

**2009 Local League Rules for:
Richmond USTA Senior Mixed Doubles League**

General Rules:

1. The Richmond USTA Senior Mixed Doubles League will abide by and enforce the Rules listed in the 2009 USTA League Tennis National Regulations, the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Rules, and the 2009 Virginia Tennis Rules for all USTA League play.
2. League fees are \$33.75 per player. (\$18 VA Tennis fee, \$2.75 Mid Atlantic fee, \$10 Local fee, \$3 *TennisLink* fee)
3. All players must have a valid NTRP rating. Players without a computer rating are required to declare a self-rating on *TennisLink* when first entering the Leagues program.
4. Each team match will consist of 3 individual doubles matches.
5. Since this league uses a combined rating format, players paired in an individual match may not have a rating differential of more than one point. The combined rating of a doubles team may not exceed the level entered.
6. The deadline to add players to your roster is July 1, 2009.
7. Match play will consist of best of two sets using regular scoring and a set tiebreak (12 pt, or first to 7 points by 2 points) at six games-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (10 pt, or first to 10 win by 2) in lieu of a third set shall be played immediately following the end-of-set rest period. The Coman tiebreak procedure will be used for all tiebreaks.
8. Home teams to provide USTA approved tennis balls.
9. If a player arrives 15 minutes after a scheduled match time, his/her individual match is a considered a default. Warm ups are limited to 10 minutes. If a player is up to 10 minutes late, he/she forfeits that portion of their warm up. (See USTA 3.03L regarding order of defaults.)
10. If a team forfeits more than 1 entire team match during the season, that team will not be allowed to advance to any post-season play. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. (A team may default a maximum of one position in a match without defaulting the entire match.)
11. Players must be 50 years old, or must turn 50 this calendar year to participate in USTA Senior Leagues.
12. Roster size is limited to no more than 22. (VA Tennis Rule 8)

New Rules for 2009:

13. Team captains are responsible for ensuring that their home courts are reserved for each home match. (Exception: Belmont teams go through the league coordinator to reserve courts.) The home team captain must inform all visiting teams of their home match times at least 7 days in advance.
14. Matches will be played on Weeknights. Weeknight matches may start no earlier than 6pm and no later than 7:30pm.
15. All matches should be played on the scheduled day and time. All requests to re-schedule a match for any reason other than inclement weather must be forwarded to the League Coordinator at least 7 days before the scheduled match.
 - a. Accommodation requests must be sent to the League Coordinator and not to the opposing captain. The league coordinator will inform both captains if the accommodation has been approved.
 - b. Most accommodation requests will not be considered. Vacations, parties, Ukrops 10K, etc. are not valid requests.

- c. Conflicts with players involved in USTA League Championship play will be accommodated if proper procedures are followed. However, accommodations are only for the individual matches involving players participating in League Championships and remaining matches must be played on the originally scheduled day.
16. Captains must notify opposing teams of known individual match defaults.
17. When a match is played without officials, the most current edition, Friend at Court, "The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules & Regulations" shall apply in any situation not covered by the rules. This publication can be downloaded from www.richmondtennisleagues.com or ordered from the USTA national website.
18. All local league grievances and appeals will follow the procedures outlined the 2009 USTA National Regulations. The local league grievance form can be found at www.richmondtennisleagues.com on the League Rules & Forms page.
19. Home teams must have at least 3 courts available at match time.
20. League Fee refund requests must be forwarded to the league coordinator along with a completed Player Deletion Form (found on the website). Once a player plays a match, no refunds will be issued. Local league fee refunds will not be issued for any reason after the league season ends.

Procedure for re-scheduling matches due to inclement weather:

1. Rain, lightning, and temperatures above 95 degrees or above are considered inclement weather.
2. A "Heat Advisory" will be posted on the local league website home page if temperatures in the greater Richmond area are 95 degrees or above. Matches may be re-scheduled only if a Heat Advisory is posted. The league coordinators will post the Heat Advisory one or two days before match dates. Please check the website frequently if the weather report is calling for extreme heat.
3. Matches must be played within 7 days. See Mid Atlantic rule 7.
4. If playing the make-up match as a team, the home captain will choose 2 possible dates for the make up the match. The visiting captain will choose 1 of the 2 dates. Email must be used for communication. If captains phone each other, they must confirm the conversation by email.
5. If the home captain can't reserve courts or can't find 2 dates that work for his/her team, the captains should exchange line-ups by email through the league or level coordinator and have the players schedule their own matches. Each captain sends a line-up and includes email addresses and phone numbers for their players.
6. For re-scheduled matches split into individual matches, the players must follow the guidelines listed above for the captains. In other words, each home team or player chooses 2 dates for a make-up match, and the visitors choose 1 of the 2 dates. Email must be used for communication. If players phone each other, they must confirm the conversation by email.

