

Downeast Local League Tennis Rules 2008 For Southern Adult and Senior Combo Doubles

The Downeast League will abide by the 2008 National USTA League Regulations, the 2008 Southern Sectional Regulations and the 2008 North Carolina Regulations. In addition to these regulations, the following Local League Regulations will apply.

Players and Teams

1. All participants must be members of the USTA through **October, 2008**. **Each Adult and Senior team must have a roster with a minimum of six (6) players**. All teams, Adult and Senior, may have a total of 14 players on their roster.
2. TennisLink is the official system for registering teams for the USTA League tennis program. All teams must register for the USTA League Tennis Program by completing a team roster using the TennisLink system. **Each Adult and Senior team must have the minimum number (6) players (and a captain) registered on TennisLink by August 1, 2008 in order to register as a team**. Any team with less than the above stated roster number on the deadline will not be included in the 2008 schedule.
3. Any team who registers by the deadline, then drops out of the league prior to their first match will be asked to pay a \$100.00 deposit the following season in order to register as a team (team is defined as 3 or more members from the previous seasons roster). This deposit will be refunded only if the team completes the season with no more than one team default. The deposit, if not returned, will go to the division winner to help defray costs of the state tournament.
4. The deadline for all adult and senior players to be registered on a team on TennisLink is **October 2, 2008**. No players may be added to the rosters after this date. All players requesting a refund of their Local Fees and the State Head Tax charges will be given a refund when requesting prior to their teams first match.
5. Players 59 and under who have a compurank from year end 2005 through 2007 must play at that level or above; players 60 and over who have a compurank from year end 2006 through 2007 must play at that level or above. All other players must self-rate on TennisLink.
6. **Extension of these registration deadlines can only be made by the Local League Coordinator in conjunction with the State League Coordinator.**

Pre-Match Play

1. Each team must have a captain or ACTING captain present at every match. Captains must simultaneously exchange completed scorecards no later than five minutes prior to the scheduled time of the match, or sooner if possible to keep the schedule on time. An individual match has started when the first ball of the first point has been put into play.
2. Matches will begin promptly at the scheduled time. The point penalty system regarding lateness for a match will not be used. There will be a fifteen minute default rule. Warm-up time should not exceed 10 minutes.
3. Any player scheduled to play the match that is not on site at the time of the scorecard exchange **must** be placed in the lowest defaultable position on the scorecard prior to the exchange of scorecards. The captain or acting captain of the team who has the missing player(s) will make this change (see #9 under Pre-Match Play). In the event of a “No-show” of a player prior to the start of an individual court (once the scorecards have been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position prior to the conclusion of the 15 minute default time. The substitute player may not be someone already listed on the scorecard. **If no such substitution can be made, only the affected position will be forfeited.** A “No-show” is defined as a player the captain fully expected to arrive ready to play the match but for some reason did not arrive prior to the default time. In case of illness or injury of a player during warm-up, a team may substitute a player in the affected position prior to the conclusion of the default time. The substitute player may not be someone already listed on the scorecard. **If no such substitution can be made, only the affected position will be forfeited.**
4. The home team shall furnish new balls for each match. Balls must be USTA approved.
5. **The format for Adult and Senior teams will be 3 doubles matches.**
6. Any facility with hard and soft courts used for their home matches must give their opponents a one week notice, if asked by the visiting captain, as to the individual matches that will be played on the hard courts. For playoffs, the home team must give this notice, when asked, as soon as they are declared the home team.
7. **A team must have enough players available to play to be able to win a team match. This means that Adult and Senior teams must have players for two (2) courts. If this condition is not met, the entire match becomes a FORFEIT, with the opponents winning all courts.**
8. Any team that forfeits 2 team matches, for whatever reason, will be disqualified from the Downeast Combo League until next year. If a team is disqualified then all matches previously played will be considered forfeits. A grievance will be automatically filed with the Local Grievance Committee against the team by the local league coordinator.
9. **During team matches, forfeits are taken from the bottom up on the scorecard. That means that the default position for Combo would be 3rd doubles. The player(s) who win by forfeit must be present and ready to play, unless agreed upon by the captains prior to the match.**
10. Two teams playing at the same level from the same facility will be scheduled to play within the first weeks of the season. Any rainout matches re-scheduled between these two teams must be approved by the local league coordinator.
11. A team with at least two players participating in post-season play may treat any match scheduled during the post-season tournament as a rained out match. This match must be rescheduled according to the Downeast rainout policy.

