

**2021 Phoenix League Regulations**  
**September 8, 2020**

**1.00 GENERAL**

- 1.01 These USTA Phoenix Local League Rules are approved and adopted by the USTA Phoenix League Regulations Committee and may be changed or amended from time to time upon the recommendations of the committee.
- 1.02 These Rules are intended to supplement the National USTA League Regulations and the USTA Southwest Section League Regulations for the applicable Championship year and are adopted as allowed by said regulations. These Rules are not designed to be the sole or exclusive source of league regulations. Please review and understand the current USTA National and Southwest Section League Regulations.

**2.00 LOCAL LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION**

- 2.01 The Local League Coordinator shall establish the method and deadline for team registration. The Local League Coordinator may allow a team to register after the deadline in the best interest of the league and only if a schedule has not been published.
- 2.02 A League registration fee may be established by the USTA Phoenix Board of Directors and changed from time to time.
- 2.03 Refunds on League registration fees will only be provided for medical reasons with appropriate documentation provided to the Local League Coordinator AND if the player has not played in a league match.
- 2.04 If a team withdraws from a league after the Team Registration Deadline, all players forfeit their entry fees. Further penalties may apply.
- 2.05 The individual registration deadline shall be the earlier of either the publication of year-end NTRP ratings for Early-Start leagues, or the last scheduled league match.
- 2.06 Local League team rosters may not exceed twenty registered players for all advancing leagues. Team rosters for Tri – Level league may not exceed 15 players. Roster limits may be extended at League Coordinator for extenuating circumstances.
- 2.07 A Local League that has thirteen (13) or more registered teams may be split into at least two (2) flights.

**3.00 CAPTAIN'S DUTIES**

- 3.01 The Captain, or a designee ("acting captain,") shall be present for each match to exchange lineups in accordance with National League Regulation 2.01C(5).

- 3.02 The Winning Captain shall be responsible for promptly entering the match scores into TennisLink, but not later than 24-hours from the start of the match. The opposing captain may also enter the scores. The scores may be confirmed or disputed. Any dispute must be made in writing to the Local League Coordinator within 48 hours of the initial entry of the scores in accordance with National League Regulation 1.04C(2). Individual recipients of default individual matches may not be changed after 48 hours of the initial entry of the scores.

#### **4.00 MATCHES**

- 4.01 Each Team shall designate a home facility for all scheduled home matches. Home teams may use a reasonable alternative facility for a home match as necessary.
- 4.02 The Home Team shall pay any court fee and any guest fee for visiting players.
- 4.03 The Home Team shall provide an unopened can of USTA-approved yellow tennis balls for each court.
- 4.04 The preferred match start time for weekday evening matches is between 7pm and 8pm.
- 4.05 Staggered Matches:
- (A) Only if a facility cannot make 5-courts available at the same time staggered match start times may be used for weekday evening matches. No individual match shall be scheduled prior to 6pm or later than 9pm on Monday through Thursday evenings, unless both captains agree otherwise. No more than two individual matches for a 5-court league and one individual match for a 3-court league shall be scheduled prior to 7pm or later than 8pm, unless both captains agree otherwise.
  - (B) In the event of staggered matches, the Visiting Captain shall have the option of designating which lines (i.e. #1 singles, #2 doubles) play at which staggered match start times. The Visiting Captain shall notify the Home Captain, in writing, prior to 48 hours before the first staggered match start time. If notice is not received prior to 48 hours before the first staggered match start time, the Home Captain shall immediately contact the Visiting Captain with such designations.
- 4.06 Timed Matches:
- (A) It is the Home Captain's responsibility to know and inform visiting captains prior to line-up exchange of the host facility closing times.
    - 1. If the facility closes at a predetermined time, *either captain* may declare to use timed match rules.
    - 2. Timed match rules must be declared at time of or prior to line up exchange.
    - 3. If neither captain elects to use timed match rules, the visiting players will travel to finish incomplete matches if any. (retirements allowed.)
    - 4. If home captain (or designee) fails to inform visiting captain of closing time and timed match rules are not used, then the visiting team will choose the facility location to complete any incomplete matches.

(B) "Timed Match Rules: "warning time" shall be 15 minutes prior to the time the courts will no longer be available.

(C) Once the "warning time" has been reached the following shall apply:

1. If the match is complete, the scores shall be reported normally.
2. If the first set has not been completed, the match shall be suspended and rescheduled.
3. If a third set 10 point tie-break has already begun, complete the tie-break.
4. If the second set has not been completed, complete any game or tie-break in which the first point has already been played, then:
  - (i) If the second set is tied, play a 7-point tie-break for the set.
  - (ii) If a team is ahead by two games or more, declare that team the winner of the second set.
  - (iii) If a team is ahead by one game, play one additional game, then:
    - a. If a team is ahead by two games or more, declare that team the winner of the second set.
    - b. If the second set score is tied, play a 7-point tie-break for the set.
  - (iv) Upon completion of the second set, should the set score be tied, play a third set 10-point tie-break.

(D) Should the match time expire, and the match remains uncompleted under these rules, the match will be considered suspended and rescheduled.

(E) Scoring for any match completed under these "Timed Match" rules shall be entered on the score card with "Timed Match" designation. Only the actual games played shall be entered.

1. Any second set determined by a 7-point tie-break shall be entered with the tie-break counting as one game.
2. Any third set determined by a 10-point tie-break shall be entered as 1-0 in favor of the winning team/player.
3. Any second set awarded by virtue of being ahead by two games or more shall be entered with the actual game score.

