

# PD SPRING LEAGUE RULES - 2017

## Introduction:

The following are the regulations for the 2017 PD Spring USTA Tennis League and apply to the Adult 18 & over Age Group, 40 & over Age Group and 55 & over Age Group. These regulations augment the USTA League Tennis 2017 Regulations, the USTA Southern Section Regulations for 2017, the USTA South Carolina State Regulations for 2017. For the most part, Local League Regulations do not repeat rules and regulations found in the other documents. In those instances, where a regulation is repeated, it is repeated verbatim.

The PD Local League has appointed Ed Sprenger and the South Carolina League Coordinator has approved Ed Sprenger as the Local League Coordinator (Phone: 843-992-2807c) Mailing address is 1618 Jefferson Drive, Florence, SC 29501. Email address is [esprenger@sc.rr.com](mailto:esprenger@sc.rr.com)). The LLC's responsibility along with the PD League Committee is to organize, coordinate, supervise, implement and administer all USTA League Tennis activities on the local level as well as interpret the Pee Dee Local League's rules, regulations and procedures. Local Rules may have to be corrected or changed annually without approval of local membership if State, Sectional, or National USTA Regulations are changed. Also, National, Sectional, and State Rules and Regulations take precedence over Local League Rules and Regulations. The LLC reports to the State League Coordinator.

1. All participants in the Adult 18 & over Age Group must be 18 or older by the end of the calendar year. All participants in the 40 & over Age Group must be 40 or over by the end of the calendar year. All 55 & over Age Group participants must be 55 & over by the end of the calendar year.
  - (a) During the Local League Season, a player may play on more than one NTRP level in Adult League Age Groups in the **same** Local League during the **same** season.
  - (b) A player may play at the same NTRP level in the **same** League Age Group (Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over or 55 & Over) on teams in **separate** Local Leagues in South Carolina during the **same** season.
  - (c) A player may also play at **different** NTRP levels in the same League Age Group (Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over or 55 & Over) on teams in **separate** Local Leagues in South Carolina during the **same** season.
  - (d) A player may play out of his/her Local League Area (as defined by the player's primary residence as listed in USTA records). Each Local league has the authority to accept or deny participation.
  - (e) **A player from another state (as defined by the player's primary residence as listed in USTA records) may not participate in the PD League without approval by the Local League Coordinator representing the area that is affected.**
  - (f) Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.
  - (g) Self ratings are valid for 2 years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. Players can self rate without having a team number.
  - (h) Players may appeal their 2016 year-end ratings at any time during the 2017 league year. A player can appeal as many times as they like. Player cannot play at a lower level than his/her computer rating.
  - (i) A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult League Age Groups Divisions.

- (j) If an Adult League consists of only 2 teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.
  - (k) The **Captain** of each PD League team must reside in the service area of the PD League.
2. Competition for all age divisions begins after February 10th and ends April 30 for Adult League 18's, April 2nd for Adult League 55's, and April 16th for Adult League 40's. Matches are played all day Saturday and Sunday afternoons, as well as on weeknights. Matches for the Adult 18 and 40 & over Age Groups consist of 2 singles and 3 doubles. Adult 2.5 and 5.0+ Age Group play 1 singles and 2 doubles. The 55's Age Group play 3 doubles. All matches are 2 out of 3 sets with the 10 point tiebreak played in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set. The **COMAN TIEBREAK** (first team to win 7 points by a margin of 2 or more with players changing sides after the 1<sup>st</sup> point and every 4 points thereafter) is played to decide all sets that get to 6-all and the 10 point tiebreak to decide the match (first to 10 by 2). **Coman tie-break is for doubles only.**
  3. The **ADD-ON DEADLINE** is April 1st for all Age Groups (the LLC reserves the right to extend this date if necessary).
  4. Each team must have a Captain or acting Captain present at every match. Captains must exchange line-ups simultaneously prior to starting play, and must record scores of each match. Both Captains should sign the scorecard after each match. (NOTE: If the Captain cannot be present prior to play, another teammate must present the line-up.) **A match can be postponed for one of the following reasons ONLY:**
    - 1 - Rain**
    - 2 - Clay courts are frozen or facility has closed clay courts**
    - 3 - Temperature is 38 degrees Fahrenheit or below. This does NOT include wind chill. Both captains must agree to play. If one captain does not want to play then the match is not played.**
  5. Captains responsibilities:
    - (a) Make sure all team members understand and know USTA rules, STA Rules, State Rules and PD Local League rules.
      - 1. Cell Phone Rule - If a player's cell phone rings during a match the player loses the point, a point penalty will be applied for the first offense. A game penalty applies to each additional offense.
      - 2. Illegal Player Rule - If a player is found to be illegal (playing in the PD League without permission) all matches the illegal player played in will be defaulted.
    - (b) Know how to get to each playing site.
    - (c) Report scores within 24 hours. Either team can enter the scores into TennisLink for the other team to confirm or dispute the score entry (if disputed please email the LLC).
    - (d) Be early for all matches, exchange line-ups with opposing captain before the time the match is scheduled to begin, and **START THE MATCH ON TIME!**
    - (e) **REMINDE YOUR PLAYERS THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO PLAYING EVERY MATCH!!**
    - (f) A player must play in at least 2 matches to qualify for the State Championships (only one default will count for state and sectional championship advancement).
    - (g) Captains are responsible for controlling their players and spectators. Spectators cannot get involved in the matches at any time (this includes anything they may do that disturbs the matches being played). If a dispute occurs in a match the players on that court should handle the dispute according to the rules of tennis. If a match gets out of control the captains (or acting captains) must resolve the disagreement as quickly as possible.

