



August & September 2020 Captains Meetings – Q & A to Clarify 2021 Rules

Comments in green reflect recent clarifications.

General

Q. As the ESL season progresses and with the uncertainty revolving around Covid-19, will there be penalties for withdrawal after the season has started?

A. No.

Q. Is it possible to have an upcharge at clubs for an extra can of balls if players want to play with their own can due to concerns about Covid-19?

A. Not all clubs handle the provision of balls in the same way. The home team is responsible for providing one can of balls, per court. Please refer to CDTA's Covid Safety Procedures for the ESL season. Those procedures state that each Player should come to the Match with their own set of balls. If any Player on a given court prefers to use their own set of balls, all Players must honor that preference. Each Player should then mark their tennis balls with their name so that only the server's balls are being used (and touched by the server) during the server's game. The use of one set or multiple sets of balls on a court is up to each court and does not have to be consistent on all courts in the same Team Match.

Captain's Information

Q. My club requires me to give 72-hour notice if more than 3 courts are being cancelled. How do I navigate this in relation to the League's 48-hour cancellation rule?

A. CDTA is working with clubs to understand their needs and reiterate the League cancellation policy of 48 hours in the hopes of having a universal 48-hour match cancellation policy. In the meantime, if your club requires more than 48 hours, we recommend you communicate that to the opposing captain and get a firm commitment that your club's minimum number of matches can be played. We also recommend having Players on call as back-up for your line-ups in the event that a Player falls ill or prior to any Match.

Q. What is the timeframe within which Player names can be changed on a scorecard for defaulted matches?

A. As long as a Player was rostered on the team at the time of the original match, in the Chicago District, he/she can replace the name of another Player on a scorecard up until the end of the open registration period (2 weeks before the end of the season).

Q. If two Teams report a Match as a full Team default and then later in the season are able to find a time to play the Match, can they change the defaulted scorecard to reflect the scores of Matches played?

A. Match scores must be entered 48 hours after the Match is played. After that time period, if a score has been reported, the scorecard cannot be updated other than to change Players reported as having been on the lineup for the defaulted Matches. Before you report a Match as a full Team default, make sure there are no other options for getting the Match played. CDTA recommends you reschedule the Match to a future date rather than report a full Team default. The reschedule Match day and time can always be changed at a future time. Please note that scores, including defaulted courts and entire Team defaults, which remain unreported a week or more after the scheduled Match date will be recorded as a Double Team Default



Team Match Information

Q. Does a Player that comes late get a 5-minute warmup or is there only 10-minute warmup no matter what?

A. The draft rules stated that Players arriving after the start of the warmup are entitled to at least a 5-minute warmup; however, it was not intended for that to mean that the warmup could last longer than 10 minutes total. Based on Captain feedback, the rule (Team Match Information C, b) has been revised and now reads: A Player arriving late can join the warm-up in progress but will not be given additional time past 10 minutes.

Q. What do we do if Players disagree about changing ends on sets or odd games or what type of tiebreak to play?

A. Captains and Players should agree on changing ends prior to the start of the Match. All time-restricted Matches will consist of best of three sets with a 10-point tiebreak played in lieu of a third set. Tiebreaks to determine the winner of a set are first to 7 with a margin of 2. For most indoor matches, there is no reason to play a Coman tiebreak; however, this determination should also be agreed on by Captains and Players prior to the start of the Match.

Q. Can Captains come on court to help with a Match?

A. Captains are only allowed to come onto court to help facilitate the timed Match procedure during the last 20 minutes of the Match; but Players on court must ask them to come onto court for their help. Please keep in mind that calling for help may delay play during the critical remaining 20 minutes of the Match.

Q. Are Players allowed to sit down during the 90-second changeover?

A. Based on Captain feedback, there is NO requirement in the rules that a Player MAY NOT sit down at the change of ends during ANY part of the match including the last 20 minutes. Recommendations for using time wisely during the last 20 minutes of the Match have been revised to include the following:

- Play shall be continuous. The next point starts as soon as the previous point ends.
- Maximum time allowed between points and games is 25 seconds. At the completion of a game, if there is any time left, Players must begin another game. A 90-second break will be allowed when changing ends.

Additionally, in CDTA Team Match Information, F. Continuous Play has been revised as follows:

- a. Play is continuous throughout League Matches including during the last 20 minutes.
- b. Drinking water and toweling off during the last 20 minutes of a Match are acceptable; but Players need to be aware of time limitations between points and when changing ends that are spelled out in the Timed Match Procedure (see part IV of these rules).

Timed Match Procedure

Q. If someone is ahead by 2 points in a tiebreaker at the buzzer, do they win the tiebreak?

A. Yes. However, any point in progress when the buzzer sounds should be played to completion.

Q. If, after following the timed Match procedure, only one set has been played, who wins the Match?

A. The winner of the Match is the Team that won the first set.

Q. If, after following the timed Match procedure, one set has been played and the second set ends in a tie, who wins the Match?

