

USTA Missouri Valley League Section Championship FAQ

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INTRODUCTION

Approach this event as if you were captaining a local league match. Captains are responsible for communicating with their players to ensure they arrive on site, the required 30 minutes prior to scheduled match time, get to their assigned courts and start their matches.

[Match Tennis Team App](#) will be used for this Championship, this includes communication from the event personnel and all relevant match information. During the tournament, there are four primary interactions that a team will use the Match Tennis Team app for: Submit Lineups, Receive Court Assignments, Report Scores and Sign off on Match Cards. Please be sure to visit the Match Tennis Team App homepage for all information on the app.

When Captains/Co-Captains are not on court for a match, please make sure you have your cell phone on you at all times. This is the Tournament Desk's main mode of communication during the Championship.

GENERAL FAQ

This is our first-time attending a USTA Missouri Valley League Championship, what should I bring?

We suggest players at minimum bring:

- o Hand Sanitizer
- o Sunscreen
- o Sunglasses
- o Tennis Gear - Racquets, Practice Balls, Towel, Tennis Shoes, etc.
- o Visor/Hat
- o Cooler
- o Ice
- o Water and snacks
- o Cell Phone & Charger

HYDRATION/HEAT TIPS

What are some tips to stay hydrated during Championships?

- [Hydration Matters](#)
- [Beat the Heat: Cooling & Hydrating Tips for Tennis Players](#)
- [Nutrition for Recovery](#)
- [Health Handling the Heat](#)

WILL YOU BE SELLING ANY CHAMPIONSHIP SWAG AT THIS EVENT?

- Not on site but you can order items in advance!
- [Click here to shop!](#)
- All orders must be placed online and will be shipped to you directly
- Current production time for most orders is 5-7 business days for production plus approximately 1-2 days for shipping.

HOTEL INFORMATION

What hotels do you recommend?

- Each Event Handbook will list hotel blocks available for players/Captains. You do not have to stay at the hotels listed, however it is available if you choose.

What happens if I book a hotel room Thursday-Sunday and we end up not playing in the semis or finals on Sunday?

- It is up to the participants booking the hotel rooms to read all the fine print. Each hotel has different requirements/penalties.

ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

Every team advancing must have at least the minimum number of players for the event to which they are advancing.

- 18 & Over 2.5: A minimum of five (5) players who were on the final local roster must be available to compete at sectionals.
- 18 & Over 3.5, 4.5: A minimum of eight (8) players who were on the final local roster must be available to compete at sectionals.
- 55 & Over 6.0 and 8.0: A minimum of six (6) players who were on the final local roster must be available to compete at sectionals.

ELIGIBILITY

Am I eligible to participate in the event?

- All players must be USTA Members with valid membership through the duration of the event.
- All Computer Rated players must have played in at least 2 local league matches, one default can count, on the same team.
- All Self-Rated or Appeal Rated players must have played in at least 3 local league matches, no defaults counting, on the same team.
- Important: Captains are responsible for ensuring all players are eligible to compete. [There are no team or player waivers at League Section Championships.](#)

I am on the roster for two teams, in different divisions, who have advanced to Sectionals, can I play on both teams?

- Yes, however, schedules will not be accommodated for teams sharing players in different divisions.
- You must pay a full registration fee for each team you are competing on.
- Important: [Captains are responsible for ensuring that they have enough players to field all lines whether or not their shared player is available.](#)

NO DEFAULT COMPETITION

What does no default competition mean?

If you default a court – it's defaulted throughout the entire championship.

How are defaults handled?

- The position to be defaulted follows the national table for allowable defaults at all championships (National Reg. pg.21). Since USTA Missouri Valley Section League Championships are "no-default" events, the action applied for "special defaults" will follow rationale for USTA League Regulation 2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults.
- If a team defaults a position for any reason during round robin play; the position shall not play additional matches in that round robin.
- For all matches already played at the position, the opponents will be awarded a 6-0, 6-0 win.
- The position matches already played will be used for both player ratings and championship advancement purposes.
- If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings.

