



2009 MAINE LOCAL USTA LEAGUE TENNIS RULES
Adult – Senior – Super Senior- Senior Mixed and Mixed Doubles Divisions
Revised 1/02/2009

1. GENERAL

- A) The following rules and regulations shall be known as the Maine Local USTA League Rules.
- B) The Maine Local USTA League Rules are supplemental and subordinate to the National and Section USTA League Regulations. Team Captains are responsible to communicate to their team members where to find and review Local, Section and National rules pertaining to the league play. Players are responsible for reviewing all rules.
- C) The Maine USTA League committee votes on Maine Local USA League policy and regulation changes. Any person interested in a position on this committee should contact the Maine Tennis Association (MTA).
- D) Maine Local USTA League Rules and communications will be posted on the MTA's web site www.MTATennis.com Section and National Rules and Regulations are posted on the USTA New England's web site www.ustanewengland.com

2. LOCAL LEAGUE

- A) Match Format: Adult team matches will consist of 2 singles and 3 doubles positions with no repeats, except for the 2.5 and 5.0 level, which plays 1 singles and 2 doubles positions with no repeats. Senior, Super Senior and Mixed Doubles team matches will consist of 3 doubles positions respectively.
- B) Player Participation: A player may participate in more than one NTRP level within a division (Adult, Senior, Super Senior, Senior Mixed, Adult Mixed Doubles) in the same local league during the same season. Refer to the USTA New England USTA League Regulation III.E. Prior to registering for the second team the player must submit a Player Intent Form. No matches will be scheduled or rescheduled to accommodate players that are playing at more than one level. The Player Intent Form and instructions are found on www.ustanewengland.com, select USTA League.
- C) Eligibility:
 - 1. In order to be eligible to play for a team, each player must be a member of the USTA and such membership must extend through the end of the league season. Each player must be registered on his or her team roster on TennisLink before playing a match. The Local League Committee reserves the right to decide on exceptions. Each player must be at or below the particular NTRP level of play, before playing a match. Players must have completed 2 matches in order to generate an NTRP computer rating. If a player does not have an NTRP computer rating he must self-rate. A player cannot self-rate if he has a current NTRP rating.
 - 2. Minimum Age Requirement: Players must turn 19 within the calendar year.
 - 3. A player must have played at least 2 matches or received credit by default during the local league season as a rated player in order to qualify for district and sectional championship play. Refer to USTA Regulation 3.03A(3) for National Championship eligibility.

- D) Fees & Balls: Each player will be assessed a one time registration fee of \$21 upon registration on TennisLink. Court fees are paid directly to the indoor facility and are determined by each facility. Tennis balls will be provided by the facility.
- E) In- Level NTRP requirements: An adult team must have a minimum of 5 players (3.0 – 4.5) and 3 players (2.5 and 5.0) on a roster at their published NTRP level. Senior teams must have a minimum of 3 players on their roster at their published NTRP level. Teams who do not meet this requirement will be deemed ineligible. The Local League Committee reserves the right to approve any exceptions.
- F) Timelines:
1. Team Registration Deadlines-
 - October 16, 2008 – Fall Mixed
 - December 13, 2008 – Winter Mixed Doubles team registration
 - December 13, 2008 – Adult team registration
 - April 1, 2009 – Senior & Super Senior team registration
 Adult teams consist of 8 players and senior, mixed and super senior teams consist of 6 players respectively. In-level NTRP requirements must be met (refer to 2E). Failure to meet the deadline for team registration may render the team ineligible to participate in the 2009 championship year.
 2. Local League Season- 2009 Championship year
 - October – December – Mixed Doubles Fall
 - January – February – Mixed Doubles Winter
 - June – August – Senior Mixed Doubles
 - March – June – Adult
 - May – July – Senior & Super Senior

