adult League July 13-16, Senior League August 17-19, and Combo League October 19-21. At the Mixed Doubles, Senior League and Combo League District Championship, a minimum of six (6) team members who were on the final roster of their area league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. At the Adult League Districts, a minimum of eight (8) team members who were on the final roster of their area league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. All local leagues of three or more teams, including those with 13 or more teams per level and who received a second team entry by virtue of the "Rule of 10", are eligible to receive a wild card entry via weighted random draw. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to fill out the draw and provide round robin play where necessary. No local league may receive the benefit of more than one "wildcard entry" per level.

10. Representation at 2012 District League Championships will be as follows:

Qualifying Teams	Wild Cards	Total Teams	Description
2	0	4	2 flights of 2, winners meet in final
3	1	4	2 flights of 2, winners meet in final
4	0	4	2 flights of 2, winners meet in final
5	1	6	2 flights of 3, winners meet in final
6	0	6	2 flights of 3, winners meet in final
7	1	8	2 flights of 4, winners meet in final
8	0	8	2 flights of 4, winners meet in final
9	3	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final
10	2	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final
11	1	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final
12	0	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final
13	3	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final
14	2	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final
15	1	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final

16	0	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in semis Semi winners meet in final
----	---	----	---

Random draw, weighted based on the number of teams in each local league, will be conducted among local leagues with 3 or more teams. The Tournament Committee reserves the right per USTA Tournament Regulations to draw additional wild cards to fulfill the draw.

11. In all counties where there are recognized and approved Local Leagues, the local league winners shall advance to a Maryland District League Championship Tournament. Counties in which there is more than one league at the same division and level must have a local league playoff as defined in each set of District approved local league rules. The District Championship winners will earn the right to compete at the corresponding Mid-Atlantic Section League Championship Tournament. This rule applies to all divisions (adult, senior, mixed, combo). In local league playoffs, players are required to have participated in a least 2 round robin matches in order to be eligible to participate. One default can count towards the 2-match minimum needed to establish eligibility to participate.

12. Winning teams not able to participate must notify the DOL and their local league coordinator of their intention not to participate at least ten (10) days prior to the start of the Tournament. Teams that violate this rule shall be reported to the District 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 DOL shall determine whether that area league shall retain its right to place an entry in that specified level or flight.

13. At all District 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 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.

14. 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.

15. Players/teams leaving a District 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 Tournament 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.

16. Team captains and coordinators are required to review player rosters, league standings, and other TennisLink administrative reports on a regular basis. Coordinators are required to secure and retain player deletion forms sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Maryland District's Rule, which limits roster size to no more than 20 players for Mixed, Adult, Senior and Combo Leagues (12-player maximum on any 5.0 and 2.5 level teams). Tri-level 4TT roster size to no more than 22 players.

17. A person is allowed to captain and/or co-captain only ONE team in the same division, in the same level and in the same local league.

18. Per USTA League Tennis Regulations, all complaints alleging a violation during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such player or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first. At the time a complaint is filed, a copy of such complaint shall be sent to the party (ies) against whom the complaint has been made. A copy of its decision shall be promptly sent to the DOL.

19. Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee consisting of no less than three (3) persons, including a chairman, responsible for adjudicating any Grievances properly within local jurisdiction. All members of the Grievance Appeal Committee must be approved by the Mid-Atlantic Section League Coordinator. The names of persons approved to serve on the Local League Grievance Appeal Committee must be readily available to team captains, either by publication in local league rules or comparable notice, such as posting to the local league's website.

20. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee. The Grievance Appeal committee shall have the power to affirm, modify or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. Per USTA League Tennis Regulations the Grievance Appeal Committee's decisions are final and binding. A copy of this decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties and to the DOL.

21. A member of a Local or District Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee shall be recused from participating in any hearing or decision emanating from a local league in which they play or serve in any administrative capacity whatsoever. If a

grievance is filed against the administration of a local league, that grievance is to be heard by the Grievance Committee at the District level.

22. Complaints alleging NTRP violations must be filed with the Mid-Atlantic Section League Coordinator.

Grievance Committee:

James Dorf, Chair

James Lawson, Sr.

Lynne Hauff

Jill Taylor

Grievance Appeal Committee:

Peggy Sange, Chair

Carrie Anderson

Liz Baker

Jane Bass