



2011 Orange County LOCAL LEAGUE RULES (subject to change)

Welcome!!

Our Local League is just that. It's local, and it incorporates many of the same teams, captains and players, year-after-year. Let's keep in mind that we want to maintain a cooperative, fair, friendly and fun environment for all of us. These Local League Rules may be revised after the captains meeting. The most current version will always be posted on the website: www.orangecountyusta.com

Objective

The objective of the local league is two-fold. We hope to provide a competitive, fair, and friendly tennis environment for local players. We also keep track of the scores of the matches in order to determine the best team at each level who then gets to go on to be the representative at the next level of competition.

Below are the policies, guidelines and rules which govern our local league. When reading these over, please remember that a key objective is to try to make sure all matches are played. Circumstances are not always going to be perfect and ideal. You want to avoid defaults whenever possible. Defaults skew what the true results would be. They provide an artificial win for a team.

In applying the information below, please use as much flexibility and common sense as you can. Please always ask me if you need any clarification regarding these local league rules.

Participation Clarification for our Local League

Orange County is separated into two different Areas for the Women's Leagues & Mixed Doubles Divisions, Weekday and Weekend and each is considered a separate area. The men's and Divisions play only on the Weekends. Players may not play on multiple teams at the same level in the same area. If they are at the same level, they must be in different areas. Therefore, playing Mixed Doubles on a 3.5 Friday, and 3.5 Weekend would be ok ~ Two 3.5 weekend teams.... not ok.

Roster Size Limits

Teams will be limited to 20 players for all divisions.

Captain

Each captain will be responsible for providing at least one e-mail address through which to receive correspondence from the Local League Coordinator.

I need you to be able to receive e-mails from Constant Contact, which is my e-mail managing service. I have a group e-mail that should have all your names on it. If you are not receiving the group e-mails, please let me know.

Captain's Registration

The captain of a team may have their \$18 league fee waived **IF** they register on the captain's-only team, which will cost them only \$3. The number of the captain's team numbers for 2011 are listed in the following document: [Registration Instructions for Captains](#)

These numbers change every year. Make sure you don't give that number out to your team players. Only the team captain, (not the co-captain,) may register using the captain's team number and no refunds will be processed for captains who fail to use it when they register. ****Any player mistakenly registering on that team will be ineligible to play until they re-register on their correct team number, and will not be refunded the \$3 fee.

Team Deletion Deadline

****Each league will have a deadline date which is the last day to request your entire team be removed from the league. This is almost always the day the team information sheets are due. If you have a team online, with registered players, and it turns out you can't have one, there will be no refunds issued for anyone registered on your team unless you request that your entire team be deleted by the deadline. (Unless other arrangements are made ahead of time with me.

Tennis Balls & Refreshments

The **HOME** team provides the balls and refreshments. Penn is the official ball of the SCTA League Programs. Please use Penn balls for your matches.

Most teams provide refreshments after the match. Friday league teams usually provide less of a spread. When you get your schedule, feel free to contact the other captains in your division to find out what they plan to provide, and/or let them know what you will be planning to do.

Team Format

In our local league we play best 2 out of 3 sets.

Our local playoffs will be the same format, unless we have a team playing more than one match in a day. In that case, the entire playoffs will use the format where we will play 2 sets and a Match Tie-Break in lieu of a 3rd set, if needed, first to 10 by 2. (This is a general policy, but specific information regarding each local league playoff will be sent out directly to those captains involved.)

Confirming Matches

See additional Sheet

Exchanging Line-Ups and Recording Scores

Before each of your matches, print off a score card for each match by putting in the match number and clicking on 'print a blank score card'. All the players will be listed below. Bring that to your match with your line up filled in. Once all your players are present, physically exchange your score card with your opponent's. Fill in your players' names on that score card. (You must fill in names, and not just list player numbers.) As the time of your match approaches, if one of your players is not there, you **MUST MOVE THEM TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LINEUP BEFORE YOU EXCHANGE YOUR LINEUPS**. Once you exchange lineups, substitutions may only be made in accordance with National rules, or if both captains agree to the change. Once you exchange lineups, you keep that one, and record scores. Compare it with your opponent's when all the matches are finished to make sure everyone agrees as to the scores. Each captain should sign the score cards indicating they agree with what is written. Both captains must enter the scores and it does not matter which team enters them first. Scores need to be entered the same

day the match is played. The second person who goes to enter has 48 hours from the time the first captain enters to either confirm or deny what the first captain has entered. That is the window for captains to dispute scores entered for matches played. **Please get into the habit of both captains entering scores the day matches are played. If the captain is not able to do so, have a team player enter. Please be very CAREFULL when choosing names and entering numbers for scores. Incorrect data entered affects ratings.**

Post Local League Play

Winning teams of each flight will proceed to either Local League Playoffs, Area/District Playoffs, or directly into Sectionals. No Team will be allowed to win their division by receiving an entire team default from another team. Sectional regulations will be followed regarding full-team defaults. Please make every effort to make up all rescheduled matches within two weeks of original match date, (if possible.)