2.03J Scoring of Individual Defaults

For the purpose of determining standings, individual defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player or doubles team receiving the default and a 0-6, 0-6 loss for the player or doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both players or doubles teams, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as in Reg. 2.03H Procedures In the Event of a Tie in order to determine a winner of that team match. This regulation can be found on page 17 of the 2025 USTA National League Regulations.

REGISTRATION

Eligibility: All players must be USTA Members with valid membership through the duration of the event. Match Requirements:

- All Computer Rated players must have played in at least 2 local league matches, one default can count, on the same team.
- All Self-Rated or Appeal Rated players must have played in at least 3 local league matches, no defaults counting, on the same team.
- Important: [Captains are responsible for ensuring all players are eligible to compete.](#)

How do I register?

- All players will register via the [Match Tennis Team App](#) home page for that event. This link will be sent to captains once their district has submitted their advancing team to the Section. Registration is \$52 per player.
- Follow the link to register in your event's [handbook](#) or click the link above, select registration at the top and then click on your event.
- Click Open link
- Make sure your tournament is set to the event you are needing to register for
- Then follow the drop down and prompts:
 - Select your division
 - Select your team role
 - Select your team (It may say TBD under the captain name but that will change once we sync everything to tennislink)
 - Confirm it is the correct team you want to register on
 - Enter your USTA number
 - Click Verify
 - it will then send you to set up an account
 - Fill out all of the information
 - Create account
 - Then follow the rest of the prompts to accept the waivers and pay

How do I know if my players submitted their Player Registration forms by the deadline?

- Captains can view who has registered in Match Tennis Team App

Refund Requests

- Refunds are subject to the host district's policies. Email your request to the tournament director/district listed in the event handbook.
- USTA Missouri Valley may file a grievance against your team if your team withdraws from the Championship.

Team Withdraw

- Any team that withdraws within two (2) weeks of the event will not receive a refund.

COMMUNICATIONS

Which email and cell will you be using for communications to me?

- Captains and Co-Captains information is based on the Team Registration form submitted.
- Players' emails and cell phone information is based on the Player Registration form submitted.
- Note: We ask that you use the primary email address you will have accessible during the tournament. Please do not use a work email address with an auto-responder, to avoid bounce backs.

ACES SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE

All participating players must sign the Pledge, prior to arriving at the Championship, in order to play. During Championship registration, players will sign the pledge when they sign the waiver for the event.

Do I have to sign the ACES Sportsmanship Pledge in order to participate in the Championship?

- Yes, and players will have two opportunities to sign the Pledge:
 1. When a Player registers for a USTA league.
 2. During Championship registration, players will sign the pledge when they sign the waiver for the event.

How do I nominate an opponent for a sportsmanship award?

- There are two ways to nominate an opponent:
 - Captains can nominate one person per match on the scorecard via Match Tennis Team App.
 - Your captain can email astelmach@movalley.usta.com with the players name & reasoning.

SCHEDULE/FORMAT/TIEBREAKS

When will I see my schedule in TennisLink?

- Schedules will be put in TennisLink and Match Team Tennis the Monday before each event.
- We will hope to have a google schedule completed the week before the event.

What is the main scoring format?

Best of two tiebreak sets with a 10-point Match Tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd set.

Match Tiebreak (10 Points, Win by 2)

- When the score in an individual match is one set all, a Match Tiebreak shall be played in lieu of a 3rd set. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. The player/team who first wins ten points (win by two) shall win this match tiebreak and the match. If the score goes to 9-9 and beyond, players continue to play until there is a winning margin of 2 points (i.e. 11-9, 12-10, 15-13, etc).
- Two minute rest between 1st & 2nd set and between 2nd & 3rd set match tiebreak.

Coman Tiebreak Procedures

- Coman Tiebreak procedures apply to all tiebreak sets including the Match Tiebreaker.
- First team serves one time, followed by two serves for each team thereafter.
- Change sides after the first serve and then after every four points thereafter.

(Note: Easy way to remember in doubles is that each player will serve from the same side).

Alternate scoring formats due to weather

I understand that inclement weather may result in the use of "short set" scoring, can you explain that format?