4.07 Warm-up is limited to ten minutes, including all practice serves. Warm up begins at match start time and lasts for no more than 10 minutes including serves. Players who arrive 10 to 15 minutes late forfeit all warm-up. A two-minute break may be taken after the second set.

4.08 Each individual court is entitled to a 15-minute grace period after the scheduled match time before a default may be declared. If an individual default is declared, then the defaulted match shall not be played; matches played shall stand regardless of start time. If an individual default is declared after lineups have been exchanged and no other individual matches have begun play (for that same start time,) a new lineup may be exchanged.

4.09 Coaching is not permitted for any Local League match.

- 4.10 Teammates, spectators, and captains shall not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of the match. It is the responsibility of the teams to control their spectators' conduct at all matches. Violators are subject to grievance and/or penalties imposed by the Local League Grievance Committee.
- 4.11 Should a team not play the minimum number of courts as defined by USTA National Regulation 2.03K ("Team Default"), in any Local League Match, the Local League Coordinator may impose further penalties on captains or players. Further, Local League Coordinator may file a grievance pursuant to the procedures set forth in USTA National Regulation §§ 3.00 against the Captain(s) of the team defaulting. The SW Section League Grievance Committee shall consider the circumstances of the Team Default and whether any further penalties against the Captain(s) and/or Team are appropriate or if a waiver for extenuating circumstances is appropriate pursuant Southwest League Regulation (II)(k).

## **5.00 CANCELLED, SUSPENDED AND RESCHEDULED MATCHES**

- 5.01 A match may be cancelled and rescheduled due to weather if a Tennis Court Facility closes or makes their courts unavailable, or the Captains otherwise agree.
- 5.02 Should a team match be suspended due to weather or a Tennis Court Facility issue:
- (A) Completed individual matches will stand as played.
  - (B) Incomplete matches shall be rescheduled and resume with the same players at the exact set, game, point score and side when suspended.
  - (C) Lineups for individual matches not begun when the team match is suspended may be changed.
- 5.03 If a started match is delayed or interrupted by rain, teams shall, if allowed by the Tennis Court Facility, wait up to one hour to determine if courts become playable, unless otherwise agreed to by the captains. Any single captain or individual player may determine a court surface is unsafe for play.
- 5.04 A captain may request that an opposing captain agree to postpone and/or reschedule an entire match for any other reason. The opposing captain has the right to accept or reject the request. Rescheduling is considered a courtesy and Captains are under no obligation to reschedule a match. This rule is intended for every scenario and/or reason the request is made. A Local League Coordinator may not reschedule an originally scheduled and published match without both captains' consent unless otherwise explicitly authorized by these Local League Rules.
- 5.05 The Local League Coordinator may mandate the reschedule of a match for public safety reasons.
- 5.06 All rained out, cancelled or suspended matches shall be rescheduled within one month. The rescheduled match shall be played by the last date determined by the Local League Coordinator. It is the responsibility of both captains to agree upon a rescheduled date and then communicate via email or phone call to the Local League Coordinator as to the agreed upon date, time and location for the rescheduled match in question. A match is

not deemed to be officially rescheduled until this has occurred and is verified by the Local League Coordinator. Failure to convey this information to the Local League Coordinator within 30 days of original match will result in the LLC setting a date, time and location for the rescheduled match.

## **6.00 DETERMINATION OF SESSION WINNERS**

- 6.01 In any single-flight league session where the teams have competed in two or more round robins: the first-place team upon completion of the regular season shall be declared the session winner. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken using the procedures set forth in USTA National League Regulation 2.03H.

In any single-flight league session where the teams have competed in a single round-robin, upon completion of the round-robin, the first-place team shall play the second-place team in a playoff to determine the session winner of the local league. If there are ten (10) or more registered teams: the first-place team shall play the fourth-place team; the second-place team shall play the third-place team; the winners shall play each other to determine the session winner.

- 6.02 In any multi-flight league session the first-place teams of each flight shall play each other in a single round-robin playoff.
- 6.03 The Local League Coordinator shall schedule dates for playoff matches with reasonable notice provided to all Captains. The preferred time for Playoff matches are on the usual day and time for regular league matches. The Local League Coordinator may deviate from the preferred time under appropriate circumstances. These dates may be rescheduled if necessitated by end-of-session makeup matches. Other rescheduling of playoff matches shall be subject to the rules herein.
- 6.04 The highest seed for a playoff match has the option to provide courts and balls for the match or defer to the opponent. In a multi-flight league, the seeds are determined by using 1. team winning percentage, 2. individual match winning percentage, 3. coin-flip.
- 6.05 Required matches for player eligibility
- (A) Computer rated (C) and Mixed Exclusive rated (M) players must play in at least two regular session matches to be eligible to play in a District Championship match. One forfeit may count towards this two-match requirement.
  - (B) Self Rate (S) and Computer Rated Appeal rated (A) players must play in at least 4 matches to be eligible to play in a District Championship match. No defaults count towards this requirement, pursuant to Southwest Section and National regulations. This 4 match requirement does not apply to Tri Level or 65 & Over leagues.

## **7.00 DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE WINNER (DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP)**

- 7.01 In leagues with an Early-Start session and a Spring session, the winning team of each session shall play each other in a District Championship to determine the League winner. The location and date shall be set by the Local League Coordinator. Player eligibility is subject to Rule 6.05. Rescheduling of the set date shall be subject to the rules herein.