Local League Playoffs

Where we have more than one flight at a certain level, we will hold Local League Playoffs. Our Local League playoffs dates are always set before the season starts and will be posted on the website: www.orangecountyusta.com The team with the best percentage record will have the option to host the playoffs. Percentage record is found by dividing a team's total number of individual matches won, by the total number of individual matches for which they are scheduled. An exception to this will be if only one team completes their season undefeated. They will not be subjected to the percentage rule above, and will have the option to host. **(If a team does not finish playing all their scheduled matches, they will end up with a lower percentage rate, which could possibly hurt their chances of securing home-court advantage.)** Occasionally, teams play right up until the day before playoffs. If this is the case for a flight, hosting will need to be determined ahead of time, and we will do what seems to make the most sense at the time based on the individual circumstances.

Another exception is when we have four flights at a level, meaning four teams in the playoffs. When this happens, we look for one site to be able to host all matches the first day, (6 courts for most divisions, 10 courts for Adult division,) when we play 3 rounds so this allows everyone to be at the same facility .

Local League Playoff Schedule: (Please note... these are different than Area/District Playoffs. We rarely have to go to those. Dates for Area/District Playoffs are posted on the SCTA website and are NOT the same dates for the Local League Playoffs. Here are those dates for 2010: (Dates are subject to change.)

Mixed Doubles: March 26 for most flights

Match Schedule

The team bye requests, (not facility bye requests,) are what typically make the scheduling more complicated and lengthy, and often cause the schedules to be delayed. Unless it's a no-brainer, where I can move a match to the end of the season, without having you go late, I will leave your matches scheduled on your bye request dates. Many of you don't have these and won't be affected. **It will be up to the captain who needs the bye to contact their opponent for that match, (within the first week of the league,) and reschedule the**

match by mutual agreement. E-mail me the new time/day and I will change the match in Tennis Link. This gives captains the flexibility to reschedule a problem match on a day other than the normal league day, and in most cases, create a better schedule for themselves and their opponents than when I have to reschedule all the requested bye dates. **All bye requests must be handled in the first week, AND need to be listed on your team information sheet.** **After the first week of play, the schedules should be set and captains should not expect their opponents to reschedule matches during the season because "things come up," or because they failed to reschedule their originally requested bye during the time required time frame.** Please talk to your players and find out ahead of time all the dates when you will be unable to field a team. For the mixed doubles, I should be able to handle the bye requests because there are fewer teams. **Your schedules will be posted on Tennis Link by the Sunday night before your first match.** When you get your schedule, look it over, and **take it to your facility director and ask them if they see any problems. Make sure to tell them it's a PRELIMINARY schedule.** Let me know if there are any errors **within 7 days** of receiving your schedule. If there are errors, I will make the changes, update Tennis Link. During the first 7 days, the schedule change continuously and must be checked frequently. Even if you do not have team bye requests, your schedule will likely change during this time. During this period, changes will be made without notification. After the 7 days has past, when I make a schedule change, I will send an e-mail to both captains to notify them of the change. Please respond to my e-mail, so I know you are aware of the change. After the 7 days, schedules will be final unless a facility later schedules an event on top of a USTA match, or if I've made a mistake that needs to be fixed later. Notify your facility of your first match, but please **WAIT to get a copy of your complete schedule to your Facility until after initial changes have been made to it during this first week.**

Scorecards

If you go to enter a scorecard, and one of the players is not on Tennis Link, **DO NOT enter it using a substitute name!** E-mail me with the problem, and the person's name AND the match number. Remember that both teams must report scores.

Postponement

If a match is rescheduled, please let me know immediately, via e-mail, and I will change the date in Tennis Link. Both captains need to reply to the e-mail, so I know that everyone is on the same page as far as date/time goes. Rescheduled matches need to be made up ASAP. We can't wait to the end to see if it counts. This ends up inconveniencing others, and often does not allow matches to be played in time to determine flight winners, and creates a mess for playoffs. If two teams can not come up with a date to reschedule, I will assign a date.

The Code

Please make a copy of The Code, (which is the last three pages of the Sectional Regulations,) and distribute it to all of your players. (Please make sure to ask them to read it.)