Other Local League Guidelines and Expectations:

1. All players should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to match time. This will allow captains to exchange line-ups before the match time and get the match started promptly.
2. Captains should print out a *TennisLink* match scoresheet for each match. *TennisLink* scoresheets list all registered players for both teams.
3. Captains are expected to use email correspondence to re-schedule matches and to confirm phone conversations. This will avoid misunderstandings should a dispute arise.

4. Indoor courts are available to many teams in our area. In order to meet the make up match deadlines, it may be necessary to play make-up matches on indoor courts if they are available. As a courtesy, the home and away teams should split guest fees. Some clubs or indoor facilities may waive guest fees for a make up USTA match. Please check with your club contact.
5. The home captain should contact the opposing captain at least 5 days before their scheduled match. Captains should verify match time and location, and exchange contact phone numbers for the match day. Acting captain name and phone number should be given in case the captain will not attend the match. This will help avoid any conflicts or misunderstandings. Captain contact lists are available to captains in *TennisLink*. Each captain is responsible for getting the contact list to his or her co-captains or acting captains.
6. After the match is played, the Captain or his/her designee should sign each line-up sheet (with the score recorded) after the match. Doing so attests to the accuracy of the player names, positions and scores recorded thereon and establishes the basic facts of the match.
7. At the time of player registration, USTA Memberships must be valid through the end of all applicable local league seasons. In any case, the local league is defined as "concluded" by the date specified as end of season in *TennisLink*.

This **HONOR CODE OF ETHICS** has been adopted in order that all followers of tennis will know what is expected of them as players and as spectators and, thereby, enhance the enjoyment of the game for everyone. Any person who knowingly violates this Honor Code will be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. At the discretion of the official USTA umpire or League Coordinator he/she may be defaulted.

CONDUCT OF PLAY

1. Players must know and adhere to the official Rules of Tennis, the Code, and all Local League Rules.
2. Players may not accept any coaching during the progress of the match. At no time may they consult with players, friends, coach or spectators. Any player who receives coaching during course of a match is subject to immediate disqualification.
3. It is considered unsportsmanlike conduct if you engage in (a) abusive display of temper, (b) loud or abusive language, c) swearing, (d) racket throwing, (f) hitting the ball in anger, (g) "gamesmanship" or stalling, (h) cheating. Any of the above may be considered as grounds for disqualification by the League Coordinator.
4. If you do not have an umpire, then you must call all balls as if you were a linesman (except that any doubt must be resolved in favor of your opponent).
5. In the absence of an umpire, your obligation is to call all balls fairly and honestly on your side of the net, and to help your opponent when requested. When your opponent asks for help in making a line call, it is your obligation to call against yourself if you clearly saw the ball out. Don't say "it's your call" when you know the ball was clearly out.
6. In the absence of an umpire, it is the responsibility of the server to call out the score. This should be done before every point and in a voice loud enough for all players on the court to hear.
7. Do not question your opponent's call. You may ask your opponent's opinion when he is in a better position than you to see ball. Do not enlist the help of a spectator.
8. Calls of "out" and "let" should be made instantly. A delay or doubtful call implies that it was not seen clearly. A ball you cannot call out is presumed good. Do not play a let or play the point over if you are not sure if the ball was out or not - in this case the point must be awarded to your opponent.

9. In doubles the receiver's partner may call the service line. If an incorrect fault is called and the receiver RETURNS THE BALL IN PLAY, then a let should be played. If the ball had not been returned in play, the point would have been your opponent's.
10. In doubles, when one partner calls a ball out and the other one good, the doubt that has been established means that the ball must be considered to have been good.
11. When the first serve is obviously out, it is discourteous to return it across the net.
12. A foot fault is a violation. The person who unknowingly foot faults is taking advantage of his opponent. The person who knowingly foot faults is cheating.
13. Exclamation in the course of play can be used against you, as the opponent is entitled to demand a replay. However, he must do so immediately and not go ahead with the point and claim a replay later, after he has lost the point.