



## 2021 USTA Shenandoah Local League Procedures

- 1) **The Shenandoah League shall abide by and enforce the 2021 USTA League Tennis Regulations, 2021 USTA Mid- Atlantic Section League Rules and the 2021 Local SVTA League Rules as well as the following 2021 Local Procedures for all USTA league play.**
- 2) **Rosters:**
  - a) Team roster limit is no more than 22 players.
  - b) Minimum roster requirement for Tri-Level is 2 players per level on roster prior to start of the season.
  - c) Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program.
  - d) 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.
  - e) 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))
  - f) 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))
  - g) 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](mailto:cydueweke@gmail.com) ). Or online at: <http://www.jotformpro.com/form/51233368605958>
  - h) 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 players must have 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) The Adult 55&Over/65&Over Women's home team can start with 1 court to stagger the match if necessary.

- d) 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 but if a visiting player/partners would like a second can of balls, they must provide for themselves (due to COVID only 2021).**
- e) For Adult 18&over Leagues, if the match is staggered, the matches will start in ascending order. #1 doubles, #2 doubles, #1 singles, #2 singles, #3 doubles. **If 2 courts available to start #1 doubles and #2 doubles to start (due COVID only).** Captains may agree to another order prior to the start of the match with such agreements documented in writing (email, etc).
- f) For Tri-Level leagues, the match can be staggered with the approval of the league coordinator ([cydueweke@gmail.com](mailto:cydueweke@gmail.com)) with the match order agreed upon by both captains and documented in writing.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) 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.
- j) Refer to Local League Rules #4 for Match Rescheduling.

#### 5) Lineups/Defaults:

- a) Refer to Local Rules #6a.  
Line-up exchange a minimum of 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 need to sign both scorecards, indicating agreement in the results of the match. Each captain must keep the signed scorecard for the duration of the season. (COVID = Picture vs Signature)** 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 clock/timepiece is to be set at start time not when arriving on court. Restroom breaks are included in match time including any guidelines required by facilities due to COVID state and local directives.
- b) Each court shall decide on a source clock for timing the match prior to the first point. ALL courts must have their OWN agreed upon time piece audible by all players on court. 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) The winner of the Timed Match will be determined by one of the following. If at the end of the time playing period the match is incomplete, the match status shall be reported on Tennislink as “Timed Match”.
- 1) At 6 games each in any set a Coman tie-break first to 7 points, win by 2 will be used. At the end of the timed playing period, IF THE BALL IS IN PLAY, finish the point you are playing but do not start a new point. The point includes both first and second serve. The alarm does not allow for a let play. If a player is serving and a fault is caused during alarm sounding, the player is entitled to finish the point and take the second serve. If the server faults first serve, he/she plays the second serve to finish the point. If all players in a match fail to note that match time has expired and they continue to play until they realize it, all points that have been played will count. The match is over once all players on the court shake hands (COVID = touch rackets from across net).
  - 2) In any situation described below, incomplete games are to be disregarded in scoring irrespective of what the score may be in that incomplete game. The exception to this is tiebreaker games: see ”tie-breaker incomplete” scenarios below.
  - 3) **3<sup>rd</sup> Set Tie-breaker Incomplete:** If a side is ahead by one or more points, it shall be considered to have won the “match tie-break” and the match. If there is a tie in the number of points won, one point will be played to determine the winner of the match tie-breaker. A spin of the racquet by the home team shall be used to determine which player will serve the point (the non-serving team has the option to receive serve, deuce or ad court), but in no event will players change courtsides (other side of the net).
  - 4) **2<sup>nd</sup> Set Split:** (Where match tie-break has not begun). The match shall go to the side that has won the most games during the match. If there is a tie in the number of games won, one point will be played to determine the winner of the match. A spin of the racquet shall be used to determine which player will serve the point (the non-serving team has the option to receive serve, deuce or ad court), but in no event will players change courtsides (other side of the net). The match winner (by game count or point-break) is to be reported on Tennis Link as the winner of the match with the actual game count (point break excluded).
  - 5) **2<sup>nd</sup> Set Incomplete:** The following are all valid 2<sup>nd</sup> sets: 4-0, 4-1, 4-2, 5-0, 5-1, 5-2 and 5-3. Any other second set score is invalid. If there is no valid second set, the match goes to the winner of the first set.  
If the sets are now split at one set each, procedure follows 2<sup>nd</sup> Set Split (where match tie-break has not begun) and the match shall go to the side that has won the most games during the match. If there is a tie in the number of games won, a single tie-break point will be played to determine the winner of the match. Again, a spin of the racquet of the home team shall be used to determine which player will serve the point (the non-serving team has the option to receive deuce or ad court), but in no event will players change courtsides (other side of the net). The match winner (by game count or point-break) is to be reported on TennisLink as the winner of the match with the actual game score (point break excluded).
  - 6) **2<sup>nd</sup> Set Tie-Breaker Incomplete:** If a side is ahead by one point or more, it shall be considered to have won the set tie-breaker. If there is a tie in the number of points won, one point will be played to determine the winner of the set tie-breaker. A spin of the home team racquet shall be used to determine which player will serve the point (the non-serving team has the option to receive serve deuce or ad court), but in no event will players change courtsides (other side of the

net). If the sets are now split at one set each, procedure follows for 2<sup>nd</sup> Set Split (where match tie-breaker has not begun).

- 7) **1<sup>st</sup> Set Incomplete:** If a side is ahead by one game or more, it shall be considered to have won the match. If there is a tie in the number of games won, one point will be played to determine the winner of the match. A spin of the racquet by the home team shall be used to determine which player will serve the point (the non-serving team has the option to receive serve deuce or ad court), but in no event will players change court sides (other side of the net).
- 8) **1<sup>st</sup> Set Tie-Break Incomplete:** If a side is ahead by one point or more, it shall be considered to have won the match. If there is a tie in the number of points won, one point will be played to determine the winner of the match. If there is a tie in the number of points won, one point will be played to determine the winner of the match. A spin of the racquet by the home team shall be used to determine which player will serve the point (the non-serving team has the option to receive serve deuce or ad court), but in no event will players change court sides (other side of the net).

#### 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 under Procedure 14a(i). 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.**
- 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](mailto: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.
- 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](mailto: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.

#### 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. It is the responsibility of both team captains to ensure the scores are entered within the required timeline of 48 hours. (MAS/USTA Reg 1.04C(2))
- b) If the match results are disputed, the League Coordinator ([cydueweke@gmail.com](mailto:cydueweke@gmail.com)) shall rule on any disputed situation, using the signed scorecard retained by the two captains (COVID = Picture vs Signature) and will make any necessary adjustments to the reported results on TennisLink. Please email or call 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) Bathroom breaks are allowed when a genuine need....preferably taken during odd game changeover or at end of set.

**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).

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