

2008 LTA Tournament Regulations

Update 12/7/07

Note...changes/revisions are underlined and in **BOLD** type

I. GENERAL

- A. All Louisiana sanctioned tournaments shall abide by Friend at Court and all USTA Southern Sectional and Louisiana Tennis Association tournament regulations.
- i. In the event that any of the LTA Tournament Regulations conflict with **Friend at Court or USTA Southern regulations, Friend at Court and/or USTA Southern regulations will supersede and be applicable.**
- B. To participate in any Louisiana closed tournament, a player must be a bona fide domiciliary of the state of Louisiana, and:
- i. Posses a valid USTA current membership card bearing a Louisiana address, and
 - ii. Possess all the domiciliary qualifications of a Louisiana registered Voter except the age requirement.
 - iii. If any doubt arises as to a player's domicile in Louisiana under A. above, such player may petition a committee composed of the President of the LTA and two (2) appointed members who shall promptly rile thereon, and the committee may waive the above time requirements if the committee is convinced that the player has, in fact, established proper domicile in Louisiana. Such petition shall be filed with the President, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement date of any closed tournament.
- C. A photocopy of applicant's USTA card or USTA application for enrollment must accompany each entry.
- D. If a tournament director allows a non-USTA member to participate in an LTA sanctioned event, the penalty is as follows:
- i. The Tournament Director is responsible for applying online and paying for all player(s) USTA Membership that were entered into his/her tournament without a USTA Membership,
 - ii. \$100 Flat Fine, **and**
 - iii. **The** tournament will be on probation for next tournament year
- E. Three balls must be supplied for each match. Regular duty balls are required on clay courts. New Balls must be available for the third set. New Balls must be used in consolations in all Louisiana State Championship Tournaments (Jr. and Adult).
- F. Point penalties, as authorized by the USTA, shall be in effect in all LTA sanctioned tournaments.
- G. All NTRP Adult Tournaments **MUST** state on entry forms whether or not FMLC is played. Adult Age Division tournaments are recommended, but not enforced.
- H. Tournament Grievances are filed with the LTA office, which will then be sent to the LTA Grievance Committee.
- I. Tournament Evaluations are appreciated and a form is available on the web.
- J. Tournament Director's must petition the LTA Tournament Administration & Sanctioning Committee to include doubles to their tournament.
- K. For all 2008 sanctioned tournaments, players must enroll in the tournament through on-line registration. If the Tournament Director chooses to accept paper entries, it will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to register the player(s) online with their credit card. A \$15 enrollment fee may be assessed by the Tournament Director to process paper entries and enroll the player(s) online.
- L. When a sanctioned tournament falls below 75 entrants, the tournament is placed on probation for one (1) year. The 2nd consecutive year the tournament participants falls below 75 entrants, the tournament will be denied the sanction for the following year.

II. ENTRY FORMS

- A. All NTRP Adult Tournaments **MUST** state on entry forms whether or not FMLC is played. Adult Age Division tournaments are recommended, but not enforced.
- B. Tournament entry forms **MUST** state the use of a Match Tiebreak (10 point) in lieu of the 3rd set of any other LTA approved alternate scoring method. See scoring & Rest Rule XIII.
- C. Playing limitations **MUST** be state on all tournament entry forms.

III. TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

- A. If a player makes entry to an LTA sanctioned tournament or LTA sponsored event and fails to pay the specified entry or event fees or enters a tournament or event and pays his or her entry fees by check and the check is returned unpaid, the Tournament or Event Director will first make three (3) attempts to collect the unpaid fee or the unpaid check. If the outstanding fee or the unpaid check is still not paid, then the player's name will be turned into the LTA, and the player will be notified that he or she will not be allowed to play in any other sanctioned or sponsored event, and that the event for which the fees were unpaid or paid with the returned check will not be recognized as played by the player, and that he or she will not be considered for a ranking until the outstanding fee is paid or the returned check is cleared. There will be a \$15.00 penalty for all returned checks.
- i. Beginning in 2008, the tournament entry fee for the Junior Qualifying Tournament will be \$65.00 per person and this fee includes doubles.
 1. The increase will set all other LTA sanctioned tournament fees to a cap of 75% of \$65.00; \$48.75.
 2. Tournaments, other than the Junior Qualifying tournament, who offer singles and doubles cannot charge more than \$65.00
 3. The tournament fee above does not include Tennis Link registration fees

IV. TELEPHONE ENTRIES

- A. Telephone entries shall not be accepted by a sanctioned tournament. If a tournament or a Tournament Director accepts an entry by telephone, a penalty of \$100.00 will be assessed, and future sanctions for the Tournament may be denied (This rule does not apply to telefax entries that are received prior to the entry deadline).

