



BUFFALO USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

"BUFFALO FRIEND AT THE COURT" 2017 (02/14/17)

Age Groups: 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over

CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Must be familiar with the structure, procedures, and the rules of the Local, Section, and National League regulations and the general Rules of Tennis, including the Code of Conduct.
- Adhere to league schedules and comply with announcements posted: www.bncta.org
- It is the captain's responsibility to ensure that a full team is fielded for all scheduled team matches. As soon as you know you will be unable to field a full team for a specific match, contact the opposing captain and the designated club, no later than **72 hours** in advance, to cancel court(s). Your team will be responsible for the cost of defaulted court(s) if you do not provide sufficient notice. Recruit enough players and alternates necessary to field complete teams.
- BNCTA defers to clubs and their policy concerning alcoholic beverages and food service. Should you choose to take alcoholic beverages to consume after your match, it is up to teams to contact the club to find out what their policy is, and then to adhere to that policy.
- Regular matches will be scheduled and played according to the league schedule. Rescheduling of play due to extreme weather conditions must be mutually agreed upon by both captains with the full understanding of their financial responsibility for court fees owed to clubs. The responsibility to reschedule is that of the captains. Rescheduled date shall be submitted to the Local League Coordinator within seven (7) days of the scheduled match or a date will be assigned.

REGISTRATION/TEAM ROSTER:

- Team rosters are unlimited. Refunds will not be given to those who do not play a match unless extenuating circumstances apply (for example an injury prior to the start of the league).
- Fifty percent of the team's players must be computer or self-rated at NTRP level for the flight (i.e. 3.0, 3.5, etc).
- Player Registration (18 & Over, 40 & Over) will be closed on **July 7, 2017**. Players will not be allowed to register after that date, with the exception of low incident leagues.
- Player Registration (55 & Over, 65 & Over, 40 & Over Mixed) will be closed on **August 4, 2017**. Players will not be allowed to register after this date, with the exception of low incident leagues. Players must be registered on the team prior to participating in any match (if players are not registered prior to play, the score cannot be entered in TennisLink).

REGISTRATION/TEAM ROSTER: (con't)

- Valid Team Match: For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match.
- Local Play-Off match(s) is/are considered part of the local/regular season.
- Low incident leagues shall have a minimum of two competitive teams registered on TennisLink by the designated registration team deadline established by the Buffalo League Team. Forty percent of team's players must be computer-rated or self-rated at that level.

COMPETITION FORMAT:

- Home Team (listed first) is responsible for providing refreshments and reporting scores through TennisLink within 48 hours following conclusion of the match. The Away Team provides tennis balls and confirms scores in TennisLink within 48 hours.
- A match may be protested by checking "Dispute" on the scorecard in TennisLink and must be followed-up by a contact with the Local League Coordinator regarding the problem. All matches confirmed may not be disputed at a later date.
- Print blank line-up scorecards from TennisLink.
- Court fees (\$15/person) must be collected before the match and paid to the club desk prior to play.
- Line-ups must be exchanged simultaneously prior to the start of the first match, with a 15-minute default rule (inclusive of warm up). Line-ups cannot be changed except for substitution for an injury during the warm-up or for rearranging player positions due to a default.
- If you must default a court, you must default the lower position courts first (third doubles). In doubles, the teams must move up as a pair, you cannot change the line-up and re-arrange pairs. If the default was a 1st doubles player, that 1st doubles team is moved into 3rd doubles and 2nd and 3rd doubles are moved up as a team. The present player for 1st doubles cannot play with a different partner.
- Warm-ups shall take no longer than 10 minutes inclusive of service practice.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Coordinator has overriding authority in situations deemed appropriate for matches to be played out on the court rather than scored as defaults.
- Clerical error should not determine the outcome of a League: Coordinator has authority to determine how an affected match will be corrected.
- In the cases of extenuating circumstances, a Local League Coordinator or Captains (from each team) may mutually agree to extend the default time beyond the 15-minute limit. These circumstances would include, but not limited to, extreme weather or travel conditions to include snowstorms, bridge or skyway closings, and major street closings.
- Buffalo League Committee in collaboration with the BNCTA will pay all post-season entry fees.

