

BROOKLYN 2009

Mixed Doubles Season Local Rules

All captains and players are responsible for following the rules and regulations

Governing Rules

USTA Adult leagues are divided into layers of organization: National, Sectional (Eastern), Regional (Metro), District (Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn), and then Divisions. Three levels of rules apply: The USTA League Tennis Regulations (National), the USTA Eastern rules (Section), and the Local Rules (District). In addition, the USTA Code of Conduct applies. The local rules are to be read in a manner consistent with the Sectional and National rules whenever possible and are not intended to supplant those rules. The local rules are intended to identify only the most essential portions of the National and Sectional rules and only depart from those rules as authorized by the USTA and whenever deemed necessary and advisable by local league administration. Any players who use The Code to quote a rule during a match must be able to produce a copy of that rule at that time, as set out by The Code.

Captain's Responsibilities

Captains are responsible for the administration of their team. Duties include: player recruitment; arranging match payments and refunds; reporting scores on TennisLink; sending points to their coordinator; arranging lineups and ensuring that team players are on-level, registered and fully informed of league rules. Captains are to show cooperation and courtesy to all players, captains and coordinators.

Captains are responsible for ensuring new players do not have a current computer rating from any other US state. Captains should check a players' level of play before the player "self rates".

Captains who wish to captain more than 1 team must have the approval of the league coordinator.

Player Registration

Registration fees on Tennislink are \$30 (includes \$7 USTA registration fee + \$23 roster fee). This is in addition to USTA Membership (\$40 per year)

Registration deadline: March 5, 2009

Register Online: <http://national.usta.com> with your USTA membership # and 10 digit team code (begins with 1002)

All players must register prior to their first match. It is the captain's responsibility to check that their players have registered before they play a match and before the registration deadline (whichever comes first). Any team that plays an unregistered player will default the points for that court to the opposing team. The second time the team plays an unregistered player, they will forfeit all points earned for that match (the opposing team will only be awarded points for the court with the unregistered player). The third time will result in disciplinary action against the captain.

Once a player has registered with a self-rating, any rating appeals must be filed through the Eastern Section. Therefore we encourage captains to try out new players to help determine their level before they register for the team.

Team Match Fees (\$28 per player per match)

All fees must be paid in full by February 9, 2009

Failure to pay all team fees by the deadline may result in a captain and/or players being excluded from future Metrotennis CTA league play. All matches played prior to this deadlines must be paid for one day prior to the match.

To pay for matches: www.metrotennis.com → USTA Leagues → Brooklyn Leagues → Pay for matches online. Any problems involving payment transactions must be reported to a coordinator. **Do not contact the USTA or Eastern offices; they are not involved with the payment procedures for matches.**

Ratings & Eligibility

Each player shall have reached nineteen (19) years of age prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match.

USTA computer ratings are valid for 3 years for players under 60 years old, and for 2 years for players 60 and over.

Players with valid USTA ratings will use their 2008 final year-end rating for registering in the league.

All players without a USTA computer rating must self-rate on Tennislink when they register for their team, in accordance with DNTRP regulations and Fair Play Guidelines (posted on metrotennis.com under Rules). Players will be held responsible for the accuracy & completeness of the information they provide when self-rating.

Roster Limits: Teams are limited to 22 players.

Only the following pairings are allowed:

6.0 = 3.0/3.0 or 3.5/2.5 or 3.0/2.5

7.0 = 3.5/3.5 or 4.0/3.0 or 3.5/3.0

8.0 = 4.0/4.0 or 4.5/3.5 or 4.0/3.5

If a team plays a pairing that is ineligible, any points earned for that court, plus one penalty point, will be awarded to the opposing team. If the opposing team wins all 3 courts, the extra point will not be awarded.

A player may not play more than one level above their rating (a 3.0 player can play in 6.0 & 7.0, but not 8.0). **A doubles pair cannot play more than .5 pt above their combined rating level** (3.5 & 3.0 partners can play in 7.0, but not in 8.0).

Players may play on more than one team per season BUT NOT in the same league level in the same district. For example: A 3.0 player may play in Manhattan on a 6.0 and a 7.0 team. S/he can also play in another borough (Queens or Brooklyn) and/or region at the 6.0 and/or 7.0 levels. Players/teams who choose to play in more than one district or region will not be given any special consideration in the scheduling of matches during the regular or playoff season.

