

Mansfield Area Tennis Association

LEAGUE RULES

I. GENERAL The ladies' MATA League Tennis for the Adult Spring and Adult Fall will be governed by the Mansfield Area Tennis Association League Tennis Regulations, at www.mansfieldareatennisassociation.com. All players participating in these leagues shall abide the standards of good conduct, fair play, good sportsmanship and are responsible for knowing the MATA League Rules. Not all possible incidents and ramifications are covered in the following rules. Participants in unusual or undocumented situations will have to abide by the decisions of the Rules Committee and/or the Board of Directors. If there is a conflict in an interpretation of any rule, MATA Rules shall supersede.

II. ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

- A. All Team Members must pay a semi-annual Membership Fee to MATA prior to participation:
 - 1. Any returned check payable to MATA will be dealt with at the discretion of the MATA Board of Directors.
 - 2. No one under the age of eighteen (18) years of age may participate in MATA Leagues.

- B. Ladies Doubles League
 - 1. A team will consist of at least eight (8) members and no more than fourteen (14) members.
 - 2. A player may be listed on only one (1) roster in the Ladies League

- C. A team that fails to participate once a roster has been submitted is ineligible to play for the current season and may be ineligible the following season.

- D. ILLEGAL PLAYER is defined as someone played by a team who is not on that team's roster and/or not a member of MATA, or otherwise deemed illegal by the Rules Committee. The line played by the illegal player shall be treated as a default. Any additional penalties to the captain and the illegal player are to be reviewed by the Rules Committee.

- E. ROSTER REGISTRATION
 - 1. Returning Teams may register in person at the Captains meeting or mail roster forms and checks to MATA by the mail-in deadline. A new team must submit their roster in person at the captain's meeting. After the captain's meeting, no new teams may be added.
 - 2. If a player moves or is hurt and cannot play the entire season, the player may be deleted from a roster in order to add a new player with the permission of the Rules Committee. Once a player has been deleted, the player may not play again the entire season.
 - 3. Players may not be added to a roster after the 3rd scheduled match unless the player is replacing an injured player or a player who has moved out of the area.
 - 4. A returning team must maintain at least 50% of the players listed on the team's roster at the conclusion of the previous season, or it will be considered a NEW team. Only a returning team may receive the benefit of an earned promotion.

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III. TEAM PLACEMENT

A. TERMS

1. A *flight* is a *designation* for a group of teams not to exceed ten (10)
2. A *division* is an alphabetical designation for a subgroup of teams, not to exceed ten (10) teams within a flight

B. TEAM MOVEMENT AMONG FLIGHTS

1. Existing teams will move from flight to flight, based on the results of play in the season just completed.
2. A team *finishing first* will automatically move to the division above
3. A team *finishing first* in two (2) consecutive seasons will be placed one additional flight higher
4. A team *finishing second* in its flight may move to the division above, subject to openings in that higher flight.
5. A team *finishing last* in its flight will move to the division below.
6. A team *finishing second-to-last* in its flight may move to the division below, unless an opening remains in the flight in which they competed after all other team movements have been made.
7. No team position is secure except for first place finishers.

C. NEW TEAM PLACEMENT

1. The placement committee is responsible for determining the divisions into which new teams will challenge. The Committee's decision will be based on information provided by the team captain on the "New Team Information Form", which is submitted at the Captain's Meeting, and on existing MATA records and/or experience or USTA league experience or ratings.

D. TEAM MOVEMENT

1. Existing teams may move up or down depending on the placement of new teams and/or openings in the divisions above.

IV. COURTS AND BALLS

- A. Each team is required to guarantee use of three (3) HARD/OUTDOOR courts each week for match play at an approved facility.

- B. Matches will be on Mondays unless postponed by rain or MATA Board decision.

Matches are to begin at 9:30 unless a later time between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. is agreed upon by both captains. ALL LINES MUST PLAY AT THE SAME TIME.

1. Home teams MUST provide two (2) hours per match.
2. If at the end of two (2) hours, the match is not competed, the home team must provide alternate courts and the match must be restarted within one (1) hours at the same facility or at an approved available MATA facility. If alternate courts cannot be provided within one (1) hours, the home team must default to the visiting team. The home team will pay any additional court fees. Any team refusing to relinquish courts to a later scheduled match, when requested, will be subject to default.

- C. Outdoor or Guest Fees are to be paid by the Home Team for scheduled match times.

- D. Home teams must provide approved courts within the MATA boundaries if home courts are not playable.