Cell Phones

Captains, when you address both teams before the match, please make the announcement that all cell phones need to be turned off and that is their warning. If a cell phone goes off during the match, it's a point penalty.

Registration Problems

Some of you had legitimate problems registering players. We anticipate that there will again be the oddball problem situation (that hopefully will be rare.) If you are having registration problems, and need to play that player; please communicate with me the nature of your problem. At that time I will either ok, or disallow your player to play. If I ok it, then the scorecard will not be able to be entered immediately. If you are the team captain who has been granted the ok, then you need to inform the other captain that the player will not be on the drop-down menu, and that they will have to wait until the registration gets straightened out to enter the scores. Please show them a copy of the e-mail I send you giving you the ok. As soon as the registration is straightened out, then you need to notify the other captain that you have registered the player and entered the scores and that they can now go in and either confirm or dispute. We will avoid defaulting matches because players were not registered on time whenever possible.

Default Times

The default penalties will be calculated from the MATCH TIME. The home team captain should be near the entry of the facility, and greet the players as they enter. The place of entry to the facility will be where the player must be present when the match time occurs. However, if players are present, and courts are not available, the home team will not have to default any games. You will need to wait for courts to become available. If courts are not available within 30 minutes of the match time, the match becomes a reschedule and follows the rescheduling rules in the Full-Team Default Section. Individual Match default rules are found in the Sectional Handbook.

Defaults

If you are going to default and not bring players, you should call the other captain by 5:00 pm the day before the match. Once you call to default, the match may only be played if the other captain agrees.

*****Captains and/or players may not take a default and then play the match "for fun". If there is time to play the match, and people want to play, go ahead and play it. If you play the match, it will count towards the standings. Again, we want to minimize defaults in the league.

Full-Team Defaults

All teams in contention to advance to the next level of competition may not do so as a result of receiving an entire-team default. Therefore, every effort must be made to play all scheduled matches. If a match needs to be rescheduled, the following local league regulation applies:

- 1) If it is more convenient, for the team who would have received the default, that team may now elect to become the hosting team, whether they were originally or not, and will reschedule at their convenience.

- 2) The team who would have caused the default will need to default line 3 in a 3-match format and 2 of the lines in when we play a 5-match format. The captain who is the one who would have received the default gets to decide which of the 3 lines will be played. This is supposed to act as deterrent to captains wanting to reschedule because they don't have their best players available.

If it is found that a team does default an entire match, and it affects the outcome of the division, then all teams in contention will receive the same default for that round of the round-robin, in accordance with our Sectional Rules. **Teams who cause entire-team defaults risk possible sanctions including being prevented from participating in the league in the future.**

Teams with Split Times

A few of our teams are required by their facility, (due to lack of available courts,) to play their matches with a split-time. Anyone who is in this situation needs to let me know about it on their Team Information Sheet. If this is the case, the team who has the split time needs to communicate that immediately with all the teams in their fight. There must also be a set policy in the beginning of the league for how the matches will go on and this needs to be sent to me as well as communicated with the other teams in the flight. Example.... Lines 1 & 2 at 9:00am and Line 3 at 11:00am. It must be designated which lines will go on first and which will follow and this will be the same for all the matches in the schedule. Again, a policy needs to be in place before the first match is played. Fully filled out line-ups must be exchanged before 9:00 am and those names can not change. More about split times..... You will see match times on the schedules, and you will see times listed after each team's name. Sometimes a team will have two times listed after it, or two different days. What this means is that they play their match sometimes at one time, and sometimes at another. The time on the schedule on a specific date will be the time for that match. Captains..... when the schedules go out initially, check your times and see they are all correct. Once the schedules are set, the time on the schedule is the correct time.

Timed Matches

Our facilities designate court time for our matches. As we all know, sometimes our matches go beyond this designated time and we potentially hold up other matches which were designated to go on after ours. At a busy facility, there is no way we can expect to be granted back-to-back time slots to guarantee we will have enough time to finish our matches. To help ensure our matches are played within our allotted times, our league will immediately adopt the following guidelines. These will pertain to any match played which goes beyond the designated time allotted by the facility and there are players waiting to use the court. Here is the document explaining how to handle [TIMED MATCHES](#)

STRAYING FROM THE RULES...

If two captains mutually agree to do something differently, than is outlined in the Local League Rules, that's usually ok. However, you should always put ALL agreements in writing.

(e-mail is best.) If it's not in writing, and there is a disagreement as to the agreement, we'll follow the rules as posted.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding any of this.
Good luck to everyone this season!

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Heidi Stryker

Orange County USTA League Coordinator

Adult, Senior, Super Senior, SCTA Doubles, Tri-Level, FLEX Singles and Junior Team Tennis

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