A. The winner of the Match is the Team that won the first set.

Q. If we start a Match tiebreak prior to the final 20 minutes of the Match, what do we do when we reach the last 20 minutes?

A. Continue the Match tiebreak using the remainder of the time available. Follow the procedure in item “d” of the Timed Match Procedure.

Q. If we are in a tiebreak for the second set when the 20 minute rule goes into effect, what do we do?

A. Complete the second set tiebreak and refer to items “c” and “d” of the Timed Match Procedure.

Q. If we conclude our first set with fewer than 20 minutes remaining, what do we do?

A. Refer to item “b” of the timed match procedure and play a tiebreak for the second set (first to 7 by a margin of 2). If the completion of the set tiebreak results in split sets, play a match tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) to determine the Match winner.

Q. How do we enter scores for an incomplete Match tiebreak for the third set (meaning neither team is ahead by a margin of at least 2 points)?

A. Enter scores as played for the first 2 sets. Do not enter a score for the third set (Match tiebreak).

Q. Does item “d” of the timed match procedure mean that once we are in the final 20 minutes of the match that we stop a tiebreak whenever one Team is ahead by 2 points?

A. No, it does not. Item “d” indicates that if time for the Match runs out and the buzzer sounds, the Team ahead by 2 points will win the set. It does not mean that if a Team is head by 2 points with 15 minutes remaining that the match is over. Continue play until the buzzer sounds or the tiebreak has been completed.

Q. How did you determine that the Visiting Team would get the win in the standings in the case of a tie?

A. TennisLink will not allow a tied match to be entered on a score card. For the sake of score entry, the decision was made to award the win to the Visiting Team because the Home Team was not able to provide time for the completion of the Match. However, this “win” will not be binding if it is shown to affect League winners at the end of the season. In such cases, standings will be manually adjusted to reflect a tie.

Q. Do these rules apply to HARD STOP clubs only?

A. Most clubs have a two-hour time limit for Matches; however, depending on time of day of the Match or activity at the facility, a Match may be allowed to go slightly beyond the two-hour time limit in order for the Match to be completed. Visiting Players should be informed by the Home Captain how quickly the Players need to vacate the courts at the end of the Match time. This timing information MUST be the same for ALL courts and cannot change once Players begin their matches.

Question: Is it possible to have “ties” in USTA League Matches?

Answer: Yes, there are two situations that can occur in USTA League Matches that can result in a tie

1. In divisions that have a format which plays an even number of courts, for example, adult 40 and over, it is possible that the number of individual courts could be tied resulting in each Team winning 2 courts.
2. In an individual Match, it is possible that there may not be sufficient time to determine the winner on that individual court and that each Team has won 1 set (“split sets”).

Question: How is each type of “tie” resolved?

Answer:

1. In divisions that play 4 courts, per 2021 USTA League Regulation 2.03E, if tied 2-2, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods to do so. The Team point shall be awarded accordingly and will be reflected in TennisLink standings immediately:
 - a) Sets - loser of the fewest number of sets
 - b) Games - loser of the fewest number of games
 - c) Game winning percentage - total games won divided by total games played
 - d) Winner of the number 1 doubles court

In an individual Match if time has run out and teams have “split sets” and not been able to complete the Match tiebreak, Captains should initially award the win to the Visiting Team for the purpose of completing the scorecard. Exact scores from the first and second set should be entered. No score should be entered for the third set that resulted in a tie. Then, the captain should email the District who will resolve the tie as follows:

- a) One-half point will be awarded to each Team of the tied court immediately after the DLC is notified of the tie.
- b) After splitting the point from the tied court, the DLC will recalculate both Team’s total points to assess if there is a clear winner of the match.
- c) If the team with the most points is accurately reflected on the scorecard, the DLC will leave the scorecard as is. It may be necessary to reverse the winner of the tied court Match in order to accurately reflect an overall Home Team win.
- d) Leave the result in TennisLink as entered by the Captains if the Visiting Team was the winner after splitting the tied court point
- e) In the event that after splitting the point for the tied court to both Teams, a Match tie results, the DLC will make a note on the League page of the Flight in TennisLink noting that there has been a Team Match that ended in a tie so the standings may not be accurately reflected.

At the end of the season, the DLC will review standings and make adjustments if either of the Teams involved in the Match are tied with another Team for first place in the standings. For example, if 2 Teams are tied for first place each with 25 points each but one of those Teams has a tie on its record, the DLC will confirm whether or not that Team was the Home or Visiting Team for the tied Match, thereby determining if their actual Team points are 25, 25.5 or 24.5.

During this transition period to the new timed match procedure, it is important that Captains initially award the win to the Visiting Team and then email the District so the number of ties can be accurately tracked. Doing so will allow the District to confirm that the timed match procedure was followed appropriately and that the Match did end in an actual tie.

Note:

1. Standings adjustments are not new to the League program. In the Chicago District, standings are adjusted at the end of the season based on the impact of Full Team Defaults.