V. ENTRY DEADLINE

- A. The maximum closing time for entries in sanctioned tournaments is ten (10) calendar days prior to the first matches. The minimum closing time in sanctioned tournament is five (5) calendar days prior to the first matches.

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- i. To be considered timely received; an entry must be received by the entry deadline.
- ii. The preceding time limits may be waived with prior Board approval.
- B. The Doubles Division entry deadline date may be extended until the 1st day of the sanction date ONLY if:**
 - i. **A note is posted on the tournament's homepage prior to the original entry deadline date.**
 - 1. **On tennislink the following must be posted: "The doubles entry deadline is DATE and TIME."**
 - ii. **The Tournament Director MUST do a Batch Entry on every doubles entry that is entered manually.**
 - 1. **If the Tournament Director fails to perform a batch entry on ANY player, the sanction for the tournament(s) may be denied.**
 - 2. **Only late doubles entries can be entered manually.**

VI. TOURNAMENT DRAW

- A. Draws & first match times must be available by the publish date and time. For any given reason if tournament information is not published as previously stated, it becomes the Tournament Director's responsibility to contact each player to inform them of their match time and site. Next match times shall always be posted by the time a player leaves the court from prior match.

VII. FIRST ROUND MATCHES

- A. Players from the same family should not play each other in the first match. If at all possible, players from the same city should not play each other in the first match.

VIII. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

- A. Certified Referees who attend the annual LTA Tournament Director's workshop **and submit a signed statement confirming they have read and understood the LTA tournament regulations** will be placed on a "preferred referee list" for sanctioned tournaments. The LTA will approve sanctions for those tournaments with a "preferred referee" listed on the tournament sanction form.
 - i. The referee must attend an LTA workshop prior to serving as tournament referee for a sanctioned tournament
 - 1. This will be effective for 2008
 - 2. Two workshop dates for referees to attend
 - a. Saturday, December 8, 2007 in Baton Rouge
 - b. Saturday, January 12 in Baton Rouge
- B. After a match has begun and a dispute has arisen, players may request an umpire to keep score and mediate line call disputes. The Tournament Referee shall provide such an official if his/her assessment of the situation indicates that this step is necessary. For all junior tournaments, monitors should be provided at a ratio of 1 for each 4 courts. Monitors for adult matches may be provided at the discretion of the Tournament Referee. Monitors shall perform only those duties set forth in Friend at Court.
- C. The Officials Committee Chairman will verify certified referee's 120 days before start of tournament. The Officials Committee Chairman will contact the tournament director if the referee information is missing or the referee listed is not currently certified. The tournament director has 30 days from the time the Chairman of the Officials Committee notification occurs to update the tournament referee information to comply with the LTA Tournament Regulations. If the tournament director has not complied with the LTA Tournament Regulations within the 30-day time frame, the Chairman of the Officials Committee will secure a certified referee for the tournament at the expense of the tournament.

IX. SCORING & RESTS

- A. The third set of a match must be decided by the use of a 12-point tiebreaker except for:
 - i. Adult NTRP Tournaments which state on the entry form the use of a Match Tiebreak (10 Point).
 - ii. Authorization by a Tournament Referee to use a March Tiebreak (10 Point) to complete a tournament because of inclement weather.
- B. The Tournament Director shall have the discretion to use no-add scoring up to the quarterfinals. Thereafter, regular scoring must be observed.
- C. Consult USTA Regulations in Friend at Court for rest periods between sets for Boys & Girls 18 divisions, all other junior divisions, Men's Open, 25 & 30, Women's Open, 25 & 30 and all other divisions and exceptions.

X. PLAYING LIMITATIONS

A. GRAPH

| Age Division | Summer Months May-Sept. Max # of Matches | Winter Months Oct. – April Max # of Matches | Rest Period Between Matches |
|--------------|--|---|---|
| 18 Singles | 2 S & 1 D (or) | 2 S & 2 D (or) | Amount of time of the player's previous match but no longer than 2 hours. |
| 16 Singles | 1 S & 2 D (or) 3 D | 1 S & 2 D (or) 3 D | |
| 14 Singles | 2 S & 1 D (or) | 2 S & 1 D (or) | Amount of time of the player's previous match but no longer than 2 hours. |
| 12 Singles | 1 S & 2 D (or) 3 D | 1 S & 2 D (or) 3 D | |

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- B. Playing limitations MUST be stated on all tournament entry forms. Recommended that all players are limited to play two (2) events daily.
- C. Players must always be given a minimum of one hour's rest between ***and before*** singles matches unless the player enters multiple singles events, in which case thirty (30 minutes minimum will be observed. Junior players must be given ***the length of time it took the player to complete the player's previous match, but no longer than two(2) hours.*** Players may not be required to play matches that begin earlier than 7:00 am or later than 10:00 pm. Each competitor must be allowed a minimum of ten (10) hours from the end of his last match in an event on a given day until the beginning of his first match in the same event on the following day.

