



## MEMPHIS STANDARD LEAGUE REGULATIONS *(Revised 7/3/2024)*

### **Roster Rule:**

A player may be added to the team roster up until the last day to add a player, but it must be before they step foot on court for the warm-up of the individual match they will play.

### **Forfeit Rule:**

Any team/captain who has more than 4 forfeits in 18+ and 40+, or 3 forfeits in 55+ during one league season may be subject to a grievance being filed by the Local League Coordinator and suspension points may be applied.

### **Vacate Rule:**

If your team's match is not finished by the time the next scheduled match is to start, your players will have to vacate the courts and finish per the inclement weather regulation, if one or both of the next scheduled match captains so desire. Please use common sense, and if perhaps the players are in a 3rd set tiebreaker, let them finish if feasible.

### **Inclement Weather Rule:**

An inclement weather reschedule because of rain, snow, ice, darkness or weather below 40 degrees becomes official if courts or conditions are unplayable for more than

40 minutes during the 2 hour block matches are scheduled to be played. {see below for Memphis' heat rule.} The supervisor of the courts will determine whether they are playable; if there is no supervisor, the team captains will jointly make that determination. If the captains are not able to reach each other to determine if a match is eligible for inclement weather reschedule, the teams must go to the courts and be ready to play.

a.) If match play has already started and then the match is rained out, all points, games and sets played at the time the match is rained out will count; make-up matches will begin at the point they are terminated and may be played on an alternate surface if both captains agree. The players on the court should make note of the score, who is serving and all other matters concerning the match. If a team has forfeited a court on the original written and exchanged lineup, that forfeit stands and all players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the reschedule. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.

b.) If a written line up has been exchanged between captains but play did not start, substitutions from the team roster may be made on any non-default court. The individual courts do not have to be made up at the same time. **You may only substitute a player, not a whole court or whole lineup.**

c.) If a make-up match is required, the 2 team captains shall agree on a date for the make-up match. The individual courts do not have to be made up at the same time. Once the captains have agreed on a match date and time, that date and time is official and cannot be changed unless a player in the lineup is not available on that particular day, then the date may be changed within the 14 day make up policy, but the players may not be changed. The new match date, time and location should be emailed to the Local League Coordinator for the specific league and both team captains. Once this date has been agreed upon by both captains, the match date and time become official and the match date and time cannot be changed without the consent of the LLC. The match must be made up by the 14<sup>th</sup> day after the match was originally scheduled. If captains cannot agree on a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for 1:00 pm for weekday teams and 6:30 pm for weekend teams on the 14<sup>th</sup> day from the originally scheduled date. If that make-up time is rained out, the match will be played the next day at those times. If that make-up is rained out, the match will be played on the next day and so on until the match is played. Keep in mind all matches must be completed by date in local league rules governing the specific league. Therefore, rain outs that occur the last weekend of league play will be scheduled immediately by the LLC.

d.) If a match is rescheduled due to anything but weather, school spring or fall breaks or state championships, then 3 courts need to be played on the scheduled date (or 2 courts for any 3 court league) and the other court(s) may be rescheduled within the 14 day make-up window if the other captain agrees. A captain does NOT have to agree with a reschedule request if it affects the lineup.

### **Heat Rule:**

If the temperature is 94 degrees or higher (not heat index) per [weatherchannel.com](http://weatherchannel.com) at the scheduled match time, then the match may be rescheduled as long as it is played

within the 14 day makeup rule. You may still play the match if both captains agree to play.

### **USTA Championships Reschedule Rule:**

A team that has at least 6 players that are playing in a USTA league championship for a Memphis based team may reschedule their match. The 6 players must go and attend the championships for the team to be eligible to reschedule their match. The captain of the team that needs to reschedule, must notify the opposing team captain at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match. Then, both captains must notify the LLC by email that the match is to be rescheduled. The same rules that apply to rainout reschedules will apply to this type of reschedule: Once the captains have agreed on a match date and time, that date and time is official and cannot be changed. The new match date, time and location must be emailed to LLC by both team captains. Once this date has been agreed upon by both captains, the match date and time become official and the match date and time cannot be changed without the consent of the LLC. The match must be made up by the 14<sup>th</sup> day after the match was originally scheduled. If captains cannot agree on a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for 1:00 pm for weekday teams and 6:30 pm for weekend teams on the 14<sup>th</sup> day from the originally scheduled date. If that make-up time is rained out, the match will be played the next day at 1:00 or 6:30 pm. If that make-up is rained out, the match will be played on the next day and so on until the match is played. Keep in mind all matches must be completed by date in local league rules governing the specific league. Therefore, rain outs that occur the last weekend of league play will be scheduled immediately by the LLC.

