



12/18/2009

2010 USTA League Tennis Rules For All Divisions*

1. Virginia Tennis will abide by and enforce the Rules listed in the **2010 USTA League Tennis Regulations**, and 2010 Mid-Atlantic Rules for all USTA League play.
2. The filing, investigation, and adjudication of grievances and appeals arising out of the Local League are to be addressed at the Local League Level by procedures outlined in the **2010 USTA League Tennis Regulations** (USTA Reg. 2.00 through 2.04).
 - a. A copy of all Local League grievances and responses are to be forwarded to the USTA Virginia League Administrator as soon as received by the Local League Coordinator.
 - b. A copy of all Local Grievance and Appeals Committee decisions and responses are to be forwarded by the Local League Coordinator to the USTA Virginia League Administrator as soon as published.
3. **Violations of any National, Section or District rule may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or other sanctions for the following league year(s).**
4. League fees include:
 - a. \$18 Virginia Tennis fee for leagues advancing to a District Tournament to be collected when a player registers on-line using Tennis Link.
 - b. \$14 Virginia Tennis fee for leagues not advancing to be collected when a player registers on-line using Tennis Link.
 - c. \$3.75 Mid-Atlantic Fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink.
 - c. *Tennis Link* fee to be set by National
 - e. The team District Tournament fee is \$125.00
 - f. Additional league fees to be determined by each local league.

Player and Team Informational Requirements

5. At the time of player registration, USTA Memberships must be valid through the end of all applicable local league seasons. Any individual who progresses to championship level in the USTA League Tennis Program must be a current member through each championship progression.
6. All teams and players are to register on *TennisLink* **prior** to play. If a player plays a match without registering on TennisLink that individual match will be defaulted.
7. Players without a computer rating are required to declare a self-rating according to MAS Sectional Rule 4 and National Rule 3.01(D). The ratings of established players should be taken from the relevant year NTRP ratings available on TennisLink. Once a player is assigned a computer rating, it is valid for up to three years for those individuals age 59 and younger, and for two years for those individuals age 60 and older, or until another computer rating is generated.
8. The Virginia District delegates to each of its Local League areas, the authority vested in it by USTA League Tennis Regulations, Rule 3.01 B Team and MAS Sectional Rule 11. to limit the number of players that appear on a roster. The District limits roster size to no more than 22. Local Leagues may limit roster size further if they so choose.

9. **The final deadline for all teams entered into TennisLink is:**

- Adult Mixed – **May 1, 2010**
- Adult - **June 1, 2010**
- Senior– **July 16, 2010**
- Super Duper, Senior Mixed – **July 28, 2010**
- Super Senior, Super Senior Mixed – **Aug 12, 2010**
- Combo – **September 03, 2010**
- Singles – **Sept 19, 2010**
- Combo Mixed– **December 01, 2010**

Local League Informational Requirements

10. A local league shall consist of a minimum of *two* teams in a specific level with a minimum of 3 matches (USTA Reg. 3.01A and 3.01H).
11. The USTA/Virginia Tennis office must approve the structure and format of any league, which desires to split into flights.
12. All local league matches must be played within the geographic boundaries of that local league, except upon a granted waiver from the Virginia Tennis Leagues Review Committee in cases where teams from other geographic regions are necessary for the league to exist.
13. It is recommended that local leagues establish match play as best of two sets using regular scoring and a set tiebreak at six games-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set shall be played immediately following the two-minute end-of-set rest period (USTA 3.01G and MAS rule 14). The Virginia District tournament will use this format and Coman tiebreak procedure at all District Championships. Local Leagues may use any USTA NTRP approved scoring method.
14. Scorekeeping Information

Local area coordinators must forward to the USTA Virginia Tennis League Administrator, a final schedule for each league level with matches in order of play, and local rules at least two weeks prior to league play or match codes may not be distributed. If there is a change in the local schedule, the Area League Coordinator must notify the USTA/Virginia Tennis League Administrator immediately.

15. The Virginia District and TennisLink will be using:
 - a. Adult Mixed/Senior Mixed/ combination ratings of 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0. Each individual mixed doubles team's combined year-end rating may not exceed the level entered. For example, local leagues may consist of a 3.5 and a 4.5 or two 4.0 partners in the 8.0 levels. Partners cannot have a rating differential of more than 1 point. The 5.0 level will comprise of 2.5 players only, with no combined ratings allowed.
 - b. Combo/Combo Mixed combination ratings of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, and 10.5. Each individual Combo doubles team's combined year-end rating may not exceed the level entered. For example, local leagues may consist of a 3.5 and a 5.0 or a 4.0 and a 4.5 in the 8.5 levels. Partners cannot have a rating differential of more than 1.5 points.