XI. TOURNAMENT / EVENT CANCELLATION

- A. All sanctioned tournaments must hold the events for which they have received a sanction with the following rules applying:
 - i. If there are four or more entries, the event must be played.
 - ii. If there are only two entries in an event, the Tournament Director must contact both entering players after the entry deadline and at least three (3) days prior to the first day of the tournament, in order to determine if both players consent to participate in the event. If both players agree to play the event, then the event must be played. If either or both players decline to play the event, the event shall be cancelled.
 - iii. If the decision is to cancel the event or if a tournament is cancelled, the event or tournament must be counted as played for fulfilling the ranking requirements of the entered players if the event or tournament is scheduled in the last quarter of the ranking year (October through December). The Tournament Director must complete the Tournament Draw Information Sheet and the Player must notify the LTA to receive credit towards a ranking.
 - iv. If only two (2) entries or a Round Robin is played in an event, a trophy will be awarded for first place only.
 - v. 1st, 2nd, and 1st Consolation awards MUST be given. For all junior tournaments, gift certificates are not allowed.(9/12/07 TAE)
 - vi. If a tournament, or any event in a tournament, is cancelled because of only one entrant, Act of God, or something beyond the control of the Tournament Director, all players in the cancelled tournament or events shall be notified by the Tournament Director within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision reasonably should have been made.
 - vii. If a tournament is cancelled or if two or more events in a tournament are cancelled, the Sanctioning and Tournament Administration Committee will automatically review the reasons for the cancellation and determine if the tournament should be granted a sanction for the next year.
 - viii. Any tournament violating the above cancellation rules will be subject to a substantial sanctioning penalty or denial of the sanction for the next year.

XII. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. In case of inclement weather the Tournament Committee may:
 - i. Change match format to a Match Tiebreak (10 Point) in lieu of the 3rd set.
 - ii. Change match format to No-Ad Scoring
 - iii. Cancel events, preferably in this order, ***singles*** consolation, doubles, and ***main draw*** singles. ***In junior tournaments with doubles***, the main draw will be given priority over consolation singles matches.
 - iv. Change surfaces if necessary to complete tournament on schedule.
 - v. Change match schedules as necessary to complete the tournament.
 - vi. Inclement weather may create scheduling conflicts that could force lengthy delays in the match play schedule. A player participating in multiple singles or doubles events must keep up with the regular schedule and may be defaulted from one event of his choice as a result of an attempt to accommodate participants in multiple events.

XIII. JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

- A. **All USTA LA junior tournaments must have a certified referee at each site.**
- B. In junior tournaments, the Tournament Director shall mark off areas where parents and relative are not allowed. Including, but not limited to, courtside. In addition, the Tournament Director shall post regulations concerning the conduct of parents, coaches, and relatives at the junior tournament.
- C. All Louisiana Junior tournaments must have a first match losers consolation, or FIC when possible, except for designated tournaments, which will continue to have FIC as, described in rule XIV.E. below.
- D. The minimum rest period between singles matches shall be the ***length of time it took the player to complete the player's previous match, but no longer than 2 hours.***

XIV. JUNIOR DESIGNATED TOURNAMENTS

- A. Awards may be given to 1st through 5th place. Gift certificates are not allowed.(9/12/07 TAE)
- B. Louisiana Junior Designated Tournaments held during the school year shall be played according to the following format:
 - i. Modified feed-in consolation.
 - ii. 3rd and 4th place playoffs.
 - iii. Quarterfinals losers consolation.
- C. Louisiana Junior Designated Tournaments held during school vacation shall be played according to the following format:
 - i. Full feed-in consolation.
 - ii. 3rd and 4th place playoffs will be entered as main draw matches.
- D. Louisiana Junior Designated Tournament held on a weekend during the school year, shall use either the compass draw or modified feed-in consolation. See www.louisianatennis.com for Compass Draw information.

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- E. The Tournament Draw shall be posted on the Internet **at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of play**. Any junior player entered in a designated tournament, who defaults their first round match, will be ineligible to be entered into the consolation draw.
- F. The Central Seeding Committee, a sub-committee of the Junior Tennis Council, is responsible for seeding players in the LA State Closed Junior Qualifying Tournament. The seeding committee will refer to the Southern Tennis Association's most current standings as well as player records for seeding at the Louisiana State Closed Junior Qualifying Tournament. Other criteria such as tournament record and head-to-head record in the applicable age division may also be considered. For those players playing up an age division, their current standings and record in their current age division may be used for seeding purposes in the older division as well.
- G. The LTA Head Tax will be waived for junior doubles divisions **at** the State Qualifier and junior designated tournaments.
- H. **The** order of play for the Jr State Qualifier shall be 2 main draw singles matches the first day of the event **followed by** one main draw singles and doubles match per day thereafter. Backdraw/consolation draw shall play 2 singles matches and one doubles match per day.

