



Summary of Key Changes in 2012 MCTA Unified League Rules

The MCTA Board of Directors approved relatively few substantive changes in the 2012 Unified League Rules. The 2012 Rules do contain a number of conforming changes that codify policies or practices that have been in use for some time.

Key Substantive Change

- ❖ **Determining Winner When Time Expires:** 2012 MCTA rules require that in cases where time expires and neither team is ahead by two or more games (or two or more points in a tiebreak in which at least 6 points have been played), the winner is determined by counting total games won on that specific court. IF the game count is tied, then and only then “the players shall without delay play one, ‘sudden death’ point to determine the match winner.” A racket spin is used to determine server/receiver. The person/doubles team that becomes the Receiver determines whether to receive in the deuce or ad court, and in doubles which player shall receive the serve. This replaces the practice of counting “total games won” on all other courts to determine a winner. See Rule J.5.

Conforming Changes

- ❖ Codifies existing practice of fixing a deadline for submission of Player Deletion Forms “no later than two weeks before the end of the applicable season.” See Rule C.3.
- ❖ Codifies the policy that Captains are responsible for his/her team’s court costs “net of the amount collected from his/her players via the Tennislink registration process.” See Rule D.3.
- ❖ Codifies League Administration’s obligation to “advise the affected teams of a new date, time, and location” within 3 days of becoming aware of the need to reschedule a match, and further makes such new date/time/location final and binding so long as captains are provided at least 10 days notice of the new date. Captains have the option to agree to (or reject) any earlier date and time that League Administration may propose. See Rule E.
- ❖ For outdoor matches only, “[i]f within 2 hours of the scheduled start time of an outdoor match both captains agree to reschedule due to weather conditions, then no players needs go to, or remain on, the match site.” If captains do not reach such an agreement, players must report to the match site, ready to play. See Rule F.1.
- ❖ **Line-up Exchange:** language has been added requiring captains to agree on procedures for calling “Time” when exchanging line-ups. See Rule I.2.
- ❖ **Mediated Scoring Disputes:** Codifies that where League Administration seeks to mediate a *scoring dispute*, it must rule within 7 days time, and clarifies that “[c]aptains have the right to grieve the Administrator’s decision...” See Rule J.3.