



Policies Governing League Match Defaults, Re-scheduling, and Fee Payments or Refunds

MCTA organizes and operates league tennis programs on a year-round basis, often with more than one program operating simultaneously. In this environment, MCTA's policy regarding treatment of default matches, re-scheduling of matches, and collection or refunds of league-related fees is as follows:

Match Defaults (See MCTA Unified League Rules I.3.a-d)

1. League play consists of individual matches as defined by USTA League Regulation 3.01H(3) (e.g., #1 singles, #2 singles, #1 Doubles, etc.) and team matches as defined by USTA :League Regulation 3.01H(2) (3-5 individual matches that involve the same 2 teams on the same date).
2. Teams may default 1-2 *individual matches* in a team match, depending on whether the league format uses team matches that consist of 3 or 5 individual matches.
3. When an *individual match default* occurs, the team that defaults bears the full cost of the defaulted courts unless the two captains explicitly agree otherwise prior to the start of match play. "Full cost" means the defaulting team's pre-paid court costs for that court plus their opponents' costs for that court. (See MCTA Unified Rule I.3.d for how this amount is calculated.)
4. A *team match default* occurs when a team cannot field sufficient players to have a mathematical chance of winning the team match point. When this occurs, no individual matches may be played, and the defaulting team bears the full cost of all courts reserved for the match. *Team Match defaults* should rarely, if ever occur. Captains have signed a Commitment Form obligating them to recruit sufficient players to field a team for every league match.

Re-Schedules authorized only where a conflict with a Mid-Atlantic Section or Maryland District League Championship event can be established

1. MCTA League rules currently provide that "each team match shall be played at the time and site designated on the schedule." (MCTA Unified Rule E.) Re-schedules **compelled by facility-related issues** (e.g. power failure or facility closure) will be made when necessary at no additional cost to the affected teams. ***No other re-schedules are authorized except as defined below.***
2. The only recognized exception to this rule is where a team captain demonstrates a conflict between the local league schedule and a Mid-Atlantic Section or Maryland District League Championship event. Such conflict must be identified promptly and not later than 5 days after distribution of the later-published schedule (local league *or* championship).
3. A "conflict" exists only if: (a) the local league match is part of an "advancement" league; **and** (b) at least 30% of the local league roster are members of the team playing in the championship event match that poses the conflict.
4. Where a "conflict" as defined above is asserted, the team captain of the team involved in the local league match must advise Dave Pullen (dpullen@mctatennis.org) within the prescribed timeframe. The local match shall then be re-scheduled into the timeslot/location nearest to the originally scheduled match date where no conflict (as defined above) exists, and both captains shall be advised of the new date, time and location as soon as they are known.

Team Deposits, Deposit Refunds, and Court Fee Payments

1. Team Captains are required to pay an initial team deposit equal to the cost of two team matches as good-faith evidence of their intent to field a team. The precise amount of the deposit is stated in the *Appendix to the MCTA Unified League Rules*. Upon payment of the required deposit via the MCTA Shopping Cart and confirmation that a signed copy of the mandatory Captain's Commitment Form is on file, a Tennislink Team Code will be provided to the captain so that (s)he may register players for that team.
2. The initial team deposit shall be retained by MCTA for the duration of the league season, and any match defaults given or received shall be debited/credited against that deposit. Captains shall replenish the deposit account during the season if necessary to maintain a positive balance therein. Updates to team deposit accounts are published weekly on the MCTA website.
3. Within five days of the conclusion of a local league season, MCTA shall refund any remaining or accrued balance in a team's initial deposit account. Such payment shall be issued to the Team Captain unless (s)he designates in writing in advance some other person to receive it.
4. Court fee payments associated with MCTA-sponsored league matches are pre-paid for the season in accordance with a schedule determined by the MCTA League Coordinator and communicated to team captains via e-mail from level coordinators. The schedule also is posted on the MCTA website homepage for the affected league(s). *Failure to make timely payment is a serious matter, as MCTA pre-pays facilities for their use.*
5. No refunds of pre-paid court fees are authorized, except where the league collects fees based on more matches than are actually scheduled for a level league. This means that if two teams decide to play their match at a site other than that designated in the schedule, they do so at their own expense and without benefit of a refund of any kind (i.e., teams can no longer "cancel" courts to avoid court fees).