- (h) Inform your players and spectators that no one will be allowed to lean against a fence to watch a match, as this is very disturbing to the players.
  - (i) Make sure your players know that when they question a call and their opponents say they are sure of the call, the call must be accepted and there will be no further delay or discussion.
  - (j) No coaching is allowed. Make sure your players know and understand this.
  - (k) Scheduling adjustments by the LLC are allowed for matches that conflict with State, Sectional or National Championships.
6. PD Champions are decided by a team point system. In each team match during the season, the team winning the majority of the 5 or 3 individual matches shall be awarded one team point. The team with the most team points at the end of the season will be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
- (a) Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition against all teams.  
**Note: Defaults received count as a match won.**
  - (b) Winner of head-to-head matches.
  - (c) Loser of fewest number of sets.
  - (d) Loser of fewest number of games.
  - (e) The coin shall be tossed by the LLC.

\* A \$250.00 Deposit from each team advancing to the championships is required and any team withdrawing from a championship after the deadline for online registration will be subject to a fine of \$250.00 per team, payable to USTA SC. The deposit is to be sent to the Local League Coordinator. Once championship play has begun, the Local League Coordinator will destroy the check. A grievance may be filed against the withdrawing team in addition to the \$250 fine. Penalties against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.

\* Players that qualify to go to the State Championships on 2 teams at the same NTRP level and age group must declare which team they will play on at the Championships. **1.04G (6): Players who qualify for State Championships may advance on more than one team in the same Age Group (i.e. player can play on an Adult 18 & over 3.5 and 4.0 team) but with no schedule accommodations;**

- 7. In the event that a double default (both opponents default and neither team is awarded an individual match point) that results in a 1-1 or 2-2 individual match score, the tiebreak procedure in Rule #6 will decide which team wins the team match.
- 8. Team Default Rule – Any team defaulting an entire match may have a grievance filed against them. The grievance committee shall then determine what appropriate action should be taken which may include forfeiture of all matches and/or disqualification from the next season. A captain has the right to appeal.
- 9. A team may default a maximum of two positions in a match (only one for 55's, 2.5's and 5.0+'s) without defaulting the entire match. In such cases defaults shall be determined in accordance with the following:
  - (a) SINGLES - the #2 singles must be defaulted before the #1 singles may be defaulted.
  - (b) DOUBLES-The #3 doubles must be defaulted before the 1 or 2 doubles may be defaulted.

**Any team without enough players to play all of their individual matches must fill out their line-up sheet according to (a) & (b) above (a captain can default whichever match or matches they choose as long as they follow (a) & (b) above). After line-ups have been exchanged, they can only be changed because of injury or illness for any individual match that has not started. If a team does change their**

**line up (in the affected position only) for this reason, the opposing team may not change his/her line-up. In case of a no show (on line-up sheet but did not show), that match is the only one affected and is recorded as a default.**

10. There will be a 15-minute default rule in effect for all scheduled matches. The 15 minutes begin at the time the match was scheduled or when the first individual match goes on the court (whichever is later). **WARM UP LIMITED TO 10 MINUTES!**
11. An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default for that individual match only. **To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play; however, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she, in effect, waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.** NOTE: In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and re-scheduling of a team match, substitutions may be made in any individual matches which had not begun. Points awarded for defaults during the original lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such defaults cannot participate in the rescheduled match.
12. **NO MATCH CAN BE RESCHEDULED (except rainouts) UNLESS GIVEN PERMISSION BY THE LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR.**
13. When a match is rained out teams have 2 weeks to make up the match (if that match gets rained out you have one more week to make it up). It is the home team responsibility to make sure courts are reserved ahead of time for make-up matches. Please email Ed Sprenger the rescheduled date and time.
14. Completed individual matches will stand as played. Uncompleted matches must be resumed using the same players and starting at the exact score as existed when play was halted.
15. Home team can use courts of their choice, and should furnish 5 courts for adult 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5 and 3 courts for adult 2.5's, 5.0+'s and Adult 55's. Home teams must furnish new USTA approved balls. Home captain should convey to visiting team, **at time of match and before exchanging lineups**, if he/she is using multiple surfaces and which positions are on particular surfaces.
16. **USTA rules govern play. Also, "The Code" as a handbook of ethics and fair play should be understood and followed by every player.**
17. Anyone wishing to file a grievance, complaint, or appeal must notify the Local League Coordinator immediately and follow the basic procedures outlined in USTA League Regulations under Grievance Procedures.
18. Grievance and Appeals Committee Members are:

Grievance Committee:

1. Jay Rogers
2. Paul Pittman
3. TBA

Appeals Committee:

1. Michael Cox
2. TBA
3. TBA

\* The Local League Coordinator can replace members on the Grievance Committees if necessary (either permanently or for a short time due to conflicts).