Pre-Match Preparation and Court Cancellation

Captains:

- 1. Contact your players a few days prior to the match** to confirm they know the correct date, time and location for the match. Players should be told to arrive at least 15 mins prior to their match time.
- 2. Call the club a few days before the match.** Verify the number of courts and time scheduled. Errors do occur. If there is a DISCREPANCY, contact your coordinator immediately. **If you do not call the club in advance for the above confirmation, Metro will not be responsible for reimbursement of court fees if there is a problem.**
- 3. Contact the opposing team captain at least 48 hours prior to the match.** Verify the time, place and potential forfeits.

Canceling Courts: ONLY COORDINATORS MAY CANCEL COURTS. The canceling captain must phone, and email, the coordinator and opposing captain indicating which court they are cancelling. The coordinator will confirm by email when the court has been cancelled. If you cannot reach your coordinator, contact another coordinator (see list at the end of these rules) or the Metrotennis office.

*****In order to receive a refund, the court must be cancelled before 3pm the day prior to the match. Any captain who does not follow these procedures will not be eligible for a refund.**

Players:

- 1. Return calls/emails to your captain** to confirm your attendance at your upcoming match.
- 2. If you are delayed getting to a match due to traffic, inform your captain (or call the club) as soon as possible.**
- 3. Plan to arrive at the club at least 15 minutes prior to the match start time.**

Forfeits + Defaults

LEGAL MATCH: Teams must field two courts for the match to be considered an eligible match. Any team forfeiting an entire match will be subject to disciplinary action.

Forfeits: when a captain knows in advance that they are short a player(s) for the match. Always notify the opposing captain and your coordinator immediately and ensure the court has been cancelled. (See Canceling Courts). The forfeit takes place at 3rd doubles.

Suggestion: At the beginning of the season, captains should decide on a team policy regarding the amount of notice a scheduled player must give in order to be reimbursed by a substitute player for their match.

Default: when player listed on the scorecard fails to show within 15 minutes after the match time. Warm-ups may take no more than ten minutes including service practice. Warm up time may be limited to 5 minutes when a player arrives on court after the scheduled start time for the match. Players arriving onto the assigned court more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time may be defaulted at the discretion of the opposing team (having been so advised before the start of match play on that court.) If players from both teams arrive 15 minutes or later onto the same court, neither or both teams will be defaulted, depending on the circumstances.

Double defaults: Neither team will be awarded points for the defaulted court.

Extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, extreme weather/travel conditions (i.e. snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings). A coordinator has the power to extend the default time by 15 minutes -- depending on the situation. **If none of the coordinators can be reached, play the match in good faith and deal with the legalities later.**

Line Ups + Scorecards

If the captain or co-captain are not present at the match, an acting captain must be assigned. The acting captain must be on the team roster, be familiar with the Eastern and Manhattan Mixed Doubles Rules, and have this rules document with them at the match.

Print a blank scorecard from TennisLink using your match number. **Clearly print the first and last names** of your players on the scorecard and notate the court number. Order of strength is advised to ensure competitive play.

Scorecards must be exchanged simultaneously between captains AT LEAST 5 minutes prior to the match start time. Teams must present a line up at this time, even if all players are not yet present**. It is strongly recommended that in addition to the captain, another player on the team know the line-up for the match. Once scorecards are exchanged, changes to the line-up can ONLY be made if there is an illness or injury during the warm up.

****If a player is missing at the time scorecards are exchanged, the line-up must be adjusted and that team moved to the 3rd doubles position.** The opposing captain must be informed of this change and given the opportunity to adjust their line up.

It is the responsibility of the players to make sure they are on the correct court with the proper opponents. Captains should give their players the names of their opponents when sending them to their court. **All matches stand as played.**

Players must report their scores to the captain. Captains will enter the scores on the scorecard and circle the winner's names. Scores should be written from the winners' perspective, e.g., 6-0, 6-3. **Do not write 0-6, 3-6**

Both captains must sign the scorecards. Scorecards should be kept and be available to send to the coordinator in the case of a discrepancy.

Match Play

Match play is 2 hours, with a 3rd set tie-breaker in lieu of 3rd set.

Each team fields 6 players per match (3 men/3 women). Order of strength is encouraged to ensure competitive play.

The points awarded are: 1D = 6pts, 2D = 4pts, 3D = 3pts

Games are regular scoring, with a 7-point Coman tie-break when 6-6 in games is reached during the first 2 sets. **If you split sets, a 10-point Coman tiebreak will be played in lieu of the 3rd set.** The first team to 7 (regular tie-break) or 10 (tie-break in lieu of a 3rd set), by a 2 point lead, wins. Play continues until the 2 point lead is reached.