3. MATCH REGULATIONS

- A) Players must be at the facility at least 30 minutes before their scheduled match time.
- B) Team captains must exchange line-ups 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match time.
- C) Each match will be played until completed. There is no time limit.
- D) All matches will be best of 2 sets with a 3rd set match tie break in lieu of a third set. A match tie break is first to 10 by 2. If a set is tied at 6-6, a set tie break (first to 7 by 2) will be played. Play will be continuous throughout the match. Refer to New England USTA League Regulations V.B (page 4). There is no rest after the 1st game of any set but players will change ends. If requested by any player on the court a two minute set break between any set may be taken.
- E) Coaching is not allowed.
- F) Players should determine before the start of the match whether to switch ends on the odd games. USTA League Regulations state that if 1 person requests to switch on odd games, then all players will do so on that court.
- G) Players should determine before the start of the match, whether curtains on adjacent courts are to be opened or closed. USTA League Regulations state that if 1 person requests the curtains to be closed, then they will remain closed. Curtains will also remain closed if it is a pre-determined facility rule.
- H) Warm-up time limit:
10 minutes, including serves begins at the scheduled time the match is to be played, for doubles and singles matches.

- D) Tardiness:
Matches may be called for any open courts up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time. Positions may be called in the following order: 1S, 2S, 1D, 2D, 3D. The point penalty system will be enforced for any team or player failing to be available for a called match. The late player(s) will lose the toss plus 1 game for each 5 minutes late. Penalties begin at the scheduled time of the match. The match is a default at 15:01 minutes late and considered a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player(s) present. If the player arrives after 5 minutes past the scheduled start time but before the default time, he is to receive a 5-minute injury prevention warm-up. Refer to the New England USTA League Regulations V.A (page 4). Appeals of a defaulted match based on lateness must be in writing to the local grievance committee.
- J) Scoring:
Each position of a team will be awarded 1 point per position win. The team with the majority of position wins will be the winner of the team match. In the event of a tie at the end of the season refer to 7E Championship Play. To view team standings go to the TennisLink homepage national.usta.com
- J) At the conclusion of the match, both captains must verify the correctness of the score sheet, sign the bottom and keep a copy for their records. If a match is protested and captains have not complied with this regulation the League Committee can render the protest null and void. Refer to 5J. Match results must be entered and confirmed (or disputed) on Tennis Link, within 48 hours of the match. Either the home or visiting captain can enter the match results first. After match results have been entered the 2nd captain must confirm or dispute the match information. Any team not complying with this requirement will lose their right to dispute their match result. TennisLink will confirm the matches 48 hours after the match results have been entered. Do not wait until the last minute in the event of unforeseen situations or other conflicts arise.
- K) Referees:
Site Directors will not be available for most levels, instead a ‘referee’ call list will be provided to settle disputes that players or captains cannot mediate.

4. GRIEVANCES

- A) Grievances must be in writing from the team captain and must be mailed to the league coordinator and postmarked within 3 days of the disputed match. The league coordinator will inform all teams involved of the grievance. Within 1 week of being contacted by the league coordinator, the captain of the protested team may submit a letter to the league coordinator in defense of his/her teams’ position.
- B) The grievance will be resolved within 15 days by the Local Grievance Committee. The Local Grievance Committee Chair will notify all teams of the decision.
- C) Either captain can file a grievance appeal within 3 days of the Local Grievance Committee decision.
- D) If the above procedure is not adhered to, the grievance could be rendered null and void.

5. DEFAULTS and FORFEITURES

- A) Singles: The #2 singles must be defaulted before the #1 singles may be defaulted.
Doubles: The #3 doubles must be defaulted before the #1 or #2 doubles may be defaulted. The same principle applies to the 2.5 and 5.0 level and senior and mixed divisions; i.e. in doubles, #2 must be defaulted before #1.
- B) If the #2 and #3 doubles teams or the #2 singles player (excluding 2.5 and 5.0 level) start their matches before the #1 doubles team or the #1 singles player start their matches, and the #1 doubles team or the #1 singles player defaults after the 10-minute warm-up period, the order of play should remain as is on the score sheet.

