



MARIN TENNIS LEAGUE RULES 2017-18

MISSION

The purpose of the Marin Tennis League is to provide Marin County women with the opportunity to play competitive league tennis in an organized and amicable environment. Consistent with U.S.T.A. rules, we are committed to fostering the principles of good sportsmanship, fairness, friendly competition, and camaraderie among women.

We expect our members, through their positive tennis experiences, to bring to the courts a sense of the significance of their participation in the Marin Tennis League. We expect our members to accept the ultimate outcome of league play with the grace and understanding that good sportsmanship requires. Finally, we expect our members to relax and enjoy the benefits derived from sharing in the joy of playing tennis with other women.

CAPTAINS

You will be responsible for scheduling all your own home and away matches. Over half of your team's matches must be scheduled prior to January 1st. Check with your club to see that these matches do not interfere with the Sonoma-Napa-Marin League matches or other events to which you are committed. No visiting team can specify availability on only one weekday throughout the season.

Use your own judgment. Circumstances occasionally warrant flexibility of these rules. We are here to have fun and to play tennis! *Note that the Marin League Board may issue point penalties or defaults for egregious violation of any of the rules listed below.*

PROCEDURE

1. This is an adult women's weekday, doubles-only league **beginning in September and ending by March 31st**. The League consists of A, B, and C divisions. Each club may enter one or more divisions, providing a minimum of 15 players per team.
2. A list of team players must be submitted online by September 1. There is no limit to the number of players that may be on the list. However, only 10 women will be playing per match. Any additions are to be made on-line in the Captain's Court before the added woman plays in a match.
3. There will be 5 (five) matches played per event for all divisions. The host club must provide 3 courts for home play.
4. Refreshments and balls (U.S.T.A. approved), UNOPENED PLEASE!! will be provided by the hosting team.
5. Restroom facilities must be available on the premises of the hosting team. If restroom facilities are not available, the hosting team must offer to play at the visitor's courts. The ultimate decision is with the visiting team. Hosting duty would then revert to the team with bathrooms on the premises.

RULES OF PLAY

1. **U.S.T.A. Rules** will be strictly enforced, except where noted. Contrary to U.S.T.A. rules, players may play for only one club, at one level per season. Failure to follow this rule will result in a default, taking away the points earned from that position and awarding those points to the opposing club. We encourage you to play to strength. If your #1 and #2 players are rarely winning, and #3, #4, and #5 players are consistently winning, then those players in #3, #4 and #5 must compete at the higher end of the roster. The Board has, and will, impose penalties to these teams who ignore this policy. U.S.T.A. 2011 RULE ABOUT REVERSED CALLS: if you change a call from OUT to IN, you lose the point. The point goes to the opponent and is NOT replayed.
2. **Match Format:** All matches will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets. A 10 point **Coman** Match Tiebreak may replace the third set. One point will be awarded for each set won. If a team wins in straight sets they will be awarded 3 points. **Captains, please post scores promptly: 3 points will be deducted from the home team if the scores are posted on the web site more than 3 days after the match was completed (in its entirety).**
3. **Full Third Set or Tiebreak:** The decision to play a third set or a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) in lieu of a third set should be made by the home team on each court prior to the start of the match. If the players forget to make this decision prior to the start of the match, it should be made as soon as this oversight is discovered. The decision, once made, can be changed only by the unanimous agreement of all players on the court. If the home team is hosting the match at the visiting team's courts, the visiting team decides if a tiebreaker will be played.
4. **Tiebreak Procedure:** The **Coman** Tiebreak Procedure shall be used with players changing ends after the first point, then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the tiebreak (1st point, 5th, 9th, 13th, etc.)

