

USTA League Officials' Roles & Responsibilities

At League Championships

Roles of Officials For USTA Leagues

USTA League Administration understands the majority of players have played most of their USTA League matches without an Official present. We encourage players to attempt to resolve issues that they may have on the court among themselves. Officials should be well versed with the "ITF Rules of Tennis" and "The Code" and apply them fairly to all players when applicable.

The primary focus of USTA League play is sportsmanship, and we take a strong stand against poor sportsmanship and behavior. For example, if a player uses inappropriate language, throws a racquet in anger or deliberately hits a ball etc., they should receive a code violation. This type of behavior must be directly observed by an Official or tournament staff in order for penalties to be imposed. The Referee may also impose a penalty based on the report of what a court monitor or official has seen or heard or on an admission from a player whose conduct is in question.

In addition to the code violation, players may receive suspension points imposed for unsportsmanlike conduct that could result in a suspension. The League Suspension Point System is used when a Code Violation is imposed.

Officials are to enforce the following scoring format, warm-up and rest periods between matches:

Scoring: Format consists of two tiebreak sets and a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. All tie breakers will utilize the Coman procedure. For matches that go into a match tiebreak, the rotation order of serving and receiving within the team may be altered. No new balls will be given for the match tiebreak. In the case of inclement weather or match delays, the tournament staff along with the Referee will make the appropriate decisions to ensure matches are complete. These decisions may include changing the scoring format and/or changing the match start time(s), and will be communicated to all players in a timely manner.

Warm-Up: Players get a 5 minute warm up. At 5 minutes, players are encouraged to take serves if they have not started. At 8-10 minutes, Officials will ask the players to start their match. Players may use additional balls if they would like during their warm up, but only the balls given by the tournament desk should be used for play.

Rest Periods: If a player elects to play on multiple teams (within the same or a different division) during League play, the player automatically waives the minimum rest period. Regardless, if a player elects to play on multiple teams, the Recovery Rule will remain in effect.

What to Expect

Below are highlights of the Officials' role and responsibilities during League play. Officials' responsibilities include, but not limited to, the following:

- Officials will go to a court only if requested by a player who is playing that match on the court or by a tournament staff member. Officials can also go onto a court if they witness behavior that requires an Official to go out on the court.
- Officials do not give opinions on players rating, eligibility etc. or anything that is not in Friend At Court with players or captains. Those questions are outside of Officials' scope. Please direct those questions to the tournament desk to speak to the National Staff Representative.
- Players must make their own calls. Officials should not overrule on close line calls unless the Official is in direct observation of the court.
- An Official who is on the court must impose penalties before the start of the next point. An Official who is not on the court has a reasonable amount of time to reach the court and impose the penalty even if intervening points have been played. Any intervening points stand as played.
- When calling foot faults Officials' may choose to remain on that court until all servers serve at least one game.
- Officials may caution a player for borderline misbehavior as a way of letting the player know that their actions are unacceptable and may lead to point penalties being assessed to the player.