### **City Playoff Rule:**

All teams playing in the city playoffs will be required to pay a \$250 security deposit (payable to MTA), which will be destroyed upon completion of city playoffs if the team has played all courts of its scheduled playoff matches. If a team knows that it will not be able to attend state championships, that team needs to decline the playoff bid and it will be given to the next place team in the bracket.

**If a bracket/flight has 7 or more teams, the top 2 teams will advance to the local playoffs. If a bracket/flight has 6 or less teams, the top team only in that bracket/flight will advance to local playoffs. No more than 4 teams from each NTRP level will advance to playoffs. If there are two brackets in both weekday and weekend, only the top team from each bracket will advance. If there are two brackets in weekday and 1 bracket in weekend or vice versa, only one team will advance from each bracket for a total of 3 teams advancing (unless one bracket has 7 or more teams). All players must have played two local league matches to participate in local playoffs and beyond.**

For city playoffs the USTA lateness rule will be enforced: 5 minutes penalty is loss of one game and loss of toss, 10 minutes penalty is loss of 2 games and loss of toss, 15 minutes penalty is loss of 3 games and loss of toss. Greater than 15 minutes late penalty is the default of court.

## **VIRTUAL LINE-UP EXCHANGES**

Regarding “virtual” line-up exchanges with your LLCs, please see below rules and procedures. This option is being offered by your LLCs in Memphis as a courtesy to captains when make-up matches are required due to weather or attendance at USTA Championships.

For a virtual line-up exchange, captains may send their line-ups with their players’ names and cell phone numbers individually to their LLC, and the LLC will send them back to both captains in one email. This option is so captains don’t have to meet in person to do so.

Once exchanged, the assigned players will have 14 days from the originally scheduled match date to complete their match and get scores entered. This information needs to also be sent to the LLC. Once those courts are rescheduled, the agreed upon match time/date/location becomes the new official match schedule for each court and should not be changed, other than for weather (or if one or more of the assigned players become unavailable - see below for further explanation). If weather is an issue, it may be rescheduled again, but still has to be completed by the 14th day of the original match date. Note, all courts do NOT have to be made up at the same date/time.

The substitution rule is in place for in-person match line-up exchanges on the originally scheduled match date. So regarding substitutions for virtual line-up exchanges, they are not permissible. (It would only apply to one of the newly rescheduled make-up matches if one of those players was ill, injured or was NTRP DQ'd at the new match time.) The LLC may give approval for the rescheduled match date to be changed (within the 14 day make-up rule if a player is not available, but no player can be substituted. The 14 day make-up timeframe is what's set up for re-scheduling purposes. Implementing this rule in a different way could be cause for a potential sportsmanship grievance being filed against a captain/team by administration, as once we accept a "virtual" line-up exchange, it is acknowledged that both captains have done so in good faith. If a captain already knows a player has limited availability in the upcoming 14 days (ex., week of traveling, etc.), they should field a player who has availability to avoid difficulties in making up the match.

## **Memphis Tennis Association – USTA League Spectator Code of Conduct**

In an effort to promote fairness and to ensure a physically and mentally healthy experience for all players, tennis has expectations around spectator behavior to promote a more enjoyable and fair experience for everyone involved.

All spectators attending any USTA League match in Memphis are to adhere to the rules of conduct below:

1. Appropriate clapping or cheering for good shots is encouraged and is allowed. Spectators should do so for both teams' good shots. Wait until point has finished before doing so, otherwise it is a distraction to the players.
2. It is considered poor etiquette to cheer when a player makes an error.
3. It is the responsibility of the Team Captain to make sure their teammates who are spectating do so respectfully to all players.
4. ANY disrespectful, disruptive or abusive behavior by a spectator towards a player on the court shall be cause for immediate removal from the playing area, and if warranted, from the premises.
5. If said behavior is directed toward a player – either before, during or after a match – it shall result in an automatic and immediate suspension of that spectator's right to attend USTA League matches in Memphis, for a period of time to be determined by the Memphis Tennis Association's rules committee. Any prior reported or recorded offenses will be taken into account for this time period.
6. Any inappropriate behavior or communication towards a player on court by a spectator – whether it be about a ruling, line call, style of play or any other facet of tennis – is strictly prohibited while a match is in progress.

[Link to USTA 2024 FRIEND at COURT](#) (Handbook of Rules & Regulations), including THE CODE, The Player Guide to Fair Play and the Unwritten Rules of Tennis, where courtesy, cooperation and etiquette are expected.