- C) The Local League Committee will review teams defaulting out of order.
- D) Any player arriving on the court after 15:01 minutes past the match start time is automatically defaulted. The Local League Committee will review teams with repeated defaults. Action may be taken against the team captain, which may result in losing his/her position as team captain. The Local League Committee reserves the right to decide on the exceptions.
- E) Team Forfeiture:
 In the event a team is only able to field enough positions to win a team match, it is the responsibility of the captain, or their designated person to notify the opposing team captain 24 hours before the scheduled time of their match. The forfeiting team captain or their designated representative must contact the facility at which the match is to be played, 24 hours before the scheduled time of the match, to avoid being responsible for the court time. Failure of the forfeiting team to comply with this procedure will render the team responsible for the total cost of the court time. The non-defaulting team does not have to be present to receive credit for the win.
- F) Any team* who defaults an entire team match (*a team consists of enough players to win the match) during the local league season (regardless if the default is during the match or prior to the commencement of the match) may jeopardize the team's participation in the Maine USTA League Local League for the next season. The Local League Committee reserves the right to decide on any exceptions.
- G) Any team who defaults more than five positions in one season may jeopardize their participation in the Maine Local USTA League for the next season.
- H) Injuries:
1. A one time, 3-minute medical time out is allowed for injury, illness, heat related condition or cramping. If the match does not resume play after 3 minutes the player (singles) or the pair (doubles) must be defaulted and the match will be recorded as retired.
 2. If a player is injured within the 10-minute warm-up period, a legal substitute team member (a rated player on the roster who has not already played in that particular match) can play in place of the injured player. If the balance of the warm-up period is under 5 minutes the substitute player will be allowed a 5-minute injury prevention warm-up. The order of play would remain as scheduled.
 3. If an individual who is injured in their first match is scheduled to play a second match on the same date but is unable to do so due to the injury, the facility will issue a credit to all players involved in the defaulted match providing they had already paid for the second match.
- I) If match results or the individual player name is disputed, the scorecard showing the signature of both captains must be produced by each captain. Failure to produce a signed scorecard may render the protest null and void and the match may be recorded as a double default.

6. PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION

- A) All players (except computer rated players) who participate in adult & senior matches are subject to disqualification at the Local, District and Section levels. If a player is disqualified, he/she will be prohibited from further league play at that NTRP level for the remainder of the league season and all matches played will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for his/her opponents. Refer to USTA League Regulation 3.04. The USTA New England Section office will notify the disqualified player and his/her captain.

7) DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY – ADULT DIVISION

- A) The Maine Adult Local League will participate in the District Championships (Green District) and will play August 7, 8 & 9, 2009 in Maine & New Hampshire. Refer to www.ustanewengland.com/usta-league/championships for exact locations and details.
- B) Each team that qualifies to play in the District Championships must accept the invitation by phone or email within 5 days following the completion of the local league season. Any team qualifying during the make-up week must accept their invitation within 24 hours of their last match. The captain must mail a team fee covering the cost of the championships, of which \$100.00 is non-refundable if that team withdraws.
- C) A player must have played at least 2 matches or received credit by default during the league season as a rated player in order to qualify for championship play.
- D) Each player must be a member of USTA and such membership must extend through the end of the Championship season.
- E) The winning team in each four team flight and the winner and runner-up (or wildcard) of each flight of five or more teams qualify to play in the District Championships, based on the points accumulated throughout the season. Most team matches won – determines the team winner of the local league season. In the event of a tie at the end of the Maine local league season, the winner will be determined as follows:
 - 1. Most individual matches won
 - 2. Fewest sets lost
 - 3. Fewest games lost
 - 4. Head to head
 - 5. Coin Toss

Should the 1st or 2nd place team decline to compete at the District Championships, a wild card team will be decided by the District Tournament Director and Local League Coordinator. The District Tournament Director reserves the right to add wildcards based on District Championship schedules at any NTRP level. A wildcard is determined by the 3rd place team closest in points (refer to league standings report) to the second place team within that flight of the teams contending for that District. The Section League Coordinator and District Tournament Director have final approval of all wildcards.

- F) The first place team from each level at the District Championships will be invited to play in the Section Championships.

8. SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY – ADULT & SENIOR DIVISIONS

- A) The Section Championships will be held in Western Massachusetts on August 21,22 & 23, 2009 for Seniors and August 28, 29, and 30, 2009 for Adults. Details will be available at a later date and locations can be viewed on www.ustanewengland.com
- B) The first place team from each level at Section Championships will be invited to play at the National Championships. Dates and locations can be viewed by going to www.ustanewengland.com select USTA League (in left column) select championships or go to www.usta.com
- C) A first place Section Championship team that chooses not to compete at the National Championship level must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams with no more than 3 players (levels 3.0 – 4.5) and 2 players (levels 2.5 and 5.0) who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play on any single team for the following league year.