- Playing best of 2 of 3 NO AD Short Sets (with a match tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd).
 - First to 4 games by 2; at 4-all use set tiebreak (Comen tiebreak to 7)
 - Start at 0-0 and play to 4 games
 - Possible scores: 5-4, 5-3, 4-2, 4-1, 4-0
 - If sets are split, play a match tiebreak (Comen tiebreak to 10)

Standings/Results

The official standings and results can be found in TennisLink. Guests and spectators can access the standings page by using view standings in TennisLink or go directly from the Match Team Tennis app.

Tiebreak Procedure To Determine Standings

For Section and National Championships, in which there is a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so.

1. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 2. Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.
 3. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 4. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 5. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played
 6. A method to be determined by the championships committee. Procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.
- The computer breaks as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step until the order of finish is determined.

MATCH TENNIS TEAM

During a tournament, there are four primary interactions that a team will use the Match Tennis Team app for:

1. Submit Lineups: Demo Video: [Watch Now](#)
2. Receive Court Assignments: Demo Video: [Watch Now](#)
3. Report Scores: Demo Video: [Watch Now](#)
4. Sign off on Match Cards: Demo Video: [Watch Now](#)

**** Make sure to do a practice lineup to confirm that you see all of your players and that you can enter a lineup.*****

The app can be accessed in any of the following 3 ways:

1. Mobile/Desktop Web Browser:
<http://www.matchtennisteam.com> click login from menu
2. iOS
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/match-tennis-team/id1298091774#?platform=iphone>
3. Android
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.teamx.team>

Overview Page: <https://www.matchtennisteam.com>

FULL MATCH TEAM TENNIS INSTRUCTIONS: [CLICK HERE](#)

Support Options

Our support team is online during the event to assist you with any lineup submissions or score reporting issues. If you are having technical difficulty then we can enter lineups and scores for you through the chat to keep the event running smoothly.

Live Chat by clicking the icon in the bottom right of the app or on our main website page; <https://www.matchtennisteam.com>

Email: support@matchtennisapp.co

VIRTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP ELEMENTS

What do I need in order to utilize the virtual elements of this League Championship?

- A smartphone
 - Captains and Co-Captains will use their smartphone to use Match Tennis Team App, which would include Lineup Submission, Court Assignments, communicate via text with the Tournament Desk, and receive other important alerts from the Tournament Desk throughout the Championship.
 - Players will need a smartphone to use the Match Tennis Team App and receive important texts from the Tournament Desk throughout the Championship.

What happens if I do not have a smartphone?

- If you are a Captain, we suggest you designate someone else as Captain for the Championship.
- A tablet, laptop or portable device can also be used for Match Tennis Team App if necessary.
- If you are a Player, we suggest that you ask your Captain, partner or opponents to submit scores for you and to give you the latest information that is being texted to all players.

WIFI

Will WiFi be available on site for Captains/Players?

- Most sites will not have public wifi but they do have good cellphone reception.

LINE UP SUBMISSION

How do I submit my line up for a match virtually?

- [Click here](#) to view Match Tennis Team App instructions
- The app can be accessed in any of the following 3 ways:
 1. Mobile/Desktop Web Browser: <http://www.matchtennisteam.com>
 2. iOS
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/match-tennis-team/id1298091774#?platform=iphone>
 3. Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.teamx.team>

Overview Page: <https://www.matchtennisteam.com>

What if there is a last minute emergency and the Captain and Co-Captain are not on site to submit the line up?

- Luckily, Match Tennis Team App line up submissions can be completed by the Captain and/or Co-Captain no matter where they are located.
- If for some reason, the Captain and/or Co-Captain can not get to their email/phone to submit due to emergency, one (1) player should alert a tournament staff member on site that they need to submit a line up on behalf of a captain. This would include a USTA Missouri Valley staff person, Athletic Trainer and/or Official all of which will have a radio to communicate with the Tournament Desk.

ASSIGNING COURTS

How early can you call me to court for my match?

- Players can be called to court via the Match Tennis Team App court assignment up to 30 minutes prior to their scheduled match.
(ex: You have a 8am match, you can be called to court as early as 7:30am)

Where do I pick up balls for my match?

- Before each scheduled match, when courts are available, the player(s), the Captain & the Co-Captain will receive a Court Assignment text. At that time all players for that match line should report to the tournament desk to meet opponents and pick up the balls.

Where do I put the balls after my match?

