



2023 USTA Shenandoah Local League Procedures

- 1) **The Shenandoah League shall abide by and enforce the 2023 USTA League Tennis Regulations, 2023 USTA Mid-Atlantic Section League Rules as well as the 2023 Local Procedures for all USTA league play.**
- 2) **Rosters:**
 - a) Teams that commit to a Shenandoah league and remove themselves after the team codes and schedule have been completed by the Local League Coordinator will be subject to a \$200 withdraw fee payable immediately.
 - b) Team roster limit is no more than 22 players.
 - c) Minimum roster requirement for Tri-Level is 2 players per level on roster prior to start of the season.
 - d) Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program.
 - e) No person may participate in a League match without first registering for the team via TennisLink. If a player plays a match without registering on TennisLink that individual match will be defaulted.
 - f) Players may be added to a team roster at any time up until the second to last regularly scheduled or rescheduled local league match for their specific team. Players may not be added during local league playoffs as based on USTA National Regulations they are considered championships and players must have played two matches with one default counting to participate in local league playoffs. Local league playoffs are not part of the local season. (MAS/USTA Reg 1.04C(1))
 - g) Players registering for leagues playing in the current calendar year after new Year End ratings are published must register with their previous year-end rating or current self-rating. (MAS/USTA Reg 1.04C(1))
 - h) A player may be deleted from the roster, upon request from the team captain and with the proper forms at any time during the season only if the player has not played a match for the team. Player deletion forms are available from the League Coordinator. (cydueweke@gmail.com). Or online at: https://ustamidatlantic.formstack.com/forms/usta_mas_league_player_refund_form
 - i) A player must have participated in two (2) local league matches, with one default counting, prior to participating in any Local League Playoff, Regional or Sectional Championship. Three (3) matches must be played, with one default counting, prior to participating at any National Championship. (USTA Reg page 4 and change notation #3/page 5). Self-rated and Appeal rated players must have 3 matches played no defaults counting to be eligible for MAS Section championship and 4 matches played no defaults counting to be eligible for National Championship participation.
- 3) **Team Match Format:**
 - a) Follow National Regulations (USTA Reg 1.04)
- 4) **Match Play Format and Courts:**
 - a) Refer to the Local League Rules #5c for Match Play Format using Coman tie-break.
 - b) The Adult 18&Over's home team is required to provide a minimum of 3 courts to start for continuous play with 2 courts to follow. Common practice will be 3 lines to start with 2 lines staggered unless otherwise noted. (40&Over must start with 2 courts minimum to follow with 2 courts). If more than the minimum required courts are available at a facility to start the match it MUST be communicated with the visiting team.
 - c) IF 3 courts are not available in early spring due to clay surfacing – with permission from LLC- a facility may start with 2 lines and follow staggered with the remaining 3 lines. To be played in the following order: 1D and 2D followed by 1S and 2S followed by 3D.
 - d) The Adult 55&Over/65&Over Women's home team can start with 1 court to stagger the match if necessary.
 - e) If no home courts are available, a team may play home and away at their opponent's home courts but will incur costs for courts and balls for home matches. Home team provides match balls.

- f) For Adult 18&over Leagues, if the match is staggered, the matches will start in ascending order. #1 doubles, #1 singles, #2 doubles, #2 singles, #3 doubles. Captains may agree to another order prior to the start of the match with such agreements documented in writing (email, etc).
- g) For Tri-Level leagues, the match can be staggered with the approval of the league coordinator (cydueweke@gmail.com) with the match order agreed upon by both captains and documented in writing.
- h) Players in the later staggered matches must arrive by 1 hour after the scheduled start time of the match. No late penalties accrue until a court is available AND 1 hour has passed from the original scheduled match time.
- i) Any combination of hard indoor, hard outdoor or clay courts may be used for any match. Determination made by home team facility. Refer to Local League Rules #5a.
- j) Home court fees are incurred by the home team. In the event of a default without 24hour notice of match time, the defaulting team is responsible for any court fees. Home teams provide USTA approved tennis balls if not provided by the facility/other provider.
- k) Refer to Local League Rules #4 for Match Rescheduling.