5. **Coaching** is allowed only in the 10-minute break prior to a full third set. This is done with players and coaches off the court. If a third set match tiebreak is played there is only a 120 second set break between the second set and start of the match tie-break.
6. **Match Warm-up:** First round matches, traditionally #1, #2, and #3, should begin warm-up by 9:00 a.m. with play commencing **no later than 9:15**, serves included. **Play begins at 9:15 without further warm up or a default will be called if one or more players are missing.** Second round players must arrive no later than 10:30. Second round matches, subject to court availability, should begin at 10:30. Warm up ends and play begins 15 minutes after a court is available. A default is called if one or more players are missing at the end of those 15 minutes. A default cannot be taken if a court is not available.
7. **Defaults:** In the event of a default the following procedures should be followed - If the captain does not have enough players for all 5 matches prior to the match, the default must be taken in number 5 doubles. The captain should inform the visiting team captain prior to the match so that the opponents do not show up when there is no match for them to play. If the default occurs at the court the morning of the match prior to first round play and the number 4 and number 5 doubles players have not arrived at the courts, the default will be the number 3 doubles. If the default occurs prior to the start of number 4 and 5 doubles the default will be the number 5 doubles. If an entire match is defaulted the Board will impose point penalties as well as not allowing that team to play for the remainder of the season. A player who wins by default in a match cannot play in another position in the same match. If she does so, that match will be defaulted. Injury timeouts are limited to 5 minutes or that match will be defaulted.
8. **Match Cancellation:** Matches are not to be canceled before 7:30 a.m. the day of the match. **(Do not cancel the day or night before a match).** It is important that someone from the home team checks the courts by 7:30 a.m. the morning of the match to see if they are dry. Rainouts should be rescheduled and played within five (5) weeks of rainout: i.e., rained out Oct. 1st – to be played by Nov 6th. Unless mutually agreed upon by both captains, rainout make-up dates should not be offered during Thanksgiving week, the two-week December School holiday, School Ski week, and School Spring Break weeks. If you are dealing with an uncooperative captain, please call a Board member for her assistance.
9. **Match Confirmation:** The home captain **must** email, or call and speak to the guest captain 5-7 days before the event to confirm times, place and date. When using email, the visiting captain must respond via email (or phone) to assure contact. If the guest captain does not hear from the home captain, via phone or email, it is more than appropriate for you to call or email the home captain. It is critical that you make person-to-person contact.
10. **Scheduling a Match:** Once a date has been scheduled for the season, **THERE MAY BE NO CHANGES IN THE DATE EXCEPT FOR A RAINOUT. No other reason will be accepted.**
11. **Written Lineup:** The visiting captain, or appointed player, shall arrive at the match with a written line up on the MTL Score Sheet. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, disqualification of, or failure to appear on time by a player, prior to the start of such match. In that event, the substitute shall play in the position that is open due to the injury, illness, disqualification or failure to appear on time. No substitute may be taken from the original lineup after the lineup has been presented, except that if a player's partner does not show up due to injury, illness, disqualification, or otherwise fails to appear on time, the captain may use a substitute player. The home captain will also have her line up written out on the MTL Score Sheet. **If a player is not listed on the online team roster before the match, that match will be defaulted** and the opposing team is awarded 3 points. **See Rule #21 for substitutions from a lower level team.**
12. **Rain:** In case of rain, the home captain will be responsible for contacting the guest captain to cancel and reschedule. As stated in Rule #9, both captains **MUST** make two-way personal contact with one another, via phone or email. By 6:00 p.m. on the day following the cancellation of the match (weekends excluded), the hosting captain must provide the visiting captain with at least 2 dates to choose from within 5 five weeks, as outlined in Rule #8. The offered dates must not be on days that the team has a scheduled or re-scheduled Marin League match, or during Thanksgiving week, the two-week December School holidays, School Ski week, and School Spring Break weeks. The visiting captain has 24 hours (weekends excluded) to select one of the dates and notify the home captain of the date. If the visiting captain does not respond within 24 hours or cannot play on any of the two dates given, a team default could be called at the discretion of the Board. The home captain must also comply with her duties, as stated in Rule #9, or her team may be subject to the same penalty.

If the match has begun and it starts to rain, the same lineup must be used and play will continue at the point it was suspended. If play has not begun (a point has not been played) and rain begins, the lineup for those unplayed positions can be changed. If a default has been given or taken, and the match was rained out (that is, never started), then that default is voided and should be played.
13. **Location change:** Any change of location or time must be mutually agreed upon by both captains.
14. **Ranked players and teaching pros must get Board approval to play on a Marin League team.**

- 15. League Winners:** The team with the highest number of points at the end of the season will win the perpetual trophy and must move up to the next division. If a team scores 65% or more and doesn't win the division, they may move up if they choose. In the event of a tie for first place in the A1 division, the two teams will have a playoff in the same format as in the regular season (i.e., 5 lines). The team that won the head to head match will be considered the home team. In the event of a tie in all other flights, the team that won the head to head match in the regular season will be considered the winner.
- 16. Team Demotion:** If a team scores 35% or less, they must move down a division. We do not round up to save you from demotion!
- 17. The Board at its discretion can move teams as needed,** to maintain an equitable balance among divisions.
- 18. New Teams** entering the league may request their division but the Board will make final decision on division placement.
- 19. Existing Teams:** Other existing teams may not move up or down without consent of the Board. To change divisions, submit a written request, with reasons and proposed rosters, to the Board by June 15.
- 20. The 75%-65% Recommendation:** If an INDIVIDUAL player elects to move up to the next higher division (provided space is available for her on that higher team), the player should have played a minimum of 75% of the scheduled matches at position #1 or #2. Of that 75%, the individual player should have won at least 65% of their matches. The league DOES NOT endorse the decimation of teams to support the promotion of an individual player(s).
- 21. Substitution Rule:** When it comes time for your match, if your team is short one or more players, **you may draw from any lower division in your club**, if your club has entered more than one division in the league. Under no circumstances are you allowed to draw from a division above your team or at your same team level, i.e. A-2 Red cannot play for A-2 Blue. When you use a substitute from below, you may do so only once and that individual may not be used again as a substitute for the remainder of the season. A team using the same substitute more than once will have six (6) points deducted. Substitutes can play no higher than #3 position. The procedure for playing a substitute is detailed in the MTL Website Information and Instructions.

PLEASE DO NOT INVOLVE THE MARIN TENNIS LEAGUE WITH YOUR CLUB'S POLITICS.

GRIEVANCES

The Board reserves the right to take punitive action in the case of poor sportsmanship.

Any grievance you choose to put in writing to the Board must be copied and sent to the captain of the opposing team.

SAVE THE DATES

- August 17, 2017** **Captains' Meeting 10am at the Rafael Racquet Club, 95 Racquet Club Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901** - All teams MUST be represented by the Captain, Co-Captain or team member to schedule all matches for the season.
- September 1, 2017** **Team Rosters Due** - All captains must submit a list of at least 15 players on line at www.marinleague.com in the Captain's Court. Failure to do so will result in the team being dropped from the league schedule for the season. Season begins in September.
- October 15, 2017** **Scholarship Nominations due**
- November 15, 2017** **Nominee applications due**
- January 1, 2018** **Over half of the season's matches must be completed by this date.**
- March 31, 2018** **Season Ends**
- May 4, 2018** **Marin League Awards Luncheon** (*Marin Country Club in Novato, at 11:30am*)
- June 15, 2018** **Team Registration Deadline:** Team fees MUST be submitted, with no exceptions. Teams failing to list a captain and co-captain by June 15th will be dropped from the league.

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* If you have read the rules and need help clarifying an issue, please contact us.