

2013 Metro USTA League Mixed Doubles Regional Playoff Regulations

Congratulations on a successful season and reaching the playoffs. Captains should review the following regulations with their players PRIOR to their matches.

Venue: Matches will be played outdoors at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. For directions, visit www.metrotennis.com

Rain: In case of rain, do NOT assume your match is cancelled. Tournament staff may elect to resume play when the weather clears, re-schedule or move the matches to another location. Captains will be contacted when a decision has been made.

If it rains prior to the start of your match, and the match can not be played that day - new line-ups are submitted on the rain date and defaults erased. If the match is suspended due to rain, the line-up may NOT be changed and the original players must finish the match on the rain date. If a player in the original line-up is not available for the rain-date, that court will be scored as a retirement by the non-available player.

Playoff Format: This is a round-robin tournament. Each team will play the other teams at their level once. Each court is worth 1 point. The team that wins the most courts in each match is awarded the win. The team from each level with the most wins advances to the Section Championships in Schenectady.

Schedule: The match schedule is attached. **Matches may start earlier than scheduled.**

All match times are approximate except for the first match of the day. Matches will be called as the courts become available. The default time (15 minutes) starts when the court is called.

Eligibility: Players must have 2 local matches recorded. Only 1 default may count towards eligibility. Each team should arrive with a minimum of 8 players available to play. Any team that can not meet that requirement must notify the League Coordinator in advance so a determination on their participation can be made.

Players who play on more than one team, 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 regional championships. By playing in these matches, players have declared for the Metro Region and may not play for any other region until this tournament is completed and their Metro team is eliminated from competition. (please refer to the Eastern Regulations for more details)

All players must have government issued photo ID. Random checks will be done throughout the tournament.

Check-in and Scorecards:

The tournament desk will be located outside at Court 13. Captains are required to check in at the tournament desk upon arrival. Scorecards will be given to the Captain upon check-in. **Captains must present their lineup 30 minutes prior to their scheduled match time. If a player is late, the captain must put the missing player in the 3rd doubles position before the lineup is submitted.**

All players must be present and ready to play 30 minutes prior to the start of their match.

When the court is called, all players must report to the tournament desk, introduce themselves to their opponent and then proceed immediately to their court. Players who delay the start of a match will be penalized under the "Code"

Officials:

USTA roving umpires will be present during the matches to maintain warm-up and rest periods, resolve disputes and enforce the rules of tennis. Officials will call foot-faults and penalize code violations. A referee will be present to answer questions about tennis rules.

Match details:

Warm up: 10 minutes, including serves.

Games are regular scoring, with a tie-break (first to 7pts) when 6-6 in games is reached during the first 2 sets. If you split sets, a 10-point tiebreak will be played in lieu of the 3rd set. In doubles, order of serve and receiving order can be changed after each set.

Coman tie-break procedure is used for all tie-breaks: players change ends after the 1st point and after every 4 points thereafter.

Breaks: A 2 minute break is permitted between the 1st and 2nd set. Play is continuous between the 2nd set and 3rd set tiebreak unless there is a changeover. A maximum of 90 seconds is allowed on changeovers, 20 seconds between points.

All matches are played to completion.

All players (winners and losers) are required to turn in the balls and report their scores to the tournament desk IMMEDIATELY.

BOTH captains must sign the scorecards after all courts are completed.

Player Etiquette:

Players must follow the USTA Code of Conduct at all times.

The server must call the score loudly and clearly before each serve. 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, the ball is good. (A ball that is 99% out is still 100% in). Officials will overrule bad line calls.

All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off during matches. Officials will penalize any player who violates this rule.

Bathroom breaks may be taken, but should be on a changeover and with the official's knowledge. Players may not talk to their teammates, coaches or spectators during this break.

Spectator Etiquette

Spectators, family and team members are encouraged to attend our playoffs, as long as they abide by the following:

- **May not** talk to players on the court. Coaching is not allowed, and talking to players will be treated as coaching.
- **May not** comment or make visual signals on line calls.
- **May not** cause any distractions to the players.
- **May not** engage in any form of verbal abuse against players, spectators, or tournament staff.
- **Must** limit clapping and cheering as it disrupts play on adjacent courts.
- **MUST silence** off all cell phones and electronic devices to avoid a distraction to players.
- **May not** approach the officials to discuss matters relating to play or the players. They may, upon the request of a player, alert the official that a court needs assistance.
- **May not** use flash photography nor videotape matches.
- **May not enter any tournament court without the permission of the tournament staff.**

Spectators who violate these rules will be asked to leave.

A warning and/or 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.

Refreshments

The tournament staff will provide snacks (i.e. bananas, granola bars) for the players. Please make sure your players bring their own water and any other dietary requirements.