16. **League play must be concluded by:**

- Adult Mixed - **May 30, 2010**
- Adult - **July 1, 2010 (3.0, 4.0, 5.0) & July 8, 2010 (2.5, 3.5, 4.5)**
- Senior - **Aug 16, 2010**
- Super Duper, Senior Mixed,– **Aug 29, 2010**
- Super Senior, Super Senior Mixed – **Sept 12, 2010**
- Combo – **September 19, 2010**
- Singles – **Oct 19, 2010**
- Combo Mixed – **December 26, 2010**

Local leagues are determined to be concluded when the final match (each individual match included) of each local league playoff match, (if applicable) is completed. In any case, the local league is defined as "concluded" by the date specified as end of season in TennisLink.

District Informational Requirements

17. a. Area League Coordinators must certify which teams are advancing to the Virginia District Championships (using the Certification Form) to the USTA/Virginia Leagues Administrator, upon teams qualifying to advance or no later than 48 hours after conclusion of league play.

b. Should a certified team decide not to attend the District Championship, the team must notify their Area League Coordinator and the USTA Virginia District League Administrator via email, within 24 hours of being certified for the District Championship of their intention not to attend. Teams who violate this rule shall be reported to the Chairman of the Virginia Tennis League Grievance Committee for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. Violations may result in sanctions up to and including suspension from league play for the following league year. Upon notification that a winning team is unable to advance, the second place team may advance in its place.

c. All matches must be recorded in *TennisLink* to play at the District tournament. The District Tournaments will be:

Adult Mixed – **June 11-13, 2010 (14th rain date)**

Adult - **July 9 -11 (12th rain date) (levels 3.0, 4.0 & 5.0)**

Adult – **July 16 -18 (19th rain date) (levels 2.5, 3.5, & 4.5)**

Senior – **Aug 27 – 29 (30th rain date)**

Combo - **October 1 - 3, 2010 (4th rain date)**

Singles – **Nov 6, 7, 2010**

Combo Mixed – **Jan 7 – 9, 2011**

d. Where the District Leagues Coordinator has determined that a full draw is appropriate but not available using the District entry procedures described above, a wildcard entry may be extended based on random draw until the draw is filled. The methodology for drawing wild card teams is as follows: Divide the number of teams at each level in each local league by 3 to determine number of “chips” added to drawing. Examples are a 3 team level equals 1 chip, a 12 team level equals 4 chips, 16 team level equals 5 chips, etc. There is no “rounding”. Any level less than 3 teams is ineligible for wildcard consideration. The wild card invitation must be filled within 48 hrs or be offered to the next local league drawn via the wildcard process.

18. Representation at 2010 Virginia Adult League District Championship will be as follows:

a. At the 2.5W, 2.5 M, 4.5W, 4.5M, 5.0W and 5.0M levels, any league with 2-8 teams will send 1 team;

9 or more teams will send 2 teams.

b. At the 3.0W, 3.0 M, 3.5W, 3.5M, 4.0W and 4.0M levels, any league with 2-12 teams will send 1 team;

13-23 teams will send 2 teams;

24+ teams will send 3 teams.

The Championship Tournament Committee reserves the right to change the tournament format due to court availability.

19. Representation at the 2010 Virginia Adult Mixed, Combo, Combo Mixed, Senior and Singles League Championships will be as follows:

a. 2-7 teams during the local league season will send 1 team;

b. 8-16 teams during the local league season will send 2 teams; and

c. 17 or more teams during the local league season will send 3 teams.

20. In the event that a person is a captain of or player on more than one team at the same level in the same division advancing to the same Championship event, that captain or player shall transmit written notice in advance to the District or Section office (as appropriate) declaring which ONE team (s)he will represent at that event. Such declarations are binding only for the duration of the event where the conflict arises, and must be received at the appropriate District or Section office at least 3 days before the start of the tournament. All Declarations received will be considered confidential to other teams. In the event no Declaration is received and a person captains 2 teams, or a player competes for 2 teams at the same level, in the same Division, then all matches played/or captained for the 2nd team will be disqualified.
21. Players/teams leaving a District Championship tournament before completing their entire schedule of assigned matches and without the Tournament Director's approval shall be reported to the Chairman of the District League Grievance Committee for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. Violations may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or other sanctions for the following league year.
22. **At all Virginia District League Championship tournaments, match line-ups are due to the Tournament Desk 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of each team match. Match times are tentative and play will be on a "followed by" basis.** The Tournament Desk has the right to call a match to begin play up to 30 minutes before the scheduled start time, assuming courts are available to do so. Once a match has been called, the USTA's Point Penalty System applies and will be strictly enforced.
23. One team per level/gender will advance to the Mid-Atlantic championship from the Virginia Adult, Adult Mixed and Senior League District Championships. There is no District Championship for Super/Duper Seniors and Senior Mixed, who will advance directly to Sectionals. If Virginia obtains a wildcard position for any level/division, Virginia will send the top two teams to the Sectional Championship. The teams will be VA1 and VA2.

*Leagues include: Adult, Adult Mixed, Senior, Super Senior, Super Duper, Senior Mixed, Super Senior Mixed, Combo, Combo Mixed, Tri-Level, Singles

Adopted by the Virginia Tennis Leagues Committee 11/23/09

Approved by Virginia District Board of Directors 12/15/09