5) Lineups/Defaults:

- a) Refer to Local Rules #6a.
Line-up exchange is suggested 10 minutes prior to match start time. Those captains who do not submit the lineup before the match start time are subject to the lateness penalties. (Local Rule #6a,b,c)
Lateness penalties apply for players not on court ready to play at match start time. (Local Rule #7b)
Scorecards can be found on Tennislink to be printed. Each captain is responsible for keeping a match scorecard for reference when entering (and confirming) results on TennisLink. **Both captains must sign both scorecards, indicating agreement in the results of the match. Each captain must keep the signed scorecard for the duration of the season.**
Failure to do so may result in waiver of the right to dispute the results of the match.
- b) No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineups are exchanged, except for injury/illness or disqualification of a player prior to the start of the match. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five- minute warm-up. (USTA Reg. 2.01C (5A))
- c) Refer to Local Rules #6b/c and #7a for explanation of Individual Court Default procedures.
- d) Refer to Local Rules #7c for Team Defaults.
- e) A team cannot advance to championships if they are in a position to do so as a result of being the recipient of a full team default. The exception of this rule applies to two team leagues. A team in a two-team league cannot advance to a championship if they have defaulted a local league match. (MAS/USTA Reg. 2.01C (5D))

6) Lateness:

- a) Refer to Local Rule #7b for Lateness penalties.
Lateness starts at the time the match is scheduled to begin. The 10minute warm-up is included in the overall match time (5 minutes for late player). **Lateness penalties are to be applied and enforced.**
- b) **Late penalties may be assessed if players are not ON COURT play ready to warm up at match start time.**

7) Timed Matches:

- a) **All matches played in the Shenandoah Valley Tennis League will be 2hour Timed matches (including the 10minute warm-up).**
 - a. **Restroom usage recommended prior to walking on court. Match alarm is to be set at scheduled start time not when arriving on court. Restroom breaks are included in match time.**
- b) Phone/alarm must be VISIBLE for all players on court. Apple watches are not an acceptable time piece.
- c) In the event of staggered matches, the 2 hours begins when the court becomes available.
- d) **Each court shall agree to a timepiece prior to the match starting. Alarms are suggested and should be set for the end time. Warmups are included in the total match time. When the end time is reached on a court, any point in progress shall be finished.**
- e) **The winner shall be determined by the following:**
 1. The total number of completed games won will determine the winner of the match.
 2. If the total number of completed games are tied, a final Decider Point is played to determine the winner of the match. See below for Decider Point procedures.
 3. If the first or second set tiebreak is in progress, the team that is ahead by one point or more, wins the tiebreak and then the total number of completed games won will determine the winner of the match.
 4. If tied in either set tiebreak, the next point in normal rotation of serving shall be played to determine the winner of the set. The total number of games won will determine the winner of the match.

5. If the third set tiebreak has not started and the total number of games is equal, a final Decider Point is played to determine the winner of the match. This Decider Point is not a third set tiebreak and is not entered in Tennislink as 1-0.

6. If the third set tiebreak has started, the team that is ahead by one point or more, wins the tiebreak and the match. The score shall be entered into Tennislink with the third set recorded as 1-0.

7. If the third set tiebreak is tied, a final Decider Point is played to determine the winner of the match. The match shall be entered into Tennislink as the actual match score with the third set recorded as 1-0.

Decider Point Procedures: • The home team spins their racquet; the winner of the spin selects serve or receive & in doubles states the player who will be serving or receiving. If the winner of the spin decides to serve, the opponent chooses to receive on the ad or deuce side, regardless of gender, and does not change court position. • If not in the 3rd set tiebreak, this Decider Point is NOT scored in Tennislink and simply decides the winner of the match.