Timing Matches: If a clock is visible from the courts, then players must go by the time on that clock. If no clock is visible, use 2 players' watches on the court. Teams should coordinate their watches with the club clock before the match.

Warm ups may take no more than ten minutes, including service practice. If a player arrives on court after the 10 minute warm-up, but prior to the default time, they will only be allowed a 5 minute warm-up. Under no circumstances may a match start more than 20 minutes past the match start time.

A 2 min break is permitted between the 1st and 2nd set only. Play is continuous between the 2nd set and the 3rd set tie break unless there is a changeover (when the usual 90 second changeover applies). 90 seconds on changeovers. 20 seconds between points. No coaching is allowed between or during sets.

All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off during matches. Players and spectators may not use cell phones courtside.

Line calls: If line calls become an issue among opponents on court, the players on court can ask one person from each team or can agree on a single person to assist with calls. The observers may **ONLY** overrule incorrect calls (rather than rule on every ball) and can make calls only on balls they can clearly see.

Matches cannot be extended over the 2 hr time period. Please do not try to talk club staff into letting you play on. This will jeopardize the league being able to use the clubs.

Unfinished Matches (matches not completed within 2 hour)

FIVE MINUTE RULE: if 5 minutes or more remain before the end of the match, you MUST start and attempt to complete the next game. If less than 5 minutes remain, do NOT start a new game.

A game in progress at the end of the time period is stopped and not counted. A tie-break in progress should be completed unless circumstances make it impossible to do so (players are waiting to use the courts, club maintenance staff is waiting for the courts or the club turns off the lights).

For **Unfinished Matches**, if the match ends under the following circumstances, the scoring is as follows:

- **In the 3rd set 10 pt tiebreak (also counts as a game and a set): Every attempt should be made to finish the 3rd set tie break unless impractical (see above). If the tiebreak is not completed, then the match is a tie with split sets. An **incomplete** 3rd set tie break does not count.**
- **Split sets, with no time left to start the 3rd set tiebreak:** The points for that court are split.
- **If the 2nd set is unfinished:** Only completed games count.
 - Team that won the first set, and the score is a tie or on serve in 2nd set, wins all the points.
 - Team that won the first set and is ahead in the 2nd set by 1 break or more, wins all the points.
 - Team that won the first set but is losing the 2nd set by 1 break or more, points are split.
- **A game in progress at the end of the time period is not counted.**

Score Reporting (two steps for captains)

1. TennisLink Match Results Entry (within 24 hrs of the match)

Both captains (or a player on the roster) must enter and/or confirm the match results on TennisLink within 24 hours. <http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues> → enter your USTA member # → record a score → enter your match code #
Any team that fails to confirm scores within 48 hours, loses the right to dispute those scores. Repeated failure to enter match scores will result in captain sanctions.

When entering scores into TennisLink, please observe the following:

- **The 3rd set tiebreak is entered as 1-0.**
- **Ties cannot be entered:** Enter the scores from the home team's perspective and declare the home team the winner.
- **Unfinished matches:** Enter as "timed match" if TennisLink will let you; otherwise select "retired". Declare the winner.
- **Defaults/Forfeits:** Enter the players names who were available for the defaulted court, the score as 6-0, 6-0, and declare a default.
- **Double defaults:** Do not enter any player names; use "double default" option.
- **Rescheduled courts:** Enter "**double default**" for the rescheduled court(s). After the rescheduled match has been played, email the result (match number, names and scores) to your coordinator for TennisLink entry.

2. Team points/standings – posted on www.metrotennis.com

Both teams must email the following information to their coordinator within 24 hours after the match:
Match code, date of match, team A = * pts + team B = * pts. No other information is necessary.

Please do not expect your coordinator to search TennisLink to find the match results. TennisLink does not use the Metro points system and will not upload the points to the Scores & Results page on www.metrotennis.com.

Player and Spectator Etiquette

A warning and consequently a penalty may apply as a result of any player, captain or spectator interfering with match play and abusing the code of conduct. This includes disruptive behavior on or off the court.

Players:

Warm ups. Some players confuse warm ups and practices. A player should make an effort to hit shots directly to their opponent. If players prefer to warm up their partners, they may do so.

The server should call the score loudly and clearly before each serve. All players are responsible for making sure they have heard and understood the score. If all players on a court forget the score, go back to the point that everyone agrees on.