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E. Home teams must supply a can of new, yellow USTA rated hard-court balls for each match. No seconds allowed.

F. INDOOR COURTS

1. Indoor courts may be used at any time if both captains agree
2. The Visiting Team Captains have the right to elect whether or not the team wishes to play on indoor courts.
3. When teams elect to play indoors, visitors should expect to pay half the court fees and abide by indoor court times and rules.
4. If indoor courts are used due to rain-out conditions and a match extends beyond the 2-hour court time, it will either be continued on another available court indoors or outdoors, or if no other courts are available, it will be treated as a rain make-up and rescheduled per the rain make-up requirements and deadlines.
5. If all four (4) players agree to waive the changing of court sides at odd game changeovers, they may do so.

V. MATCH PLAY

A. The team matches will consist of three (3) doubles matches.

B. Individual matches will be the best 2 of 3 sets, regular scoring. The 7-Point Coman Tiebreak will be in effect any time the score reaches 6 games all in any set.

C. MATA does not require facilities to provide "warm up" courts before a match is scheduled to begin. This is a facility courtesy provided to visiting teams. A visiting team captain should always check-in upon arriving at a facility and request availability.

D. Play must begin no later than fifteen(15) minutes after the scheduled match time. Warm up and practice serves must be taken within this fifteen (15) minute time period. Should a player arrive, at the site of play, late but prior to the default time the player must be given a warm-up and practice serve period not to exceed five (5) minutes. Play is continuous from the first ball served in the match except when interrupted by rain or when the match exceeds the two (2) hours court time limit.

E. SCORING: Scoring will be one (1) point per set won.

F. COACHING

1. Coaching is defined as any advice, signal or comment relayed by any means, INCLUDING ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (i.e. cell phones) to the participants in a match by anybody, whether a bona fide coach, teammate or bystander.
2. Players may not accept any coaching during the progress of a match, except during an official rest period (not to exceed ten minutes) between the second and third sets. If coaching occurs during a match, the team could be defaulted.

G. CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Team Captains, or designates, **MUST HAVE THEIR LINE-UPS MADE OUT AND EXCHANGED** by the designated match time.
2. After score sheets are exchanged, there can be **NO SWITCHING** of players, teams or positions. Replacement of players may occur only under the following conditions:
 - a. One of the team's members had to send a replacement and the Captain did not know until the player arrived or a player does not show up and an eligible replacement is available before default time; or

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- b. An injury or emergency during warm-up occurs and an eligible replacement can be made within the default time. An eligible player is a player whose name is on the team's roster but is not on the current match score sheet.
 - c. In the event that two (2) players from different lines are unavailable for play, the available player from the lower line may take the place of the unavailable player from the higher line to form a new team.
 - d. Captains must inform the opposing Captain of any lineup changes before the match begins.
3. Score sheets must be completed, signed and kept by each Captain. In the event of a discrepancy in the scores, the Captains may be asked to provide a copy of the score sheet in question.
 4. Each Home Team Captain or designate must enter their match scores on the MATA website by 12:00 midnight on the day of the completed match. Failure to enter scores on time will result in one (1) penalty point for each day they are late.
 5. Visiting team Captains are responsible for checking the entered scores and reporting any inaccuracies to their Rules Coordinator within seventy-two (72) hours of the completed match. After seventy-two (72) hours, the scores will stand as entered.

H. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Read and know USTA and MATA rules, so that you are prepared for any situation that may arise.
2. Know the position you are playing and the names of your opponents before starting the match.
3. A player may leave the court for:
 - a. A ten (10) minute break between second and third sets.
 - b. A bona fide bathroom visit.
4. Players involved in a dispute during a match, declaring that the match is played under protest, must continue the match to its conclusion, and then may inform the Rules Director by written complaint within seven (7) days from the completion of the disputed match.

I. RESCHEDULED MATCHES DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

1. No matches are to be rescheduled unless postponed because of rain
2. There are no provisions for extreme cold, heat, or wind.

J. RAIN DELAYED MATCHES

1. In the event of rain, all players must be *ON SITE* for play at least one (1) hour beyond the time of scheduled match play unless BOTH captains agree otherwise. Should rain begin after match play has begun, all players must remain ON SITE one (1) hour in an effort to resume match play unless BOTH captains agree otherwise. Total delay time (prior to or during play) is not to exceed one hour.
2. Both captains must submit a RAIN MAKE-UP REPORT by MIDNIGHT of the 7th day following the originally scheduled match. The report must include the dates and times for each line.
3. Rescheduled matches must be played within a two (2) week period of the originally scheduled match. Rescheduled matches that are rained out will be allowed a one (1) week extension from the rescheduled date. Day one (1) begins from the day after the scheduled or rescheduled match.
4. Once a match is officially rescheduled and a Rain Make-up Report has been submitted, it cannot be changed unless it rains.