8) Inclement Weather/Hazardous Conditions:

- a) Inclement Weather: Captains Responsibilities, Court Playability, Extreme Temperature Reschedules
 - i) Inclement weather includes rain, lightening and extreme temperatures of 95* or more or heat index of 105* or more.
 - ii) Extreme temperature inclement weather reschedules should be rare. Captains may agree to reschedule due to extreme temperatures. NOTE: When extreme temperatures are imminent, captains are strongly encouraged to touch base the day before the match in question. Check weather conditions on local media. If local forecasts predict dangerous weather conditions and advise people to stay indoors, use common sense to decide if the match should be played. If either captain requests the Local Coordinator to mediate an extreme temperature dispute, the LC may use her discretion to reschedule the entire team match to a non-negotiable date, time and/or location.
 - iii) No minimum (low) temperature prevents match play
- b) Cancellations prior to the start of the match:
 - 1) Refer to Local Rules #4b/c.
Captains must notify the League Coordinator (cydueweke@gmail.com) of the rescheduled match. If the captains cannot agree to a time/day to complete the match, the League Coordinator will schedule the match.
- c) Cancellations after the start of the match:
 - 1) Refer to Local Rule #4d.
It is recommended that player remain at the courts for 30 minutes to see if play can be resumed.
If it cannot be resumed, take note of time remaining, score, server, side of play, etc. Resume with same time remaining (warm-up not included in that time), etc. Matches must be completed. Captains must notify the League Coordinator (cydueweke@gmail.com) of the rescheduled match. If the captains cannot agree to a time to complete the match, the League Coordinator will schedule the match.
- d) Failure to complete regular season matches prior to local playoffs will result in team disqualification from the local playoff schedule **and post season championships.**

9) Match Reschedules:

- a) Captains and players MUST follow MAS Rule #3 3 (A): Match schedules are FIRM. They do NOT have the discretion to change match day/time without prior approval from the Local League Coordinator via email. MAS Rule #3 3(A): Match Schedules are firm. Matches are to be played on the scheduled date with the following exceptions, and at the discretion of the Local League Coordinator:
 - i) Facility issues or weather (rain, heat, visibility, etc.)
 - ii) USTA Local Playoff or post season Championship (Regionals, Sectionals, Nationals).
 - iii) LLA sponsored tennis events.
- b) Rescheduling due to conflicts with USTA League post season championships is allowed at the discretion of the Local League Coordinator and if the following conditions are met:
 - i) Reschedule must involve conflicts due to USTA Local League playoffs, USTA Regionals, USTA Sectionals, and USTA Nationals.
 - ii) The request must be made to the Local League Coordinator by email.
 - iii) The email request must be at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match date.
 - iv) 40% of the team (40% of one gender or a rating level for mixed or combo teams, 40% per level for Tri-Level) must be participating in the post season championship.

10) Reporting Match Scores on TennisLink:

- a) Match results must be reported on TennisLink within 48 hours of the completion of the team match. Home team will enter match scores. It is the responsibility of both team captains to ensure the scores are entered within the required timeline of 48 hours. Match scores not entered within 48 hours by either captain may be entered “Double Default” by the Local League Coordinator. (MAS/USTA Reg 1.04C(2)).
- b) If the match results are disputed, the League Coordinator (cydueweke@gmail.com) shall rule on any disputed situation, using the signed scorecard retained by the two captains and will make any necessary adjustments to the reported results on TennisLink. Please email the League Coordinator immediately with the disputed match specifics.
- c) If an individual match is not played to conclusion, the captains shall report the scores when play stopped. The match outcome choices are:
 - 1) Retired: If due to injury or illness that prevents the player from continuing.
 - 2) Timed Match: If due to expiration of time.
 - 3) Default: If due to forfeit or default. Enter the names of the team “winning” but not the names of the defaulted court. Scores are entered as 6-0, 6-0 for the winning team using the “default” code.

11) Miscellaneous:

- a) Restroom breaks are not permitted in the last 15 minutes of the match.

12) Grievances: There is a standard process in the National Regulations: National Regulation 3.00 Grievance Procedures. Shenandoah Tennis Association participates in the MAS Central Grievance Process. Captains must file grievances on behalf of their players.

13) Violations of any National or Section rule may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or other sanctions for the following league year(s).

Revised: November 1, 2022