Make all line calls clearly and immediately on your side of the court. If there is doubt between partners, the ball is good. If an out call is corrected, whether the point is to be replayed or point given to the opposing team, depends on the circumstances. See "The Code" Part 2 Making Calls #12. For your convenience, there is a link to **The Code** on Metrotennis.com

Unless invited by the opposing team, players may not cross to their opponent's side of the court to check a mark.

Spectators (including players and captains) watching matches:

- **May not** talk to players on the court.
- **May not coach, either verbally or visually**
- **May not** comment or make visual signals on line calls.
- **May not** cause any distractions to the players from a viewing position off the court.
- **May not** get involved with any dispute between the players on the court. A captain may offer clarification on a match rule **only if asked by a player.**
- **May not** interrupt a match in progress for any reason.
- **May sit on the court only if ALL players on that court agree. You must ask for permission 5 minutes before the match begins. **Permission may be revoked at any time if the spectator's behavior is distracting.****

Protocol At Clubs

League players are guests at the clubs and should adhere to club policy at all times.

Players must not go to their courts until their match start time. Clubs have asked the leagues to abide by this. **Do not 'bump' members off of their courts because it is match time.** Politely inform the previous players that it is "time", and allow them to finish one or two points. If they choose not to finish in a timely manner, speak to the staff at the desk of the club.

Players are expected to dress in proper tennis attire. Cut off shirts, shorts, aerobic outfits and sports bras (in lieu of a top) are not allowed. Clubs require that all players use TENNIS sneakers on the courts (no cross trainers, running shoes or other sports shoes allowed).

Do not jeopardize the league/club relationships by arguing or berating the staff at the clubs. Try to resolve issues in an orderly manner and treat staff with courtesy at all times. The clubs don't tolerate this behavior from club members and certainly not from league players, who are guests.

Grievances

If a player/captain wishes to file a complaint against another person in the league, the team captain must submit the complaint to Deb-Rose Andrews (Debrose@Metrotennis.com) within 48 hours of the match that precipitated the complaint. For full grievance procedures, see the Rules section on www.metrotennis.com

Local Playoffs

Points are cumulative throughout the season; the team with the most points at the end of the season wins. These points are posted on metrotennis.com on the Scores & Results page. In the event of a tie in points at the end of the season, the team who has lost the least sets overall advances. (See USTA Regulations, fig.3.03I, "Procedures in the event of a tie" starting with least sets lost.)

The playoff schedule is determined at the sole discretion of the league coordinator, and matches may be scheduled at any time during the designated playoff period.

Leagues with 8 or more teams have been divided into 2 or more divisions:

1 division of 4 or more teams: there will be a playoff at the end of the season between 1st and 2nd place teams.

2 divisions: the top two teams in each division advance to playoffs. The 1st place team of each division will play the 2nd place team of the opposite division. These winners then play in a final match.

3 divisions: the 1st place team of each division, and the 2nd place team with the most points (amongst all the divisions) will go to playoff's.

Player Qualification for Playoffs

Players must play at least two times in the local season to be eligible for Flight/District, Regional and Sectional playoffs. Only 1 of these matches can be a default.

If two teams are scheduled for regional or sectional championship and those teams share at least 50% of their eligible players, the teams must choose which district/region they will represent. The remaining team must concede their playoff spot to the second place team. The league coordinator must be notified no later than 48 hours following the conclusion of the deciding match.

Players who play on two teams who go to championships (region, section or national) may play on both teams in the same championship provided they are at different NTRP levels, and if the championship schedule permits. Requests to reschedule championship matches to accommodate players on multiple teams will not be accepted.

Players who play on two or more teams at the same NTRP level in different regions in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent should more than one team qualify for a region or section championship.

Teams eligible for playoffs must have all scores up to date in TennisLink in order to advance.

Playoff Dates

- District playoffs: tbd
- Regional Playoffs: May (National Tennis Center)
- Eastern Sectional Playoffs : June 12-14, 2009 in Schenectady
- National Mixed Doubles: tbd

Please visit <http://www.metrotennis.com> for the following information:

National, Eastern and Metro Rules
Paying For Matches
Points and Standings of league matches
Directions to clubs
Refund Policy
Grievance Policy

League Contact Information

Brooklyn League Coordinator: Lillian Cuthbert – lillian@twosigma.com; (212) 924-0271 - cell

Metro Region Coordinator: Deborah-Rose Andrews: Debrose@metrotennis.com,

(718) 380-9023 – home, (917) 576-7926 - cell

Metrotennis CTA Treasurer (for payment issues): Pam Glick pamglick@aol.com

Metrotennis CTA office: (718) 639-8936