- Various containers labeled "donate balls here" will be placed throughout each site. Please drop your balls in the container after your match.

What happens if the wrong players go to the assigned court?

- It is the responsibility of the Captains to ensure that the correct players go to the correctly assigned courts.
- Players should introduce themselves upon arriving at their court assignment to confirm they are on the correct court with the correct opponents.
- If for some reason this does not happen and the match is played by incorrect opponents, the match is played in good faith and the result/score stands.

ON SITE/FACILITY FAQ**Can we stay and watch the matches?**

- Yes

STRINGING**Can I get my racquet strung on site?**

- Some host sites may have pro-shops that can complete racquet stringing, but not all. Please come prepared with ample racquets strung in order to play.

WATER/ICE/FOOD**Can I fill up my water jug on site?**

- We are asking participants to bring plenty of water with them to the site. Some sites may not have water fountains in operation as these are high touch areas.

Will there be food vendors on site?

- There may be food vendors on site, please refer to the Event Handbook for more information.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS**Will there be an Athletic Trainer on site?**

- Please check your event handbook for trainer information for your specific event.

What if I need a trainer?

- If you are on court, please flag down the closest Tournament Staff person. If no staff person is nearby, please send a non-playing captain or player to the Athletic Trainer tent to request assistance.

OFFICIALS/ROVING UMPIRES

Will there be an Official on site?

- Yes, there will be at least one (1) official on site at each location. They will rove throughout the day and be available to address concerns on court when alerted.

Are there practice courts?

- Practice courts vary by championship. Check the event handbook for specific information regarding your event.

WHAT DO ROVING UMPIRES DO/NOT DO?

Roving Umpires will:

- Promote fair play
- Ensure courts are ready for play
- Answer rules questions (related to matches)
- Help resolve scoring disputes when needed
- Call clear foot faults
- Enforce tournament rules and regulations, such as
- Assessing penalties for delay or behavior (see Table 14, Point Penalty System)
- Overruling incorrect line calls that are clear errors (note: umpires may NOT overrule based on a request)
- Keeping matches moving by timing warmups, changeovers and set breaks, medical & bleeding timeouts, etc.
- Assessing time violations as needed.
- Defaulting for cause
- Monitor and control spectators and coaches (who may be asked to leave the area if they are abusive or obstructing play)
- Monitor the weather and safety issues
- Rove multiple courts at a time
- Report Code Violations to the referee or other person authorized to assess suspension points (see Table 17).

Roving Umpires Will NOT:

- Stay on any one court for an extended period of time (they are responsible for multiple courts)
- Call lines (they are not Line Umpires), as opposed to correcting calls made by a player
- Respond to a request to "watch" a court from anyone other than a player

CAPTAINS

Can I list a non-playing Team Co-Captain?

- Yes, on all Team Registration forms, a Captain may identify a "non-playing" Team Co-Captain.

What if I need to change a Captain or Co-Captain prior to the event start?

- You have until the Monday before an event to alert the Tournament Staff via astelmach@movalley.usta.com that you need to make a change. After Monday, no changes will be accepted.

Where do I pick up the Captain/Player Gifts?

- At the captain's check-in. Location is different at each event. Please see your specific event handbook for details.

Can our coach come and watch our matches?

- Yes, they may come to support your team as a spectator. However, they are not allowed to coach at any time.

When will I see my schedule in TennisLink?

- Schedules will be put in TennisLink and Match Team Tennis the Monday before each event.
- We will hope to have a google schedule completed the week before the event.

What happens if the wrong players go to the assigned court?

- It is the responsibility of the Captains to ensure that the correct players go to the correctly assigned courts.
- Players should introduce themselves upon arriving at their court assignment to confirm they are on the correct court with the correct opponents.
- If for some reason this does not happen and the match is played by incorrect opponents, the match is played in good faith and the result/score stands.

NTRP/GRIEVANCES

Dynamic Disqualification/DQ's at Championships

Will Dynamic Disqualification, a.k.a. DQ's, be run at championships?

- DQ's will not be run at events, but the Monday after the event is complete.
- More information on DQ's can be found here:
 - [USTA Missouri Valley League Rules & Regulations](#)
 - [Adult NTPR Ratings Q&A](#)