Match Play

1. Each doubles match shall consist of the best of two sets. A set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in the set. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break will be played in lieu of a third set with no rest period or coaching allowed.
2. Continuous play and rest periods: At the end of the first game of each set and during the set tiebreak, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period. All other changeovers within a set allow players a rest up to 90 seconds. At the conclusion of the first set (and second set, if applicable), there shall be a break of a maximum of 120 seconds from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game to the time the ball is struck for the first point of the next game.
3. Reasonable bathroom breaks are allowed. If a bathroom facility is not available at a site, then a player may leave to go to the bathroom. No one should accompany that player but a partner or an opponent.
4. No one is allowed within the fenced court area except the players who are playing on that court. When players finish their match, they must exit the court immediately after the match. **No** outside advice of any kind is allowed from anyone. This includes line calls and help with scoring.
5. All cell phones of participating players should be turned off or to silent during the League Matches. This is considered an official warning about cell phones. The player, whose cell phone rings during a match, loses the point. The penalty is only enforced on the court of the cell phone owner.
6. Scores must be recorded by the home team captain on TennisLink within **48 hours** of the completion of the match and confirmed within 48 hours by the visiting team captain.
7. TennisLink does not like ties. Therefore, in the case of a double default where the match ends in a 1-1 tie; the team winner will be chosen according to the tie-break system (least number of sets lost; then least number of games lost; if it is still a tie, then the visiting team is chosen as the winner).
8. In the event of rain, the captains shall decide whether or not to begin or continue a match. If it is raining or the weather is questionable, do not assume the match is cancelled. Your team must show up ready to play unless both captains of the teams have spoken in person and have cancelled the match **or** the captains have been informed by the LLC that the match has been cancelled. The captains are responsible for rescheduling a rained-out match. **A mutually agreed upon time must be arranged within 1 week of the original match. The match must be played within 2 weeks of the rained out match unless approved by the LLC. Both captains must report to the LLC with the rescheduled information within 1 week. This should be done by email to Judy Parker, judyparker7151@suddenlink.net. If a time/date cannot be agreed upon within the first week, the captains will contact the Local League Coordinator for the scheduling of their match. Any team that does not show up for the assigned make-up date/time will lose by forfeit.**

The players for an interrupted match must remain the same or forfeit the match. After scorecards are exchanged:

- a. Completed matches stand as played
- b. An interrupted match should be resumed from the point, game, and set score existing when the match was stopped.
(Please record this on the back of each scorecard)
- c. Substitutions may be made in any individual match that has not begun (first service attempt). This includes forfeits that were on the original scorecard.

Post Season

1. The team with the best team record will be declared the League Champion. Ties will be broken in this order:
 1. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition
 2. Loser of the fewest number of sets
 3. Loser of the fewest number of games

In the event that a team defaults an entire team match during local league play, the local league committee will determine if this default has affected the local league standings in any way. If it is found that the local league standings have been affected, all matches played against the defaulting team may be ruled to be removed from the records of the teams in contention. If more than a single round robin has been played, the matches will be removed in the order in which they were played. If a team in contention was the defaulting team, and is still in contention after the removal of the matches, that team will remain in its position unless it is the team's second team default. If all teams in contention for advancement to the state championships have played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.

2. End of season playoffs will be played except for those levels playing single division, home and away schedules. The format for the playoffs will be the best of two sets with a set tie-break at 6-all. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break shall be played in lieu of a third set with a two minute set break with no coaching allowed.

Miscellaneous

1. For events not covered by existing regulations, the Local League Coordinator will make a ruling.
2. Tennis facility staff is not responsible for rule interpretation or enforcement.
3. Strengths in lineup: Under the guidelines established by the USTA, no strength order is required. All courts are considered to be of equal strength; therefore, no accusations of "stacking" are valid.
4. **The local league coordinator, Downeast local league committee, and the Downeast CTA will try to divide the weekday 6.5 and possibly 7.5 women's teams to reduce travel within our league.** All parties involved will be informed of the procedure. The division(s) will have to be made after team registration closes in order to determine if the division(s) are possible and will be advantageous to our players.
5. Please be familiar with the State, Sectional and National rules for the USTA League Adult and Senior divisions. Also read THE CODE available on the NCTA website or enclosed in your captain's packet. The local league information will be available on the Downeast Tennis website, www.downeasttennis.com.
6. If questions arise, contact the LLC, Judy Parker either by calling (252) 413-9108 or by email, judyparker7151@suddenlink.net.
7. Only the Local League Coordinator in conjunction with the State League Coordinator can interpret the Downeast Local League Regulations.

**Local League Grievance
Committee:**

Chairman: Courtney Harrell*

Sue Palumbo

Scottie Bryan

Bill Stevenson

Susan Fox

Rick Martin

Ken Wilkins

Marsha Bowes

**Local Grievance Appeal
Committee:**

Chairman: Mary Marks*

Sue Palumbo

Scottie Bryan

Bill Stevenson

Susan Fox

Rick Martin

Ken Wilkins

Marsha Bowes

Downeast Local League Board:

Sue Palumbo, Scottie Bryan, Bill Stevenson, Susan Fox, Rick Martin, Ken Wilkins,
Marsha Bowes

*Grievance and Appeal Committee Chairman will choose three members from their committee at the time of a grievance and/or appeal. The same board member cannot serve on both the Grievance and Appeal Committee dealing with the same ruling.