XV. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S

- A. The Tournament Director's shall prepare and send the LTA office all required tournament paperwork which includes: Referee confirmation statement, and the Head Tax and Publication Tax form. A Junior Tournament will also include the Sportsmanship Award and Code of Conduct Report. The tournament paperwork listed above must be received by the LTA office within fifteen (15) working days of the tournament's closing. All tournament results **MUST** be published to TennisLink within fifteen (15) working days of the tournament's closing. Failure to submit tournament paperwork and/or publish tournament results to TennisLink in a timely basis will result in the following penalties:
 - i. First Violation - \$250.00 additional sanction fee.
 - ii. Second Consecutive Violation – Denial of tournament sanction.
- B. Each year in conjunction with the Annual Meeting or at such other time as designated by the President, the LTA will conduct a Tournament Director's Workshop, attendance at which is mandatory for all Tournament Director's (persons designated to conduct tournament in the state). If any such Tournament Director or his or her LTA approved competent designated representative fails to attend an LTA workshop prior to the start of their sanctioned tournament, the Tournament Director and any tournaments which he or she may be associated with or may conduct will be penalized as follows (unless a waiver has been granted from the LTA Board of Director's).
 - i. First absence - \$250.00 additional Sanction fee
 - ii. Second Consecutive Absence – Denial of tournament sanction.
- C. The Tournament Director who has been awarded the sanction for the tournament is the designated person responsible for receiving official notices from the LTA.
- D. After the first absence of a Tournament Director from an LTA workshop, the designated representative of the tournament will be notified by mail by the LTA and informed the next consecutive absence will result in the denial of any future sanctions for the tournament until proper attendance at the workshop is reestablished.

XVI. APPLICATION FOR SANCTION

- A. All applications for 2009 sanctioned tournaments must be received by the LTA **~~on or before~~ by** Tuesday, September **2nd, 2008** correctly. For any Adult and/or Junior tournament amendments made after the LTA January publish date will be charged as follows:
 - i. \$25.00 for each tournament amendment request. (E.g. added/delete divisions, phone # changes, address changes, etc.)
 - ii. \$35.00 for rescheduled tournament date, if approved by the Sanctioning & Tournament Administration Committee.
 - iii. For any 2009 Sanction form application received by the LTA office after September 2nd, 2008 will result in an additional \$40 Sanction fee (total \$75), if approved by the Sanctioning & Tournament Administration Committee.
- B. The Sanctioning & Tournament Administration Committee shall be comprised of one member from each of the following committees:
 - i. Adult Tennis
 - ii. Junior Tennis
 - iii. Tournament Administration and the LTA Executive Director.
- C. **Tournament directors and host organizations of any sanctioned Louisiana Tennis Association tournament shall comply with all LTA Tournament Regulations. The Sanctioning and Tournament Administration Committee may impose a fine and/or sanction directed to any tournament director and host organization for failure to comply with LTA Tournament Regulations. Prior to the imposition of any fine and sanction, the tournament directors and host organization may present evidence to the Sanctioning and Tournament Administration Committee concerning the LTA Tournament Regulation violation. Thereafter, the Sanctioning and Tournament Administration Committee shall issue a written decision declaring whether a LTA Tournament Regulation has been violated, and if applicable, any penalty and sanction imposed.**
- D. **Any decision by the Sanctioning and Tournament Administration Committee may be appealed by the tournament director and host organization to the Grievance Committee of the Louisiana Tennis Association. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Grievance Committee within 30 days of the mailing of the written decision of the Sanctioning and Tournament Administration Committee directed to the tournament director and host organization. Any written appeal shall be submitted to: Grievance Chairman, c/o Louisiana Tennis Association 9270 Siegen Lane, Suite 702, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70810. The Grievance Committee shall conduct a review of the appeal in accordance with the Bylaws of the Louisiana Tennis Association and render a decision on the appeal. The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be final.**

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XVII. AMENDMENTS

- A.** Rules and Regulations should be subject to alteration, amendment or repeal, and new Rules and Regulations not inconsistent with any provision of the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws may be made either (1) by affirmative vote of the majority of members of the LTA present and voting at any annual special meeting (2) by the affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the Board of Director's at any regular or special meeting or (3) by the affirmative vote of the majority members of the Management Committee at any regular or special meeting, provided notice of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal by the Management Committee is forwarded to each member of the Board of Director's and District President at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting at which the same is to be considered.