MATCH PLAY:

- All matches will be two out of three tiebreak sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of the third set.
- The Match Tiebreaker is first team to ten points by margin of at least two. Team service order may change, as this is the "third set." First server plays one point, then the serve moves to the opposing team for two consecutive points and so play continues. Players shall use the Coman Rotation for all tiebreaks.
- Time factors: 20 seconds between end of a point and the next serve; 90 seconds for odd game changeover (note only 20 seconds following the first game of a set) a two-minute break, if necessary, can be taken between all sets and the match tiebreak.
- Injury timeout: Players allotted three minutes after diagnosis unless bleeding occurs; an emergency break (bathroom, other considered emergency), take a "reasonable amount of time". The other team should watch time for excessive use.
- Players should not leave the court unless an emergency has been declared to both sides.
- Cell phone use on the court is considered a deliberate potential hindrance. Turn off phones.
- Spectators do not participate in any decision on a point/score in a match and are expected to show good sportsmanship while viewing.
- A ball must be called "good" if there is doubt (not sure of the call), disagreement between partners, or the ball was not seen.
- The point is lost when a player touches the net, is touched by the ball, or crosses the net before the ball is struck.
- All calls must be made promptly. Players may strike the ball and then immediately call it out. Calls should be made before the player's ball is out of play or the opponent has an opportunity to return the ball. (The Code, Rule 17)
- A delay between the first and second serves not caused by the server will allow a let first serve. A quick delay may not be grounds for another serve, with the receiver as the judge of the delay time.
- If a racquet breaks, the player has only the time allowed between points (20 seconds) or at the changeover (90 seconds) to correct the problem.
- A let may be claimed for a hindrance (motions or sounds from the opponent interfering at the time the player is getting ready to hit the ball).
- To prevent score confusions, give line calls and scores out loud at each occasion. If score confusion occurs, the players count all point and games agreed upon and replay only the disputed points. If players cannot agree on the court in which the disputed point was played, toss and coin to select the court. If there is no agreement on the disputed point/game, play from a mutually agreeable score. If still no agreement, spin a racquet or toss a coin to settle the dispute.
- An on-court problem or unsportsmanlike behavior that cannot be resolved by the players themselves can be handled by requesting an on-court observer from each team when they become available, stopping the match until that time. The observers stationed at each end post do not intrude on the match unless asked for their observation of an incident, which is then treated as a ruling if both agree.

LOCAL LEAGUE WINNERS:

The total win/loss team record determines the league flight winners. In case of a two-way tie a head to head sudden death play-off is scheduled by the League Coordinator. If a three-way tie occurs the tie is broken (to determine the top two teams) as it appears in TennisLink order: by head-to-head, sets (team with fewest number of sets lost, games (team with fewest number of games lost) and lastly, a coin toss.

If a team's complete match default affects the outcome of the league, the Buffalo Local League Team will penalize that team's actions to the extent that all matches played during that season will be considered null and void. In addition, the captain of the team defaulting will not be allowed to captain the following season.

USTA Buffalo League Tennis

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Buffalo Niagara Community Tennis Association

http://www.bncta.org/league_tennis/

http://www.bncta.org/news/league_tennis_general_information/

- League Tennis Honor Code
- Post Season Dates: Regional, Sectional and National

http://www.bncta.org/news/league_tennis_rules_and_regulations/

- 2016 USTA Eastern Section Regulations
- Buffalo USTA League Regulation (4/26/2016)
- Buffalo Game Day Protocol
- 2016 USTA Friend at the Court
- Buffalo USTA Matches not finished on time
- Buffalo USTA Problem Solving Guidelines
- Buffalo District Grievance Form