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5. Incomplete matches will be continued by the same players at the exact place halted-set, game, point. Indicate such on the back of both score sheets to prevent controversy when resuming play.
6. In matches where rosters have been exchanged, but the match not begun, a NEW roster may be exchanged for the make-up match. If a default has been issued, it is now voided. However, if a minimum of one court has served the first ball, the roster is locked in and cannot be changed.
7. Teams may play make-up matches by positions rather than as a whole team. Home Team Captains must be flexible in designating three (3) or more alternate days and times, not be consecutive days, for make-up matches. Night and weekend times will not be considered reasonable times, however both Team Captains may agree to play at these times. Captains unable to agree on rescheduling are subject to playing at a time designated by the League Coordinator.
8. If all three (3) courts play at the same time, line-ups must be made out and exchanged by the designated match time. If positions play at different times, the line-ups may be filled out as the positions are played.
9. For incomplete matches scheduled for make-up beyond three days, the home team will supply NEW balls.

H. DEFAULTS AD RETIRED MATCHES

1. If a player or players arrive on the court after fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled match time, the line is a DEFAULT. Cell phones are used to decide the default time.
2. When a default occurs, regardless of which pair cannot play, defaulting begins with the lowest line.
3. All default time limitations shall apply to rescheduled matches as well.
4. Any time a team WILLFULLY DEFAULTS an entire match (all positions) in one week, that team and all members will be disqualified for that season and may be barred from playing the next season.
5. In a defaulted match, points per set are credited to the team having both players present prior to the default time and recorded with the 4 winner's score as DEFAULT. Once a default has been given, the default stands.
6. If a default has been given prior to a match, and the match, which is scheduled to be played outdoors, is rained out with no play, then the default is voided. However, if both captains have agreed prior to the match to play indoors or covered, then the default stands.
7. As a courtesy to the other team, the Captain should contact the opposing Captain of the default prior to the match. The website score sheet does not require names, only the score 6-0, 6-0 or 0-6, 0-6, according to which team is defaulting, and the team name which has won by default.
8. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player/doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, emergency, or refusal to play. If a match is RETIRED, write the match score up to the point of retirement and indicate the reason on the written score sheet. All points, games and sets stand as played. Score the match exactly as played, giving the win (2 points) to the players who did not have to stop play.
9. An ACCIDENTAL INJURY TIME OUT may be taken at the time of the injury or at the next change over.
 - a. Time out during play - "play" will be called within three (3) minutes after the injury, and the server must strike the ball within 30 seconds thereafter.
 - b. Time out taken at changeover - "play" will be called at the end of five (5) minutes and the players must strike the ball with 30 seconds thereafter.

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c. If play is not resumed within the required time, the injured player is defaulted.

K. CHILDREN - Unsupervised children are not allowed on or around the courts during match play.

L. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. A player may not USE electronic devices such as cell phones, digital messaging systems, radios, mp3 players, CD or DVD players, cassette players, and any device capable of receiving communication during the match, except during the official rest period (not to exceed ten minutes) between the second and third set.
 - a. First offense: Warning
 - b. Second offense: Point claimed in current game or beginning of new game
 - c. Third offense: Game claimed in current game, current tiebreak, or new game
 - d. Fourth offense: Default of match
2. On court, phones, beepers, and other electronic devices that emit a noise or ring during play are considered a "deliberate hindrance" and the opponent is allowed to claim the current game. During a tiebreaker, the opponent may claim the entire tiebreaker.
3. A spectator's phone ringing is not considered a hindrance.

M. WATER

Each player is responsible for providing her own water ON COURT.

N. FLIGHT WINNERS

1. A total of all points at the end of the regular season will determine the order of finish in a division.
2. Ties for all positions will be broken by one of the following methods, in this order:
 - a. Match score among tied teams (head to head)
 - b. Fewest sets lost among tied teams (head to head)
 - c. Fewest games lost among tied teams (head-to-head)
 - d. Fewest sets lost against all opponents
 - e. Fewest games lost against all opponents
 - f. Coin toss
3. Awards will be given to all members of the FIRST place team in each division.